

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

August 2, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Outstanding Projects Review

- **Archertown Road Hill project** meeting recap with Contractors – The board reviewed the notes Erin Darrow, Engineer provided from the meeting. One topic discussed was if the Town could leave their loader at the sandpit to load trucks with the pre-delivered gravel for the project. This would save money vs having the contractors providing their own loader. When Darrow presents the bid specs to the contractors, she will ask the contractors to provide a stand alone cost to use their own loader. The bids from contractors and paving companies will be due August 9, 2023. At that Selectboard meeting, bids will be opened and read into the minutes, then emailed to Darrow for review. The Town has to accept the lowest bid, unless there's a significant reason not to. The Board discussed the possibility of obtaining a legal easement from the property owner near the area where water will flow from the culvert near the Archertown Road/Highbridge road intersection. In case there's more water flow than expected, the property owner will know the Town has a vested interest in the area where the culvert goes under the road and access road. Possibly the Town could direct the water discharge into the old stream bed to allow the water to flow off the back side of the property.
- **Highway Department** – The department hired contractor help to ditch parts of Indian Pond road. Contracting help will be an ongoing occurrence until the department is fully staffed. Roadside mowing is scheduled for August – waiting for a specific time period from the contractor. The Clough Brook project is scheduled for this August as well – notice will be posted once a specific date is scheduled. The new F-550 cab & chassis has been delivered and the Town is waiting to take it to have the plow package installed. In addition, the 10-wheeler cab & chassis has been delivered to the dealer, and will also be sent out to have the plow package installed.
- **Outstanding Project List** – Many of the “To Do” items have been completed or are scheduled to be completed in 2023. Some of the outstanding projects include repairing the guard rails on the Mousley Brook bridge (possibly Herb Austic can take a look at this), ditching town roads and grading the gravel roads in Town. An estimate was received for a wooden bridge to replace the culvert on Mousley Brook road.
- **Paving Schedule** - Kling worked on a revised paving schedule forward - in 2024 the Selectboard will request funding to base cost the Archertown Road flat, then add the top coat for the Archertown Hill & Flat. Possibly pave the asphalt section of Grimes Hill road,

if the budget allows. In 2025, 2026 and 2027 the Town will look to pave the rest of Archertown Road and other paved roads.

- **ARPA Funds for Internet costs** – Will any of the ARPA funds the Town received be paid to NH Broadband for the installation of broadband in Orford? Adams said the installation of broadband doesn't impact every area in Orford, specifically parts of the Strawberry Hill road, Blackberry Hill road and Archertown road, however, NH Broadband agreed to wire these areas. Adams said \$110,000 of the ARPA funds are committed to NH Broadband, but no invoice for this work has been received yet. The remaining \$26,000 of ARPA funds will most likely be applied to legal fees. Lyme Fiber will connect the Route 10 corridor up the Archertown Road intersection, including Sawyer Brook road, and Bridge Street at no charge to Orford.
- **Internet installation in Orford** – NH Broadband has started the process of wiring for broadband in Orford. Kling asked if there will be connecting fees, like those that many had to pay to connect Topsham Telephone, and if landline and TV packages will be offered. Adams said NH Broadband agreed to connect broadband to houses within 400' of the poles at no charge to homeowners. He was not sure on the landline and TV packages. That would be a question for NH Broadband.

Report on Gregory Gould vs Town of Orford Planning Board Appeal – The Town of Orford received a Summons - Gregory Gould vs the Town of Orford, to appeal the Planning Board decision to approve the Street Plat plan for Mountain View Hideaway, LLC, along with the Selectboard decision to approve the Construction Permit issued to the same party. Kling said he's read thru the document and has concerns. He feels the Selectboard acted properly based on Council advice. He wants to review our attorney's response to the summons. Dobbins-Marsh will request the draft.

Approval of received "Notice of Intent to Cut Wood" – none received

Correspondence

- Bio Spray submitted the permit required by the state to spray the Mall Walk. Selectboard Chair Adams signed the document.
- NHDOT submitted a Certification for Archertown Road Jacobs Bridge project – the DOT requires the Selectboard vote to approve a signer for documents for this project. *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Kling to appoint Selectboard Chair John Adams as the authorized signer on the Archertown Road Jacobs Brook bridge project. Motion Passed 3/0*
- The Selectboard signed the Land Use Change Tax document prepared by the Assessor. The Tax Collector will bill for the land use tax based on this document.
- The letter to Tiffani Vance was reviewed by the Selectboard, no changes were made. The letter was signed by John Adams as the Selectboard Chair and will be mailed Certified to both property owners.

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

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

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Follensbee, seconded by Adams to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters at 6:55 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:48 pm. A motion was made by Adams, seconded by Kling to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved 2/0 (Follensbee was recused from the Non-Public meeting at 7:25 pm)

Adjourn

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

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh