

Orange Selectboard Meeting
June 22, 2020-5:00pm

Board Members Present: Sue Perreault, Chair, Eric Holmgren and Emily Ruff

Others Present: Treasurer-Lee Youngman, Road Foreman-John Barnes, Kate MacLean, Candidate for Orange 1 House seat, Samantha Lefebvre, Candidate for Orange 1 House seat, Steve Pratt, resident

Absent: Town Clerk-Angela Eastman

Chair Ms. Perreault called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

1. Approve minutes from June 8, 2020

A motion was made by Ms. Ruff to accept the minutes as written and this was seconded by Mr. Holmgren. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Agenda Revisions/additions to the agenda:

Ms. Youngman asked to permit Kate MacLean, who is running for an Orange 1 House seat, to be given time to introduce herself and speak briefly about her candidacy.

3. Guest Speaker-Steve Pratt:

Steve Pratt updated the board about his ongoing efforts to establish a food pantry in town. He has been working with a non-profit run by the Baptist Ministry. This group would like the town to identify a piece of town-owned land on which they could install a small trailer and port-o-potty. Mr. Holmgren explained the town does not have a suitable piece of land and that if it did exist, the group would need to get a waste water permit from the state, figure out how to get water to the site and incur all associated costs. Ms. Youngman suggested he reach out to the church group in Orange, which used to run a seasonal food bank to see if there were partnership opportunities there.

4. Village Designation approval from Selectboard

The planning Commission would like the select board to approve its recommendation to designate the center of town as a recognized Village district. This district would connect the town hall and clerk's office with the school and would allow the Planning Commission to apply for grants to install sidewalks and crosswalks between the school and town buildings. Mr. Pratt asked if the town could also work on lowering the speed limit. Mr. Holmgren said Village designation would help with that, but it was a state highway, so he would need to contact the state for that. On a motion made by Ms. Ruff and seconded by Ms. Perreault, the board unanimously approved the Planning Commission's pursuit of Village designation.

5. Discuss need to obtain a forester:

Our current Town Forest Plan expired years ago. The County Forester, Dave Paginelli, is too busy to take on new projects. Ms. Ruff is in contact with others and will bring more information to the next meeting so the Select Board can begin the process of revising the Town Forest Plan.

6. Candidate Kate MacLean

Kate MacLean of Chelsea introduced herself. She is a new member of the Chelsea Select Board, a livestock farmer and chair of the Chelsea Farmer's Market. She is running in the Democrat Primary.

7. **Discuss signing off on the Building Ordinance recommended by the Planning Commission:**

Mr. Holmgren moved we adopt the ordinance as written by the Planning Commission. Ms. Ruff seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

8. **Sign Fireworks permits**

Mr. Holmgren made a motion to approve all pending fireworks permits. Ms. Ruff seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. **Set the date for the first installment of taxes**

Ms. Youngman informed the board of the state's email indicating that they MAY be able to set the statewide education rate by July 1st, but it was still looking likely to be August 1st. Mr. Holmgren made a motion to set the first installment due date at September 15th and the second installment at November 15th, with a courtesy call to Delinquent Tax Collector, Mary Claflin, to let her know. Ms. Perreault will call Mary Claflin.

10. **Set the date for the Town Meeting Validation Public Hearing:**

Ms. Ruff made a motion to set the date for the Town Meeting Validation meeting on July 27th at 6:00 PM. Mr. Holmgren seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

11. **Review and discuss budget and balance sheet:**

Ms. Youngman informed the board that revenue and expenditure projections still look okay for a September 15th due date for taxes, but cautioned the board that we should not make any unnecessary expenditures until then. Ms. Ruff asked for clarification that the town's obligation for 2019 school taxes had been fulfilled, and Ms. Youngman confirmed.

12. **Approve Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants**

Ms. Youngman briefed the board about why the warrants were so high this month. This month's warrant included the bill for Reservoir Road paving job, and half the Orange County taxes, among other normal expenditures. The board approved all warrants.

13. **Other Business:**

Ms. Ruff updated the board on her efforts to jumpstart the Town's Emerald Ash Borer mitigation efforts. She has been in touch with Giana Petito from the Winooski Conservation District and has put Ms. Petito in touch with George Wilder, the town's Tree Warden.

14. **Review and discuss budget and balance sheet:**

The budget sheet and the balance sheet were presented to the Selectboard and reviewed and discussed.

With no other business to discuss, Ms. Ruff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 PM. Mr. Holmgren seconded the meeting and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted

Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk