

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

June 22, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Jen Carter Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Jason Bachus, Larry Duffy, Pierre Kozely, Craig Tomlinson, Jolene Farmer, Jennifer Hebb, Ann Green

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 06/08/2022 (as amended)
Motion Passed 3/0

Adams reported the Selectboard received the resignation from Terry Straight as the Road Agent to be effective July 2, 2022. *Motion made by Kling, seconded by Carter to accept the resignation of Terry Straight as the Orford Road Agent effective July 2, 2022. Motion Passed 3/0*

Adams will post the resignation on Listserv following this meeting, and the Selectboard will schedule a work session on June 29th to work on the Road Agent job description before posting the job opening.

Reports

- A. **Assessor**-Todd Haywood (not in attendance) submitted his report. At this time of year Haywood handles routine cyclical inspections and works with property owners that have questions/concerns about their assessments. The electric pole values have been updated per RSA 72:8-d, and he will be updating the telecom property in July, per RSA 72:8-d. Haywood will continue to make changes to the assessing inventory as needed until September 1, 2022 when the MS-1 is completed and submitted to the NH DRA. The Selectboard discussed the Tax Abatement application (located at 582 Route 10). Kling felt the board should consider accepting the application to lower the assessed value for the tax year of 2021. *Motion made by Kling, seconded by Carter to accept the abatement application for property located at 582 Route 10, Orford, NH. Motion Passed 3/0*
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his May 2022 report. There was a total of 59 calls for service which included a theft, burglary, three animal complaints, two motor vehicle crashes, and four agency assists. Motor vehicle enforcement for May included 19 stops in which 2 summonses were issued. Calls requiring criminal investigation continue to come in and are closed as quickly as possible following the investigation. As of today, these open investigations include 5 fraud cases, 3 suspected juvenile abuse cases, one juvenile assault case, 2 suspected elderly abuse cases, 3 thefts, 2 motor vehicle hit and run cases, one narcotics case, a felony criminal case and 2 warrant issued cases. These cases consume time and effort on an almost daily basis. Bachus conducts random vehicle enforcement around Orford during morning and evenings as time allows. The areas that result in the majority of violations continue to be Route 25A in the truck lanes, and on Route 10 between Archertown Road and where the 50 MPH zone starts to the north.

As many residents have noticed, there has been an increase with black tire burnouts. These are not exclusive to Orford – many neighboring towns have the same issue. Orford’s most noticeable marked roads are Bridge Street and Townshed Road. These offenses are rarely addressed as they are not witnessed by the Police department. Speculation on who the offender may be is not enough to risk civil liability exposure to the town if accusations are made without proof.

The speed cart is scheduled to arrive this week, and Bachus will have operational as soon as some assembly and calibrations are completed. The grant the Town will receive thru the NH Governors Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery will cover 90% of the speed cart cost.

The new F150 police vehicle is being upfitted as parts and accessories are received. Bachus has the radar and mobile data terminal that he will deliver to the dealership for installation. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to authorize Bachus delivering these items to the dealership in Plymouth, Ma. Motion Passed 3/0*

Bachus is hopeful the F-150 will be delivered at the end of the summer 2022. He has received a few offers for his old cruiser including Upper Valley Ambulance, and was offered a trade-in of \$4300 from the Plymouth, MA dealer. Per the purchasing policy - *Surplus Town items shall be made available to other Town departments, at no cost, before making available to “others”. The Selectboard shall determine conditions for transferring the major surplus item between departments.* Kling met with the Thetford police chief – they are very happy with their F-150

July 4th parade – permits for the parade have been received for NH and Vt. Due to a shortage of law enforcement coverage in Vermont, Bachus will be in Fairlee, with the Grafton County Sheriff’s department and Piermont Police Chief covering Orford. Bachus will be the overall officer in charge for law enforcement for both communities. Fireworks are scheduled to occur in Fairlee this year as well.

Bridge Street Activity – Duffy said the residents on Bridge Street are still frustrated with general speeding, and “young male drivers” going way too fast, and feeling disrespected. Duffy said the data from the 2021 Town Report showed the police department made 267 motor vehicle stops with only 46 citations issued, and 221 warnings. Kozely agreed with the speeding being an issue and feels it’s creating a dangerous situation. When he lived on the ridge he would often see the police department patrolling and stopping vehicles between 10:00 pm and midnight. Seeing a police cruiser reminds drivers to slow down. Kozely said residents have tried to ask the speeders to slow down, but these drivers often express how they feel in inappropriate ways. Can an MPH sign be added at the intersection of Route 10 and Bridge street? Bachus said he’s requested an MPH sign from the state, however, is not required because the speed on Route 10 is also 30 MPH. There is also an increase of traffic going across the Samuel Morey bridge as a result of Piermont and Thetford detouring traffic to Orford due to bridge and road work in their towns. Can this be a reason to have the State install the 30 MPH sign? The Selectboard will send a letter to District 2 I Enfield to request the 30 MPH sign based on this information.

Tomlinson said speeding on Route 10 is creating an unsafe environment for students walking to school. In addition, these drivers often shout obscenities to the kids walking. Farmer said in addition to obscene words and gestures, fire crackers have been thrown at her house, which creates a lot of anxiety for residents of Bridge Street. Unless Bachus

witnesses the crime, there has to be enough data to send to a judge in order to obtain a warrant. The speed cart will obtain data that will help determine where the speeding occurs most frequently in town (by state law the cart must be relocated every 2 weeks). It will collect the # of vehicles, time of day, day of week and overall # of cars on that road. Bachus said he has a small line item for part time help, but can't find anyone willing to take on that position, as there is an overall shortage of police officers in the state. Possibly the Selectboard will support another Full-Time officer for 2023 to help with patrolling for moving violations. Duffy asked about a policy for the Police Department to turn up the pressure and issue more speeding tickets vs warnings.

C. Committee Reports

- **Road Committee** – Kling reported with only two members in attendance, no action could be taken. There is frustration within the members of the committee due to a lack of direction from the Selectboard regarding their role. Adams suggested having a joint meeting with the Road Committee to review expectations for projects. Dobbins-Marsh will reach out to the committee for a meeting date.
- **Cemetery Commission** – the commission met with Chris Crowley to review which accounts invoices should be paid from – Perpetual Care Trust Fund, Mower and Cemetery Building CRF and the operating budget. Kling was unaware of the meeting as there was confusion if a work session needed to be posted. Dobbins-Marsh relayed to the commission that work sessions need a posted agenda and minutes if 2 or more members are in attendance.
- **Upper Valley Ambulance** – Adams attended the UV Ambulance meeting – they are over budget for fuel expenses due to high service calls and the high cost of gasoline. Due to the increase of calls, they may need to purchase another ambulance and add staff for the future. However, currently they have enough employees for the services they currently provide.
- **Broadband Committee** – Adams will schedule a meeting for June 30th at 6:00 pm to review information preliminary information received from Consolidated Communications. They have proposals out to various towns for a joint partnership. Basically, they have a new division that only handles optic fiber. Orford has approached them to provide coverage for the whole town, or maybe the area not covered by the NH Co-op

D. Appointments

- **Road Committee** - Charles Smith, Jr. submitted his name for consideration to serve on the Road Committee. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to appoint Charles Smith, Jr. to the Road Committee. Motion Passed 3/0*
- **Health Officer** – John Adams volunteered to be the Health Officer for Orford. The Town nominates the person, then the State approves. *Motion made by Kling, seconded by Carter to nominate John Adams as the Health Officer. Motion passed 2/0 with Adams abstaining*

Old Business

- **A. Class VI section of Prettyman Road** – Tiffany Vance could not attend the meeting – it will be rescheduled for a work session on July 6th, if Vance is available

B. Update of Outstanding Projects

- **Fee to use Town Properties** – Parks & Playground and the Selectboard discussed the fee to be charged – this would apply to For-Profit groups, individuals that will generate personal income, and non-residents of Orford. The Application fee will be \$100, and a \$20 per day additional fee if the event is for more than one day. Residents will be defined as residents and property owners in Orford. This will apply to applications submitted after July 1, 2022.
Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the \$100 application fee and \$20 additional fee for multiple day events for For-Profit groups, individuals using town properties for personal profit and non-residents. Motion Passed 3/0
Dobbins-Marsh will contact Primex to see if charging a fee will have any impact on the liability to the Town. It was asked if portable toilets are available on the Common - the Orford Volunteer Fire Fighters Assoc provide a portable toilet on the Common for the months of June – August.
- Update on **Survey Projects** – Kling met with Pioneer Surveyors at the Mousley Brook culvert location on June 20th – the survey is complete, but they still need to bench mark the area. The survey should be ready next week, which then can be submitted to DuBois & King in order to order the hydraulic study and wetland permits. A marker is still needed on the Community Field common corner of the field and Route 25A. Kling will contact the NH DOT to see what type of marker they would like to be used. A marker also needs to be installed at the Common corner between the West Common/Congregational Church and the property that houses the Post Office – this will occur once the tree stump is ground.
- **Dublin Road Detour** – Dobbins-Marsh received a call from Daley Frenette, Legislative Aide to Senator Bob Giuda. His office had received a call from the owner of P&V campground concerned about the impact on his business with the Archertown Road bridge being restricted and the Dublin Road detour. It was explained to Frenette the bridge was restricted due to its poor condition. Also, as this is a state and town project, the State is setting the timeframe to replace the bridge, which is currently scheduled for 2023. It was discussed possible adding a traffic light system at the ends of Dublin Road, but the board agreed it would be problematic because of residents on Dublin Road having the ability to enter the road at any time. Adams will reach out to Bob Durfee to see what other options might be available.

C. McGoff Salvage Update – McGoff Salvage is making good progress, and should have the clean-up completed by September 1st. Carter will stop by to inspect and document with photos for the file. *Motion made by Carter and seconded by Kling to extend the completion date to September 1, 2022. Motion Passed 3/0*

D. Policies – 1st Reading – Employee Handbook Sections VIII, IX and X – Dobbins-Marsh will update the policies with notes received from Adams, and resend to the other board members.

New Business

A. Complaint/Concerns – Ann Green’s concern about fees to use the Town Properties were addressed during the earlier conversation

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

Property Owner: Green Woodlands, Map & Lot #008-031-028, Forrester: John Fogarty

C. Contracts – Robert & Greene’s contract for Auditing services for a three-year contract for \$10,500 each year. This contract was accepted during the budget process, and just needed a signature.

D. Correspondence

- David Smith provided an update on the work schedule at his property. His priority is to have the front lawn cleaned up, more scrap metal removed and cordwood on the lawn split and removed
- E-Coli readings from 06/13/2022 were received for Indian Pond, Lower and Upper Baker ponds
- Grey Water – Tiffany Vane asked if the Town has a regulation on grey water – this is a state regulation, not Town – Dobbins-Marsh will notify Vance of this
- Possibly building for the Town Library - Ann Green submitted the listing for 485 Route 10 that currently houses the Public Defenders’ Office as a possible location for the Town Library. The current asking price is \$625,000. The Selectboard will invite the Trustees of the Libraries to a future meeting to discuss this potential property purchase

E. Other

- **Chimney Condition/repair** – Bob Maddock, Fairlee, Vt., and Bill Wilson, Orford, NH both recommended placing a stone on the top of the chimney to keep rodents out. The Selectboard agreed that rebuilding the chimney isn’t something to take on at this time – placing the stone is sufficient for now. Dobbins-Marsh will contact Bill Wilson to have the stone placed on the chimney opening.
- **Fuel Price Contract** – as pricing per gallon for propane are received, the turn-around time to lock in the rate is usually 24-48 hours. *Motion made by the Carter, seconded by Adams to allow Dobbins-Marsh to act as the Selectboard agent for signing off on the fuel contract. Motion Passed 3/0*
- **Hazard Mitigation meeting date** – The options for an introductory meeting between June Garneau and the Hazard Mitigation team is 07/21 and 07/28. Dobbins-Marsh asked Adams (as Selectboard chair and EMD), and Jennifer Carter (as Planning Board rep) which day worked best for them. They agreed on July 21st. The Zoom meeting will be scheduled for 07/21/2022 at 10:00 am
- **Land locked property abutting property on Cape Moonshine Road** – The question was asked from a potential buyer of land in Wentworth and Orford – can there be any construction on the Orford property as it’s landlocked, even if it abuts property in Wentworth that will be owned by the same person. There are restrictions in the deed regarding the use of the Orford property, and the Selectboard feels the Orford property could only be used for timber harvesting. Dobbins-Marsh will relay this to the potential buyer.

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

The manifest, payroll and accounts payable folders were reviewed and signed where necessary. Adams reviewed a reimbursement request from Kling for the purchase of stapak to replace the material dug up when the Highway department plowed during the first snow storm of winter 2021 at the end of Town Road #100. This section is private property, and the Selectboard previously discussed with the property owner’s representative that the Road Agent would

determine the amount of material needed, and arrange to have product delivered by the Town or the contractor. Kling said the situation became a mess and the neighbors came together to get the work done. Adams said he would reluctantly approve the request, but feels it is really close to crossing the line because the material was obtained independently, then paid for by Kling. (Kling then left the meeting). Carter's concern is having one Selectboard member acting against the decision the entire board agreed on. Adams and Carter did not sign off on the request and will address at a future meeting.

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Carter to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(d) for matters of acquisition of personal property and 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters at 8:27 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 8:43 pm. A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Carter to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved.

Adjourn

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Carter adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh