

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Follensbee, Chase Kling, Larry Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, David Smith, Chris Crowley, Harry Pease, Ann Green

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 02/12/2025 (as amended) Motion Passed

Reports

- A. **Highway Department** – Road Agent Nutter could not attend the meeting
- RFP for 2025 paving projects – the Selectboard reviewed the two documents. Follensbee will discuss with Nutter to confirm the data and for additional input, if needed.
 - Posting Road Weight Limits – Follensbee will discuss with Nutter regarding the date to post the weight limits

Old Business

- A. **Cemetery Donor Trust Document** – Pease discussed the Cemetery Donor Trust document. It has been reviewed by the Cemetery Commission and the Trustees of the Trust fund. The Cemetery Commissioners can only spend the interest, but with Selectboard approval, principal and interest can be spent for specific projects as suggested by the Cemetery Commissioners. Pease said the Friends of the Orford Cemeteries will hold fund raising events and donate the proceeds to this Donor Trust fund. The Selectboard agreed to have Legal Counsel review the Donor Trust fund document.
- B. **Update of Outstanding Projects**
- Indian Pond Dual Culverts-Paige Excavating Contract – The Selectboard discussed the contract between the Town of Orford and Paige Excavating as it pertains to the Indian Pond Dual Culvert project. Follensbee hadn't had a chance to review it yet, but he will notify the office of any changes he feels are needed, then Kling can sign the contract as the Selectboard Chair.
- C. **Other** – Kling asked Pease if he's ready for Town Meeting. He also asked where campaigning can take place – Pease said it has to be outside of the building.

New Business

- A. **Bandstand** – Ann Green asked the Selectboard the status of posting the bid for the Bandstand reconstruction. Taylor said he'd spoken with Jarret Olsen regarding the

work and he was going to provide an estimate to the Selectboard. Because it hasn't been received yet, the Selectboard agreed to post the notice of accepting sealed bids for the project. The notice will be in the Valley News, JO and on the Website. It will also be posted on the Town of Orford listserv.

B. Unregistered Vehicles – Ann Green addressed her concern about the number of unregistered vehicles on personal property. As only one unregistered vehicle can be on someone's property, she feels the Selectboard need to address this issue.

C. Review of received "Notice of Intent to Cut Wood" – none received

D. Action Folder

- Timber Tax Worksheet – the Selectboard reviewed the Timber Tax worksheet as it pertains to George Tullar Jr's property at 008-089-038. This rating sheet is used to calculate the Timber Tax to be billed to Tullar

E. Signature Folder

- Granite Hill Municipal Associates – the Selectboard signed the 2025 Revaluation Contract between Granite Hill and the Town of Orford. The Town reached out to 5 other assessing firms to obtain an estimate for the work, but of the 4 that responded they were not taking on additional clients.
- Property Use Request approvals:
 1. Congregational Church request to use the Boat Launch and Pavilion for a sunrise service on April 20th from 5:00 am – 7:00 am
 2. Eiea Morgan request to the East Common for a graduation celebration on 06/07/2025 from 9:00am – 5:00 pm

F. Correspondence

- Assessors Report – Brendon McGahan, assessor - The ratio study was finalized this week and has been sent to the DRA for review. The Price Related Differential is 1.11 (industry standards are between .98 and 1.03) – this indicates a significant level of assessment regressivity, which means lower valued homes are over assessed, and higher valued homes are slightly under assessed. There are no outstanding abatements at this time. McGahan will start processing Land Use Change taxes when he's in Orford the end of March, and after the DRA reviews the revaluation contract, meetings will be set for the Selectboard to attend to review the steps involved in the revaluation process.
- The Bandstand Committee are requesting to have a tent setup for the bands to play under, and to leave it up for the concert season. Parks & Playgrounds had discussed and asked the Selectboard to review the request with Primex as they are concerned with liability coverage.

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 7:02 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh