

Town of Orange Select Board Minutes
April 13, 2015
Orange Town Hall

In attendance: Ron Tallman, George Wild, Kathie Felch, Lynn Craig, John Barnes, Lee Youngman, Sheriff Bill Bohnyak, Becky Jones, Dean Wheeler, Eileen Wheeler, Kyle Bedard, John Pellegrini, Roland Bedard, Mike Stone

At 6:20 pm, Board Chair Ron Tallman called the meeting to order.

On a motion made by George Wild, the minutes from the March meeting were approved as presented.

A resident on Helgesen Road continues to park in the town's right of way, and additionally, has a wood pile partially in the town's right of way. The town has repeatedly spoken to him about it, has sent the town constable to speak to him, and has sent him written warnings. The neighbors are again complaining, and the road crew had difficulty this winter getting the wing past the truck. Sheriff Bill Bohnyak will forward a copy of Title 23 to Kathie so she can properly cite the resident. Sheriff Bohnyak informed the board that if two tires are on the town's right of way, we have the right to have the vehicle towed at the resident's expense.

The board skipped to item #6 and began discussion of this year's contract for Police Protection through the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Sheriff Bill Bohnyak indicated that they will itemize all activity on the monthly statement, and if the town ever has questions or needs more detail, to call his administrative assistant, Gail. He told the board about activity in the Notch they were called on to investigate. A landowner had a high resolution game camera record three mud trucks trespassing and moving personal items from the site. Upon receipt of the photos, the Sheriff's Department was able to identify the trucks, track them down and fine them \$500.00 each, and issue no trespass warnings against them. The Sheriff's department is willing to continue this type of enforcement activity. They have a Polaris ATV and two Humvees to enable them to get into the woods for this type of patrolling. On a motion made by George and seconded by Ron, the 2015 contract was approved at the same terms as last year.

The board reviewed the bid specifications for the Reservoir Road Paving Grant project and authorized Kathie to send it out to bid.

The board reviewed the two paving grant applications for this year. One is for Tucker Road from the bridge to Route 110, and the other is for the portion of Reservoir Rd near the water filtration plant. On a motion made by George and seconded by Ron, the board authorized Kathie to apply for both grants.

On a motion made by George, the board authorized Kathie to get set up with PayGov to allow the town to accept credit cards for payment of all town fees, including taxes, licenses and copies.

On a motion made by George, the board approved the People's United Bank resolution to add Lynn Craig as an authorized signer on all Town bank accounts.

On a motion made by George, the board approved the newly drafted Road Crew Personnel Policy with one small change.

On a motion made by George, the board updated the Local Emergency Operation Plan, which has been previously approved on a 5 year cycle. Only names of officers have to be updated this year.

Ron commented that we are also working with the school to get a generator set up so the school can function as an emergency shelter.

The board reviewed a letter from Oliver Trombley's office asking for authorization to conduct a tax sale on the two remaining properties previously identified. On a motion made by George and seconded by Ron, the tax sale was authorized.

The board reviewed Clark Agnew's request for an access permit. On a motion made by George, the request was tabled until such time as they can arrange a site visit.

Mike Stone, representing the CVATV Club the local chapter of VASA, presented to the board. He passed out a map showing where the trail is and told the board there were no changes from last year. He said that the town has granted permission to use the Notch Trail for the last 5 years, and that he had also reached out to all landowners and received their permission as well. He said that the problem with mud trucks and 4 wheelers mucking up the trail and running on Richardson Road is hard to control, and that it's not members of CVATV who are doing it. People join CVATV because they want to protect the corridors and the legal right to use the trails.

Lee Wheeler talked about how fast ATVs race up and down Richardson Road. She said it's not just mud trucks but 4 wheelers as well. Becky Jones commented on the noise they make and the dust they kick up. Lee said that they also cause muddy conditions. Mike thinks that the best protection for folks on Richardson Rd against this is to band together with the ATV club and enforce the laws. Mike then talked about the ATV club's proposal to site a parking lot at the gate. He says the parking lot would accommodate 5-6 cars. In exchange, the ATV club would install and maintain a gate that will keep out the trucks but allow a 64" opening for ATV access to get through. The club will also provide bridge maintenance and trail maintenance. He thinks that if there is a parking lot, 4 wheelers will not have to ride down the road anymore. Members would be able to trailer ATV's.

Lee and Becky voiced concerns about the noise and the potential for trail users to trespass and disrespect their property rights. Ron Tallman told them the story Bill Bohnyak had told at the beginning of the meeting about the property owner in the Notch who used a game camera to catch trespassers, and suggested that they might wish to install cameras as well. He acknowledged that they would incur an expense, but if it resulted in arrests and fines, it would be well worth it.

Lee and Becky again voiced concern about noise and traffic. Lee commented that she has stood in the middle of the road forcing ATVs and trucks to stop so she could ask them to slow down and respect the landowners' rights to use the road. They asked the town to ask the Sheriff's department to patrol Richardson Road during the summer on late afternoons and on the weekend to catch ATVs and trucks illegally using the road.

After several more minutes of discussion, the board asked Mike Stone to come back to the meeting next month with a written proposal for the parking area, maintenance of the gate & trail for them to consider. Mike asked that Dustin come out and do a site visit and give his input.

The board then reviewed Kathie's proposal for Town Hall and Town Clerk's office maintenance and upkeep work that needs to be done this year. The board directed Kathie to put the project out to bid as follows:

For the town hall stage, use tongue and groove pine boards and rebuild the structure under the stage. In the clerk's office, remove ceiling tiles and replace. Paint grids. A built-in desk by the vault for listers and the public use, a bigger sink and cabinet in the bathroom.

On a motion made by George, the board authorized Kathie to put this work out to bid with the above changes.

Ron asked Kathie to follow up on getting a microphone and amplifier system before next town meeting.

The board reviewed payroll and accounts payable warrants, signed any fleet permits and town hall rental agreements.

Under other business:

Kathie told the board about a rumor that Lewis Moote is installing a trailer park on his land on RBB Drive. There are two trailers there already with skirting around them. We do not have mobile home bills of sale on them, and we do not have septic systems filed. The health officer needs to follow up with the state to see if there are septic designs approved, and try to get bills of sale for the MH's.

Ron asked Lee, as the Health Officer, to update the board on the complaint about John Sousa on Butterfield Woods Drive. Lee said that she is exploring whether chemical toilets are legal, and told the board that the lot with the empty trailer does have an illegal system. She told the board that she had been in contact with John Sousa and will follow up as soon as the snow melts and the land dries out. The state is aware of the situation.

The board talked about the Reservoir Road re-alignment project and authorized Kathie to get the three engineering studies done that Barre City will require for us to do the land swap. Kathie says there is grant money available for that and she will apply for the grant for engineering.

The board reviewed the budget. Kathie told them that most line items are still within budget, but that we will be over in equipment repairs due to all the work we had to do on Truck 5. Also, the heat at the town garage seems high. We've spent \$3100 so far on a total budget of \$4000. Kathie will see if something has been mis-posted. She said the General Fund budget is fine so far this year.

The new road crew employee passed his drug test and will start Monday, April 20. Lee will have to conduct MSHA training before he can work at the town pit.

On a motion made by George, the board adjourned the meeting at 8:04 pm.

Attest: Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk

