

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

January 3, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Bob Palifka, Bill Paxton, Vanessa DeSimone

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

2024 Proposed Budget – The Selectboard and Budget Advisory Committee reviewed the proposed 2024 operating budget and made the following changes:

- Tax Collector Fees – the fees paid to the Tax Collector are based on .85% of the taxes collected. The 2024 budget requested was \$37,000, but as the total paid out in 2023 was \$43,426, the group agreed to increase this line item to \$45,000
- IT Support was decreased to \$6,000 per the 2024 contract
- IT Equipment, Maintenance and Supplies was decreased to \$5,000 to cover anticipated purchases in 2024
- Engineering and Survey expenses was increased to \$8,000 to cover the costs of these services' pre-project

These changes increased the projected 2024 Operating Budget to \$1,424,698-an increase of \$77,203 over the 2023 budget (5.73% increase)

2024 Proposed Warrant Articles

- Anticipated Note to cover the purchase price of the F-550 – because of timing of when the F-550 was delivered, there will be a short fall of funds to cover the cost. The Selectboard will request of the voters to take a loan of up to \$60,000 to cover the short fall. Once the old 6-wheeler and F-550 are sold, the proceeds will be use to repay the loan.
- Capital Reserve Funding – if the Warrant Article above is approved, the requested funding for the Highway Truck CRF will be \$86,000 (total funding will be \$446,223). If it fails, this Warrant Article will need to be amended to increase the funding for the Highway Truck CRF to \$146,000 (total funding \$506,223)
- Archertown Road Phase II project – the group discussed expanding the definition to clarify the work to be done during Phase II
- Indian Pond Culvert project – Based on the cost of the Orfordville Road culvert project, the Board agreed to use \$100,000 as the estimated cost for this project
- Upper Baker Pond area culvert project – Based on the cost of the Orfordville Road culvert project, the Board agreed to use \$100,000 as the estimated cost for this project
- Sand Pit Evaluation - The Selectboard agreed to remove this Warrant Article. It may be a Warrant Article in the future.
- Quinttown Road Apron extension – Kling felt the paving costs will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000, and the Highway Crew would be able to prep the area for paving. Follensbee asked what the cost was to shim coat the Archertown Road from Route 10

to the Townshed Road intersection. He will use that information to see if \$15,000 will be enough for this warrant article. For now, this Warrant Article will ask for \$15,000 for the paving to extend the apron on Quinttown Road by 450 feet.

- Church Evaluation – the Board added language for this Warrant article to see if the voters want to continue with the evaluation of uses for the Church
- Church Evaluation expenses – this Warrant article will request funding of \$10,000 to cover costs for surveys, inspections and other evaluation related expenses.

DeSimone asked why the Warrant Article for Hand Held radios is a separate article vs being part of the Operating Budget? Purchasing major equipment is usually a warrant article, because it won't be a repeating expense for the department.

The Budget Advisory Committee members left the meeting

Other Items

- The Orford ListServ is down, possibly for 30 days or more. Ted Cooley is working on a solution to create 2 new ListServ accounts for Orford.
 1. For Official Postings Only – this will be used by department heads to post official information such as agendas, minutes, election information, etc. Those who sign up will NOT be able to respond – it will be for information sharing only
 2. All Others – this ListServ will replace the current one that's been disabled. It will allow for posting of items for sale, lost dogs, etc. This ListServ will act as the disabled one did

A mailer will be generated and sent to all residents with information on how to sign up for one or both sites

Motion made by Adams, seconded by Follensbee to authorize the establishment of these two ListServ accounts. Motion Passed 2/0 (No Vote from Kling)

- The Selectboard authorized Dobbins-Marsh to give a copy of the letter received from the Orford Volunteer Fire Department, Inc regarding having to pay for police at the annual flea market to Police Chief Bachus. He will address this item at the January 10th Selectboard meeting.
- The Old Orford Academy Building – An email was received from Terry Martin, Rivendell School Board member, letting Board members know the Rivendell Board will be discussing what to do with the building. The building can be transferred to the Town of Orford for \$1. At this time, the Selectboard expressed NO interest in the building – the financial and liability risk is too great for the Town to take on.
- Planning Board – the Board received an email from Town Council regarding the Superior Courts decision to appoint three new members to the Planning Board. At this time, the Court will hold a hearing on the petition filed on behalf of the Town. The date is scheduled for February 7, 2024, 10:00 am at the Superior Court. Adams will contact Vickie Davis and the three applicants to discuss the courts request.

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 Follensbee to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh