

Town of Orange Selectboard

Minutes

January 23, 2017

5:30 p.m.

DRAFT

Members Present:

Dustin Comstock, George Wild Jr., Eric Holmgren

Others Present:

Kathie Felch, Attorney Jim Barlow

1. **Agenda Revisions if any**
Review report from the Auditors before adjourning

2. **Meet with Town Attorney regarding Random Rescue Bill – 5:30 p.m.**
Town Attorney Jim Barlow was present to discuss the animal holding fees charged to the town for an animal cruelty case that has recently been resolved. Jim explained that the courts are supposed to hold a hearing within 21 days of an animal cruelty case but that hearing didn't happen and the owner of the animals did not relinquish his rights to the animals until December 23rd. The animals have been held at Random Rescue since March 23rd. The Town requested that the State's Attorney have the restitution order to be made payable directly to Random Rescue for the holding fees accrued for that time period. Jim further explained that Orange is not responsible to pay any of these fees as it is the State Police not the Town that ordered our Animal Control Officer to pick up the animals after taking their owner into custody. The board had some discussion and realizes that although the town isn't technically responsible for these fees in good faith they would make an offer to pay a portion of the bill due for holding fees.

On a motion by Eric and seconded by George the board voted unanimously to pay Random Rescue \$1,500.00 and instruct them to go after the owner of the animals for the balance due.

3. **Finalize 2017 budget**
The board reviewed the 2017 budgets and made one change to the General Fund. The GF budget for 2017 is \$257,947.00 with \$216,833.00 to be raised in taxes level funding the tax rate at .22 the same as last year. There were no changes to the Highway Fund. The HF budget for 2017 is \$430,650.00 with \$338,942.00 to be raised in taxes. The tax rate for the HF is up .04 over last year at .34.

4. **Consider signing the Warning for 2017 Town Meeting**
The board signed the Town Meeting Warning.

5. **Consider signing the Certificate of Highway Mileage**
The board reviewed the Certificate of Highway Mileage. The town subtracted 0.09 miles of road that was discontinued in 2016 and signed it. Kathie will file the certificate with the state.

6. Other Business

Discuss Fire Department Bill for Tim Stone

There was a truck fire at Tim Stone's and the Barre Town Fire Department responded to the call to put out the fire. They billed the town \$680.00 for the call. The Selectboard recommended that Kathie send the bill to Tim's insurance company to collect.

7. Agenda Revision – The board reviewed the letter from the Auditor's after they finished auditing the 2016 financial reports of the town.

8. Next Meeting February 13, 2016 – Public Hearing

9. Reminder – All items due for Town Report to Kathie by January 26th.

10. Adjourn

On a motion by George and seconded by Eric the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

**Kathie Felch
Town Clerk**