

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 7, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: John Adams, Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm

Minutes – the Selectboard reviewed the minutes from the January 16, 2024 meeting. The minutes has previously been approved (at the 01/24/2024 meeting), but the Board wanted to make sure the resignation letter from Chief Straight was accurate. Kling felt it was important to list the order Straight submitted documents to the Selectboard. These minutes will be reviewed again at the 02/14/2024 Selectboard meeting.

Reports for the Annual Report

- Highway Report – the Selectboard reviewed the report created by Kling. Kling wanted to mention the overlay put on the Archertown Road from Route 10 to Townshed Road, and the start of Phase I to the Dublin Road Ext. In addition, he wanted to add mention of Roger Hadlock, highway crew member.
- Selectboard Report – The Selectboard discussed the report created by Adams. No changes were made.

Warrant articles review and vote

- Article 2 – Operating Budget of \$1,424,572 – the Selectboard support this article
- Article 3 – Capital Reserve Account funding \$490,223 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 4 – Charitable Appropriations \$17,311 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 5 – Unanticipated Funds transferred to Road Improvement CRF \$70,941 – the Selectboard support this article
- Article 6 – Archertown Road Phase II \$400,000 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 7 – Mousley Brook Bridge \$400,000 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 8 – Indian Pond Road culvert project \$100,000 - the majority of the Selectboard support this article
- Article 9 – Highway Department Hand Held Radios \$5,000 the Selectboard support this article
- Article 10 – Quinttown Road Apron \$25,000 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 11 – Church Study continuation - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 12 – Funds to continue with Church Study \$10,000 - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 13 – Elderly Tax cr. amending income qualification - the Selectboard support this article
- Article 14 – Rescinding Personal Wireless Service Ordinance – per Town Council, in order to rescind this ordinance, either the Planning Board or Selectboard must hold a

Public Hearing. Because of the timing restraint, this article was withdrawn as a Warrant Articles for 2024 - the Selectboard supported this decision

- Article 15 (re-numbered to 14) – Petitioned Article from the Road Committee - the Selectboard do not support this petitioned article
- Article 16 (re-numbered to 15) – Petitioned Article to add “Public Comment” section to Selectboard meetings - the majority of the Selectboard support this petitioned article

Correspondence

- Lebanon Solid Waste facility upcoming updates to their system – information will be posted on the Town’s website
- Waterfront changes to septic process – will discuss at the 2/14/24 Selectboard meeting
- Gould Appeal to the Street Plat decision by the Orford planning Board – the judge assigned the case should have a decision by April 1, 2024
- FEMA Flood zone census – will address at the 02/14/24 Selectboard meeting
- FEMA maps – will address at the 2/14/24 Selectboard meeting

Other

- Adams attended the hearing to appoint 3 candidates to the Orford Planning Board – all three were approved by the Court, and a Planning Board meeting has been scheduled for February 20, 2024. All three members will be sworn in before the meeting, and Adams will post a notice on the Orford listserv.
- Adams presented a draft of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Orford and NH Broadband. A draft was presented to the other Board members to review, with further discussion at the 02/14/24 Selectboard meeting
- Kling reviewed the Budget Public Hearing held on January 30, 2024. He felt overall the public hearing went well with a lot of question about Phase I of the Archertown Road project.
- Kling asked if anyone knew what was going on at the Archertown Road-Jacobs Brooks bridge – Follensbee said the State was looking for a specific type of bat, but nothing was found. Adams said he was on a phone call with Eversource and DuBois & King to discuss the pole placements for the project – Eversource is coming up with some creative ideas.
- Kling reported the 6-Wheeler highway truck was taken to ATG in Lebanon, NH to have brakes and exhaust leaks repaired. The highway crew have been patching potholes on some of the gravel roads in town as well. They are keeping an eye on the condition of the gravel roads as the temperatures rise. So far, the roads are holding up well.
- Return of the Fire Department radio – Adams said Terry Straight has not returned the radio yet, but was submitting a letter to the Board. Kling said the Board can wait for the letter, but doesn’t want this to be a stalling tactic.
- Adams reported on a conversation he had with the Attorney General’s office regarding the Selectboard acting as the Road Agent on a long-term basis. The Town is in violation of the Conflict of Officers regulation, as the Board can only act on a short-term basis. The AG office is giving the Town 30 days to come up with a resolution. Currently this is being handled on an informal basis, but if the Town goes beyond 30 days with no resolution, it will become a formal request. The complaint to the Attorney General’s office came from Charlie Smith.

- Adams told the other Board members that he's reached out to both Jo Anne Fratus and Jennifer Carter regarding their complaints. He will address the specifics at the 02/14/24 Selectboard meeting
- Upper Valley Ambulance has hired Zackary Bryan as their new director.

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 Kling to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh