

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, 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 Adams, seconded by Follensbee to accept the minutes of 10/23/2023 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling to accept the minutes of 10/25/2023 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Follensbee to accept the minutes of 11/01/2023 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Follensbee to accept the minutes of 11/03/2023 Motion Passed 3/0*

## Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Straight presented the stats for the month of October – the department responded to 16 calls, bringing the total YTD to 186 compared to 133 YTD last year. Of the 16 calls, there were 7 medical calls, 4 fire calls, 4 mutual aid calls and 1 wilderness rescue. The department held 2 trainings in October, and completed the SCBA annual testing (flow packs). Straight reported the department is looking into possible grants for the department. Kling said the Fish & Game outreach program would be good training for members that respond to wilderness rescues. Straight said the department has had Fish & Game do training in the past, and have something scheduled within the next two months.

Kling reminded Straight that he needs to give the Selectboard a date for a meeting to wrap up the discussion around various complaints filed against him. Straight is still waiting for his attorney to get back to him with available dates. Kling said this meeting been an open item for over a month, and it needs to be resolved ASAP. Straight said he just received the rest of the complaints filed against him on Monday (11/6). Kling was surprised that Straight didn't have copies of all complaints already, as they had been filed at the Selectboard many months ago. Straight said there was one filed by Jim Hook and two additional complaints from Emily Moore. Kling asked Adams why Straight didn't have these already – Adams thought he'd given Straight copies already. Kling asked Straight for a date to meet – Straight will contact his attorney again. Straight also stated that he's tired of Kling's abuse. The Selectboard and Straight agreed that Straight will let the Selectboard Office know a date and time to meet by 4:00 pm on Monday, October 13, 2023.

Kling addressed the Right to Know request from the Orford Fire Department members. As it was not signed by an individual, Kling asked if Straight knew who authorized it (Straight said the members wrote the request), and was Straight aware of the document? (he was). Follensbee reported the highway crew was cleaning out the area around the garage and found several 100' of 4" hose that was junk. Follensbee would like Straight to either list on ListServ as someone might want to use it, or dispose of at the landfill. Follensbee also followed up on the repair of the Common from damages caused in the fall of 2022. He was under the impression that the Fire Department was going to repair the ruts. Straight had obtain an estimate of approx. \$2,000 to repair the damage, but that was considered excessive. Adams said the Selectboard had agreed to use the Town Properties for maintenance of the Common following the summer/fall event season. Follensbee was under the impression that was to start in 2024.

- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus presented his stats for the month of October – the department responded to 124 calls and the NH State Police responded to 13. The 124 calls the department responded to consisted of 78 traffic stops resulting in 29 summonses (26 stops and 9 summonses were part of the Highway Safety Grant), 1 theft, 4 animal complaints, 2 crashes, 7 public service calls, and various items. One motor vehicle crash had significant property damage and resulted in the operator being taken to Dartmouth Hospital for treatment (impairment is being considered a factor, with drug results pending). Of the 124 calls responded to, 15 were between midnight and 8:00 am, 86 between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm, and 23 between 4:00 pm and midnight. Bachus discussed the State of NH Dog Control Law with Kling, specifically the RSA 466:31 – Dogs a Menace, a Nuisance or Vicious. This RSA outlines when a dog is considered a menace, nuisance or vicious and what action the Police Chief can take. Kling is in favor of removing “No Pets Allowed on Town Properties” from the “Use of Town Properties” policy, but would like to address at the 11/22/23 meeting. Follensbee discussed the need for additional coverage on Archertown Road following the paving. Bachus said the speed cart will be placed on the road, and he planned on providing additional coverage thru the Highway Safety Grant. Follensbee asked if additional speed sign should be added to the road. The Selectboard agreed, and Follensbee will have the Highway department add additional signs, He will also have the Highway department replace some old sign and have replaced with the new style of road signs.
- C. **Highway Department** – see updates under projects below. Kling will have the Highway department contact Rivendell to make sure the correct contact person in on their list pertaining to school closings due to bad weather. The Selectboard discussed maintenance on Archertown Road for this week. The Highway department will not plow to prevent damage to the unpaved section of the road. Adams will put out a schedule on ListServ of the upcoming work timeline for the project.
- D. **Selectboard attended meeting recap** – Adams attended the UV Ambulance meeting where the increase to \$54 per resident per Town was approved. The increase supports the ambulance replacement schedule, pay increases, insurance premium increases and additional staff.

## Old Business

### A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- **Clough Brook Culvert project** - the majority of the work has been completed on the project, however, there is a delay obtaining stainless steel – the contractor assembled some on the 8<sup>th</sup> and are hoping to have the rest finished by Friday the 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Archertown Road Phase I Rebuild Project** – Paving has been delayed, but expected to start on Monday the 20<sup>th</sup> of November. The new guardrails will be installed at this time as well.
- **Archertown Road Jacobs Brook Project** – Adams attended the monthly virtual meeting with the DuBois & King (D&K) Engineer Megan Ooms and NH DOT rep Leah Savage. D&K have hired additional staff to help with the project. The next step is to verify the plan and to work with the utility company regarding the relocation of poles, which may impact one of the abutters. Ooms wants to meet with the Selectboard to review the final plan design before the end of the year – she will send a date to confirm availability. The plan is to have everything ready to go out to bid by November 2024, with the acceptance of a bid completed by February 2025.

### B. Policies – Review and/or Approval

- **Social Media Policy** – Department heads have reviewed and there were no changes. *Motion made by Adams, seconded by Follensbee to accept the Social Media Policy. Motion Passed 3/0* The policy will be posted on the Orford Webpage under the Selectboard Policy Tab
- **Complaints/Investigation Policy** – the Selectboard received notes from Town Council to review and will address at the meeting on 11/22/2023

### C. Other

- **Blaktop Estimate** – Blaktop submitted an estimate to do the shoulder work on the Archertown Road from Route 10 to Townshed Road for \$2,951. This was left off the original estimate to pave that section of road.
- **10-Wheeler Truck** – the Selectboard reviewed and signed off the documents received from ATG Lebanon confirming the mileage readings of the 10-wheeler and the 2008 International, final purchase price, etc. The Selectboard agreed to purchase the Transmission 5-year, unlimited mileage warranty for \$776
- **Follow Up Letters** – Kling prepared two letters for the Selectboard to sign
  1. Tiffani Vance addressing the work completed on the Class VI section of Prettyman Road as being acceptable, and outlining the work that needs to be completed in 2024
  2. Pierre Kozely regarding the curb cut for his property at 64 River Road and the need to request a 9-1-1 address for the new driveway.
- **CWS Fence & Guardrail** – The Selectboard reviewed and Adams signed the bid proposal for the Archertown Road guardrail for \$20,400.
- **Health Trust 2024 Plans** – Adams signed the 2024 renewal rates for health and dental benefits.

## **New Business**

- A. UCLSRPC Letter of Support** – The UVLSRPC is requesting the Orford Selectboard send a letter of support in applying for a grant to hire a full-time employee to support towns in navigating transportation-related resiliency efforts. Ted Cooley, Conservation Commission Chair will assist in preparing the letter for the Selectboard to sign.
- B. Complaints** – the Selectboard received a Right to Know request from the Orford Fire Department requesting copies of all complaints filed against the department and members from January 1, 2023 to present, the status of these complaints, investigatory information received and correspondence that pertains to these complaints, including written documents and emails. The Selectboard questioned if an organization can file a Right to Know request vs an individual, and how to address complaints dealt with in non-public meetings. Dobbins-Marsh will check with legal counsel on both questions.
- C. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- D. Correspondence**
- Eversource announced that that Eversource Trouble Shooters will soon be assigned to the North Haverhill work center., This will allow for quicker response time to calls for service in this area and allow for better coverage.
  - Flood Lines announced an upcoming training “Violations and Enforcement of your Floodplain” to be held on December 6<sup>th</sup> in Concord, NH
  - Valley News article discussing the Grafton County middle mile for broadband interviewed Adams. *John Adams, chairman of the Orford Selectboard, described it as too little, too late and also expressed concerns about the expense towns must incur to connect individual homes. “There’s a huge amount of hidden expenses coming to the towns,” Adams said in a phone interview, adding that a mile of fiber optic cable can cost tens of thousands of dollars. “This is not a gift coming to the towns.” Adams said that the companies N.H. Broadband and LymeFiber are currently working on providing services to Orford residents. He added that if state and federal officials were really committed to bringing high-speed internet to rural communities, they would provide more money to make it happen.*

## **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 Adams, seconded by Follensbee to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(e) for Litigation Update review at 7:30 pm. A roll call vote of member’s present was taken with a decision in the affirmative*

*The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:42 pm. A motion was made by Kling, seconded by Adams to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved 3/0*

**Adjourn**

*Motion made by Adams, seconded by Kling adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0*

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh