

**Town of Orange**  
**Selectboard Minutes**  
**April 9, 2018 6:15 p.m.**  
**Orange Town Hall**  
**DRAFT**

Members Present: Eric Holmgren, Lee Youngman, Sue Perreault

Others Present: Kathie Felch, John Barnes, Sibohan Perricone, Dave Paganelli, Dustin Comstock and Josh Clark

Eric called the meeting to order at 6:13 p.m.

**1. Approve Minutes of February 12, 28, and March 12, 2018**

On a motion by Lee seconded by Sue the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of February 12, 28, and March 12, 2018.

**2. Agenda Revisions if any**

Later in the meeting Kathie would like to talk to the board about the roadside mowing proposal.

Dave Paganelli hadn't arrived yet so the board decided to move to items 10, 11 & 12.

**3. Discuss Emerald Ash Borer – Dave Paganelli Orange County Forester 6:30 p.m.**

Dave came to discuss the Emerald Ash Borer which was first discovered in Orange in mid-February by a Forester who was working for a private landowner enrolled in the current use program and saw all the signs of the damage to Ash trees bordering the property. The Forester reported it to [vtinvasives.com](http://vtinvasives.com) online which prompted an investigation to confirm it. Since the report several agencies from the state and federal government have been doing inspections of the affected site and have now found that the Emerald Ash Borer exists in 3 other towns; Plainfield, Groton and Barre Town. Those towns border Orange and affects 3 counties who may be put on quarantine. This has not yet been determined by the state but it is possible they will stop the transporting of firewood between May – October when the bugs start flying.

There was further discussion on this topic but no motions have been made at this time on how to proceed with slowing down the spread of this invasive bug until we have further information and guidance. The Selectboard wants the residents to be aware that we have attended public hearings and are being pro-active on all the up to date information from the professionals who specialize in helping us to form a plan. The board appointed George Wild as the Tree Warden and he will work with the town and other agencies to form a plan and do a roadside tree inventory. The town will also work to update the forestry plan for the Orange town forest.

The most up to date information for any residents who would like to learn more about this or are concerned about the Ash on their property and what signs to look for is on their website [vtinvasives.com](http://vtinvasives.com).

**4. Discuss Paving and Road Posting on Tucker Road – Dustin Comstock 7:00 p.m.**

Dustin from Green Mountain Paving came to talk with the board about the cracking of the pavement on Tucker Road. The town has posted Tucker Road for \$20,000 lbs. until May 1st. Dustin will arrange for Nicom to do crack sealing as soon as the weather allows.

**5. Discuss 5 quotes and options for a new town truck and consider a purchase**

John Barnes got 5 different quotes for trucks from area vendors. The board was sent a spreadsheet comparison of the quotes with the breakdown of specs, warranties and accessories. Josh from Clark's Truck Center came to speak with the board about the warranty options, leasing vs buying and answered questions the board had regarding 5-year plans on truck replacement. Kathie explained that it would be better for the town to purchase rather than lease as the interest rates are better through the State Municipal Loan Fund at a rate of 2% for municipalities. On a motion by Lee seconded by Sue the board voted unanimously to purchase a 2019 dump truck from Clark's for \$169,940.00 and authorized Kathie to apply for a loan not to exceed \$100,000.00.

**6. Discuss other town equipment repairs/maintenance options**

The town purchased a used 1997 backhoe last year which was not equipped with a twister wrist which is need so the road crew can work in one lane without closing the road they are working on. John got a quote on a twister wrist for it this winter and was quoted \$15,000.000. John has some concerns about spending that much money on a 20+ year old piece of equipment. He feels we may have a hard time getting parts if anything else goes wrong with it. As equipment ages the parts become harder to find. He told the board he found a 2005 used backhoe equipped with a twister wrist with 3600 hours on it for \$35,000.00 and they would give a trade-in of \$18,000.00 for the 1997 for a total price of \$17,000.00 for a machine that is 8 years newer and only \$2,000.00 more. John and Eric will meet in Springfield on Friday to inspect the 2005 backhoe and decide if it is what they want to purchase. On a motion by Sue seconded by Lee the board voted unanimously to authorize the purchase of a 2005 backhoe for not more that \$17,000.00 if it meets vehicle inspection by Eric and John.

John asked the board to authorize him to take the 1999 & 2002 dump trucks to the state auction along with the Excavator. On a motion by Lee seconded by Sue the board voted unanimously to approve John to take the 3 pieces of equipment to state auction.

**7. Update Road & Bridge Standards & Annual Financial Highway Plan**

The board reviewed and approved the Road & Bridge Standards and the Annual Financial Highway Plan.

**8. Discuss mud season limited travel/road posting**

There was some discussion about this years challenging mud season. Kathie noted that we have already spent \$10,000.00 in materials on town roads just to keep them passable. Next year if the mud season is like it was this year the town may restrict traffic to Orange residents only.

**9. Update Local Emergency Operations Plan**

The board reviewed and signed the 2018 Emergency Operations Plan.

**10. Consider signing 2018/2019 contract with Orange County Sheriff's Department**

The contract is the same as last year with no changes. On a motion by Lee seconded by Sue the board voted unanimously to sign the 2018/2019 contract with the Orange County Sheriff's Department.

### **11. Consider signing 2018/2019 contract for Animal Control & Animal Boarding**

The contracts are the same as last year with no changes. On a motion by Sue seconded by Lee the board voted unanimously to sign the 2018/2019 contracts for Animal Control and Animal Boarding.

### **12. Discuss Central VT Communications/East Central Fiber regarding internet services**

Sibohan Perricone of Orange sent an email asking the board to consider petitioning to join the Central Vermont Internet that is being developed and may be coming to 12 other nearby towns including Barre Town and Plainfield which border Orange. Sibohan explained that she works from home and Fairpoint is slow and will sometimes just freeze while doing work and she would like to see the residents of Orange have another option with faster internet. There is no cost to the Town, the user has to pay the determined fees by the company once it is established. The board asked Kathie to get more information for their review and they will consider signing the petition to provide another choice for internet services in Orange.

### **13. Discuss Tax Sales**

There was discussion on the options for the tax sale the town will own if it is not redeemed by the May 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline.

### **14. Review and Discuss Orange Town Plan**

The board had discussion on the updated town plan and changes from 5 years ago.

### **15. Discuss Bulk Trash Day changes & Annual Green Up Day**

The town normally holds a Bulk Trash Day on Green Up Day. This year we will not have a Bulk Trash day until late July or early August. Kathie told the board about a grant opportunity for Bulk Trash. The Selectboard authorized Kathie to apply for a grant for Bulk Trash Collection through Central Vermont Solid Waste District.

### **16. Approve Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants**

The board reviewed and approved the Payroll & Accounts Payable warrants.

### **17. Review 2018 Budget**

The board reviewed the 2018 budget.

### **18. Consider signing Class 2 Roadway Grant**

The board signed the Class 2 roadway grants for paving. Kathie will submit the paperwork to the state.

### **19. Discuss Reservoir Road Paving RFP**

The board reviewed the RFP for paving and approved Kathie to send to 5 paving contractors.

**Agenda Revision:** Donnell Dexter called and said he would provide roadside mowing to the town at the same price of \$5,500.00. His schedule is filling up fast and wanted to be sure we were on his schedule if we were happy with the service last year. On a motion by Sue seconded by Lee the board voted unanimously to approve the roadside mowing bid.

### **20. Executive Session – Personnel/Performance Review**

The board went into executive session to discuss personnel at 9:32 p.m. The board came out of executive session at 9:47 p.m.

**21. Adjourn**

On a motion by Sue seconded by Lee the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 9:48 p.m.