

Minutes of the Orange Select Board Meeting
February 9, 2015

In Attendance: Ron Tallman, Dustin Comstock, George Wild
Kathie Felch, John Barnes, Mary Claflin, Lee Youngman

At 6:07 PM, Board Chair Ron Tallman called the meeting to order.

On a motion made by Dustin Comstock and seconded by George Wild, the minutes of the January 12 and January 26, 2015 select board meetings were approved as presented.

Delinquent Tax Collector Mary Claflin attended to go over the list of delinquencies and talk about a tax sale. The following 8 property owners were identified:

- Shawn and Casey Germain – owe 4 years. Shawn Germain hurt his back, but they need to catch up and make an effort
- Susan Golden – 2nd time now. Owes for two years
- Douglas Blair – owes for two years
- John Sousa – owes for two years
- Sarah Wilson – owes for two years
- Gene Manning – only delinquent for current taxes
- Bonnie French – owes for two years
- Kendall and Virginia Roberts – this property is in probate. We will need to ask the court for tax sale

There was discussion among the group about the following tax payers' delinquencies:

- Pirie's are not paying the agreed upon amount and are three years behind
- Patrick Harrington is owes for 2009, 2012 and 2014. He is not working and is in legal trouble.
- Danny Spencer, Sr is paying \$400 per month, but is still four years behind.
- Betty Burns owes for four years, but is paying \$400 per month.
- Tim Keane is on a payment plan, but still hasn't paid 2014 taxes.
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Those listed need to pay both installments in 2015 or they will be going up for tax sale this year.

Mary will send the list to Oliver Twombly to start tax sale proceedings.

On a motion made by Dustin and seconded by George, the board will apply for a FY 2016 paving grant for the portion of Reservoir Rd by the filtration plant, and for the portion of Tucker Road from the bridge to Route 110. George will come in and help Kathie fill out the applications.

Kathie brought the Certificate of Compliance for Road and Bridge Standards to the board for review. The form has a new section this year, asking us to confirm that we have inventories of all roads, bridges, ditches, culverts, specifying width and length of roads, condition of all culverts and ditches. We do not. Robert Turn had been working on ditch inventory last fall. Kathie will follow up. The board signed off of the form, specifying our lack of complete inventories.

Lee discussed a proposal made by Mike Concessi about the vacant town auditor position. He is concerned that hiring an outside auditing firm will increase our tax rate. At the current rate of \$10.00

per hours, no one wants to do it. He suggested we offer it as an “unpaid” position, but in exchange for a tax abatement. The board says he is welcome to propose it at town meeting.

Kathie reviewed the letter from Barre Town’s Ancient Road Committee about the public hearing to reclassify a section of Lord’s road to a legal trail. This reclassification will extend to the Orange border. Kathie told the select board members that the public hearing is Feb 24th in case any of them want to attend.

The board reviewed the existing road crew handbook, specifically, about holiday pay. They will take this up at the March Board meeting.

The board voted, on a motion made by George and seconded by Dustin, to amend the Town Hall Rental Agreement to allow alcoholic beverages, but only if the renter hires and pays for a uniformed law enforcement officer.

The board reviewed and signed A/P and Payroll warrants, and fleet permits.

Other discussion: Kathie passed out the first draft of the Paving bid RFP for George and Dustin to review, mark up and return. Kathie informed the board that Orange County Taxes are \$2000 more than we budgeted for, and retirement contributions will be about \$400 more than we budgeted for. Do we want to ask the town for the additional funds at town meeting? It will increase the tax rate from 19 cents to 20 cents on the general fund. The board agreed we should try to absorb the increases. Dustin informed the board that he called Orange County Sheriff Bill Bohnyak, who agreed to send us detailed reports of the policing they are doing on our behalf.

The town meeting forum will be held at the school on Feb 26 at 6 pm. Ron will meet with Kathie on the 25th at 4 pm to go over the budget one final time before town meeting.

The next select board meeting will be held at the Town Clerk’s office on March 9th at 6:00 pm.

At 7:07 pm Dustin Comstock made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel issues. George seconded the motion. At 7:41 PM, the board came out of Executive Session on a motion made by Dustin and seconded by George.

At 7:42 pm Dustin made a motion to adjourn. George seconded the motion.

Attest:

Lee Youngman
Assistant Town Clerk