

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Todd Haywood (called in), Jason Bachus

## Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

## Approval of Minutes

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the minutes of 02/09/2022 (as amended)*

*Motion Passed 2/0*

*Motion made by Kling, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of 02/16/2022 (as amended)*

*Motion Passed 2/0*

## Reports

- A. **Assessor**-Todd Haywood called into the meeting to discuss his report. The deadline to file for an abatement is March 1, 2022. There are two applications for the Selectboard to review – one from Patrick & Elena Turevon, map & lot #008-108R-21. The second application was received on 02/22/22 and is not ready for the board to review yet. The Selectboard have until July 1, 2022 to decide on accepting or denying the abatement request. The application from the Turevon's was submitted based on the purchase price and the cost of work that has to be done to the house. Kling felt the land value is too low for a house in this location. Haywood said the house was purchased at \$705,000 which is close to the abated amount. As work is completed on the house, the assessed value will increase. The property is currently assessed at 800,600, abated to \$692,700

Haywood supplied draft documents for the Town to use if they want to amend the pole licenses to include language from RSA 72:23, which allows the Town to tax the utility companies for the public right of way. Dobbins-Marsh will contact the Town's attorney to confirm the process.

Haywood addressed the process he and his staff use when gathering cyclical data as it pertains to properties in current use. They manage this function the same way as they do for pick-ups. They rely on the inventory process – if they go to a property and notice it's in current use and shouldn't be, a change is made accordingly. They also consider any other source of information, just as they would to manage the assessment inventory, for any property. If the board feels there are properties in violation, the first step should be to contact the property owner, discuss the situation and ask them to voluntarily remedy the situation, as property owners are sometimes unaware they are in violation. If that fails, then the Selectboard can obtain an Administrative Inspection Warrant to enter the property. Haywood also mentioned that many towns put their tax maps on a GIS system which would link Google satellite imagery to town properties. Adams said this idea was voted down several years ago at Town meeting.

- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his report to the Selectboard. In January 2022, Orford PD responded to 53 calls for service (NHSP had 5 calls) including 2 alarms responses, three fraud cases, two parking violations, one theft, two vandalisms, and various other follow ups. Motor vehicle enforcement included 17 stops with 2 summonses being issued.

The cruiser continues to show symptoms of age. The catalytic converter fix seems to be working with intermittent times of noxious odors (fuel treatment seems to help). The radar system is also having some difficulties with turning on and off (still calibrates and tests okay), as does the mobile data terminal. These issues are creating challenges with staying connected which results in extended time spent at stops. Bachus is looking into possible grants to replace the mobile data system.

Bachus has contacted the NH Judicial Branch and found the NH courts are all open to the public with some restrictions. Cases, trials and hearings are happening, and everyone is working diligently to get the back log caught up and back on track.

A complaint was received from Frank McClain regarding a concern with Bachus' driving, specifically turning left thru a yellow light in Plymouth that turned red before the turn was made. Bachus responded that he the light turned yellow as he entered his turn, and felt it was safer to continue thru the intersection than to stop suddenly possibly causing a bigger issue.

## Old Business

### A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) **Archertown road bridge at Jacobs Brook** – Dobbins-Marsh reported she's waiting for the original survey plan to arrive from Pioneer Surveyors as that needs to be filed with the NH Secretary of State's office before the abutter letters are mailed. She spoke with Jake Burgess at Pioneer and he will be sending the original plan this week. The Selectboard said the plan also needs to be filed at the Grafton County registry of deeds, so a mylar will be needed as well.
- b) **Mousley Brook FEMA Project** – Dobbins-Marsh presented two drafts of the RFQ that will be sent to 4-5 engineering firms. The Selectboard agreed to use the 1-page RFQ with some minor revisions.
- c) **Streetlight Survey** – Data has been compiled from the returned surveys. The Selectboard would like the Energy Committee to make a recommendation as to the next step.

## New Business

- A. **Garage Diesel Tank damage** – over the weekend one of the diesel tanks developed a crack and over 500 gallons of diesel fuel leaked when the tank failed. The catch basin did its job and collected the majority of the fuel, but the NH DES will still require a clean up company come to remove what spillage there was and start the cleanup process. A new tank will cost approximately \$5,000, and the cost of the cleanup is unknown. As all the tanks were purchased at the same time, should all three tanks be replaced? The Selectboard may look to place a warrant article on the 2023 warrant to replace the fuel station and increase the size of the containment system (per NH DES it needs to be slightly larger).

The spilled fuel was pumped into a container and will be used with the waste oil furnace. As we have the ability to access diesel at the state garage in Orford, the highway trucks can fuel up there, as well as the fire trucks.

**B. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”**

Property Owner: Sheila Thomson, Map & Lot #7-30-17, 17B, 17C. Forester: Everts Forest Management

**C. Correspondence**

State approval for a driveway off Route 10 (location 75' north of 1141 Route 10)

**Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders**

The manifest, payroll and accounts payable folders were reviewed and signed where necessary

**Adjourn**

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed. 2/0*

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 [m

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh