

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling, Larry Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Chief Sanborn, Chief Bachus, David Smith

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments - none

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 10/21/2024 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 10/23/2024 (as written) Motion Passed 3/0

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 10/30/2024 (as written) Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Sanborn – in October the fire department responded to 18 calls (9 medical, 1 fire alarm, 3 motor vehicle and 5 mutual aid). Six members attended a mutual aid drill in Lyme with the Lyme FD. Orford is working to schedule a joint mutual aid drill with Lyme in Orford. The department brought on one new member bringing their total to 12. All the equipment and vehicles are ready for winter. Kling asked if there is concern around the drought in the area - Sanborn said Orford isn't "officially" part of the drought area (Lebanon and south of the state), but they are keeping aware of the situation. Sanborn said the Lyme-Thetford bridge will officially be opened as of Friday, November 15th, and Bachus added that the I-91 south lane should also be reopening soon.
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus – in October the department responded to 76 calls for service (NHSP responded to 5). The remaining 71 calls included 4 criminal investigations, a theft, 2 animal complaints, an agency assist and various other calls. There were 19 summonses issued out of the 48 enforcement stops. Bachus also provided 10 hours of contracted patrol services to the Town of Piermont.
- C. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**
 - Budget Advisory Committee – Follensbee attended their meeting on 11/13. The committee reviewed the operating budget and warrant articles for 2025.
 - Cemetery Commission – Kling attended their meeting on 11/9 – the Commission discussed the Help Wanted ad for Cemetery Maintenance and the posting of the Bid for contracted service for Cemetery Maintenance. The Commission prefers to hire a seasonal worker, but if they can't find anyone they may need to contract the work out. Smith reminded the Selectboard of the tree on the eastern side of

the west Cemetery and one on the West Common need to be looked at and probably taken down.

- Planning Board – Kling attended their meeting on 11/12. The Board addressed several items that will be ongoing projects: minor subdivision at 571 Route 10 by Nicholas Weinberg, Andrew Schwaegler’s subdivision and lot line adjustment, Nick Castel discussion on possible changes to his property at 485 Route 10. The Board also heard about the visit to Thomson’s gravel pit by some members, and a brief discussion about the Telecom Ordinance.

Old Business

- A. Bids for 2019 F-550 Truck** - no bids were received. Dobbins-Marsh will contact Muncibid to determine the best data to use to try and generate bids, then report the bid for another 3 weeks
- B. Update of Outstanding Projects**
 - Indian Pond Dual Culvert project – Kling contacted the engineer for an update. She is hoping to have information to discuss with the Selectboard at their 11/27 meeting
 - Archertown Road Jacobs Brook bridge project – Follensbee attended the Zoom meeting on 11/14 – Eversource is still working on what their process will be and the impact on the abutters.
 - Historical Barn reviews – Follensbee and Taylor visited the historical barns in Orford. All 4 barns fall in the range of “maintained in excellent condition” to “are able to be restored to excellent condition”
- C. Other** – Dobbins-Marsh reported that requests to provide an estimate for 2025 Trash/Recycling services and Groundwater Testing have been sent to several contractors.

New Business

- A. Approval of received “Notice of intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- B. Budget vs Actual Review** – no questions or concerns at this time
- C. Action Folder**
 - The Bradford Senior Center requested funding of \$500 in 2025. The Selectboard agreed to add this to the warrant article for charitable appropriations
- D. Correspondence**
 - Herb Austic submitted a letter to the Selectboard and requested it be read into the minutes. Kling wanted to hold off on this until the 11/27 Selectboard meeting to give him time to read it over himself.
 - WISE sent a flyer with information on their organization
- E. Signature Folder**
 - J Bachus vacation request
 - Timber Tax Yield Tax documents for Lucille Andrews, and Andrew Schwaegler
 - Kling, as Selectboard chair, signed a letter of support for a grant application being filed by the UVLSRPC
- F. Other** – Kling presented a document to the other Selectboard members for review. This document addresses the acceptance of gifts and donations and how they are handled by the Town. The Town doesn’t have a specific policy to address the

acceptance of donations and gifts, but instead follows Federal and NH State laws. At the annual meeting held on 03/08/1994 the Town voted to accept the provisions of RSA 31:95-b (warrant article #20) which “*authorizes indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Selectboard to accept and expend, without further action by the Town Meeting, unanticipated money from the State, Federal or other Governmental unit or a private source which becomes available during the fiscal year.*”

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

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

Adjourn

Motion made by Taylor, seconded by Follensbee to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh