

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 12, 2022

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Jen Carter Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Terry Straight, Jason Bachus

## Call Meeting to Order

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

## Approval of Minutes

*Motion made by Kling, seconded by Adams to accept the minutes of the 09/28/2022 Public Hearing. Motion Passed 3/0*

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the minutes of 09/28/2022 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*

*Motion made by Kling, seconded by Carter to accept the minutes of the 10/05/2022 Work Session (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*

## Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Straight presented the activity for September to the board. In September the department responded to 13 calls (125 YTD) compared to 83 YTD in 2021. Of the 13 calls, they were for 7 medical, 5 fire and 1 mutual aid. The department held a training on September 19<sup>th</sup> and Chief Straight attended a Mutual Aid chief's meeting on September 20<sup>th</sup>. Fire departments are concerned with the cost of heating oil and propane going up, new users with wood heat may create additional fire situations. A 10,000-gallon water tank was buried just south of the State highway garage on Route 10 to be used as a dry hydrant. Straight asked for a status on the installation of the new heating oil tank at the Firehouse. Dobbins-Marsh will follow up with the Fire Fighters Assoc.
- B. **Highway Department** – currently the grader is out of operation due to a mechanical issue. John Deere will be sending a technician to look at the problem. Chief's completed sifting 2500 yards of sand for the winter. Any of this sand not used will be stored for next year. Culverts were replaced on Grimes Hill road and Upper Stonehouse Mountain road. The Road Foreman met with R&D paving to obtain a price to complete the shoulder work on River Road, Dublin Road and Brook Road. The estimate was for \$9,500 with the Highway providing the material for the shoulders. The Town reached out to two other vendors with only one responding with an estimate for \$11,000. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the estimate for the shoulder work on River Road, Dublin Road and River Road. Motion Passed 3/0*

The concrete forms have been set at the highway garage for the storage addition – all set for the concrete to be poured. Concerns were expressed about the Clough Brook culvert situation, as the culvert and headway are both undermined, and the water level has receded to an abnormal level threatening the habitat in the area. Paige Engineering will be contacted to see if there is another option for the headwalls if the precast ones are not available.

A concern was addressed by a homeowner on Upper Baker Pond road, as she feels water is coming into her basement due to the reconstructed height of the road following

mud season. Kling is working on a report for the Selectboard as he has reviewed the site and spoke with the homeowners about the situation.

- C. **Police Presence at Large Gatherings** – The Orford Police Chief expressed concern with the lack of police presence at large events held in Orford. Currently, the Police Chief is present at the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and the Annual Town Meeting, as these are Town sponsored events. Under RSA 105:9 it states the chief of police has the authority to assign police details at events that may involve traffic-related problems, endanger public health or possibly lead to a public disturbance. Currently Rivendell contracts with the Police Department for some soccer and basketball games, and Bachus feels other entities should as well, primarily to protect the Town from the possibility of civil liability. Sponsors of other events held in Orford, that are not Town sponsored, should contract with the Police Department, at their expense, for coverage when a large crowd is expected. The current request to use Town owned properties does have a section to indicate that police should be present, and certificate of liability be provided to the Town. The Selectboard agreed that Bachus should review requests, prior to final approval, when it's indicated a large attendance is expected.

Bachus also addressed contracting with the Piermont Police Department to cover Orford, and Bachus would cover Piermont at a rate of \$40 per hour. Coverage would primarily occur when the respective chiefs are on vacation or attending special events, and mostly for traffic control.

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling for Bachus to enter into a mutual agreement with Piermont Police Department for intermittent assistance at \$40 per hour. Motion Passed 3/0*

- D. **Committee Meeting Summaries (Committee minutes will reflect the entire meeting)**
- Planning Board – the minor subdivision for Peter Thomson was approved. The Planning Board addressed their budget and questioned the amount of legal fees coded to their board around the Miller application. The planning board is asking if these legal fees should be assigned to the Town's Legal Fee line item, as this is a Selectboard issue. The Selectboard agreed adjustments may be made, but will wait until closer to year end to make that determination.
  - The director of the Upper Valley ambulance is leaving to take a full-time job with the Hartford Fire department, but will continue to help with the transition as needed. Rates for 2023 will be set at their 10/25 meeting and the Town will be notified once they are ready.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Update of Outstanding Projects**

- Highway Grader Cover update – nothing to report at this time
- High Bridge Road bridge closure update – the Road Foreman will order signs and discuss the details with Adams, if necessary
- Mousley Brook Culvert Project – DuBois & King document – table discussion until the October 26, 2022 meeting
- Orford Library/Community Building update – the Library Consultant will be here on October 20<sup>th</sup> to complete a walk thru of the property on Route 10, and to visit each library the same day. The realtor will be contacted as well.
- Additional sand property update – Carter has left a message for her company's GEO Engineer, but has not heard anything back yet

- Mud Turtle Pond wetland mitigation update – Adams met with Jim Kennedy, Certified Wetlands Scientist, to review the errors on the plan. The abutters name spelling will be corrected, and the width of the road will be removed. Kennedy felt the work can be completed by the highway crew. The NH DES agreed to extend the plan filing date until 10/29/2022, but it must include a stabilization plan. Once the new plan is received, Adams will review with the abutters and obtain their acceptance of the plan.
- Other – Monument Stone Markers – Markers have been placed at the West Common Corner (by the Congregational Church and Post Office property), and on the East side of the Community Field on Route 25A

#### **B. Other**

- Historic Barn Reviews – Kling and Carter reviewed three of the historic barns (Trinity Farms, Cottonstone Farm and the Nichols barn). The Washburn barn will be reviewed at a future date.
- McGoff Salvage – Dobbins-Marsh will obtain step by step instructions from the Town attorney on how to proceed concerning the license transfer, then Carter will discuss with McGoff Salvage.

#### **New Business**

- 2023 Highway Budget work date**-the Selectboard, acting as the Road Agent, will schedule a highway department meeting to brainstorm work to be completed in 2023, which will be used to generate the highway budget.
- 2023 Warrant Articles** – So far, warrant articles may be needed for the Streetlight Project, possibly a paving project, Capital Reserve funding, and health organization appropriations. Decisions are pending regarding warrant articles for a replacement 550 highway truck, and paving in 2023.
- Review of Actual vs Budget report** – The board discussed moving any culvert expenses purchased by contractors from the Contractor line item to Culvert expenses.
- Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- Correspondence**
  - The NH DOT sent notice that the contracted diesel fuel price will expire on October 10<sup>th</sup>. Until a new contract is accepted, diesel fuel will follow the market prices as deliveries are made.
  - The NH DRA report was received regarding the monitoring of the 2021 cyclical inspections for Orford.
  - FEMA sent information regarding the Waits-Connecticut Watershed study – a copy will be sent to June Garneau who is working on the towns Hazard Mitigation Plan update.

#### **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 Carter to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh