

Town of Orange Selectboard Meeting  
May 24, 2021-5:00pm  
Electronically via Zoom

**Board Members Present:** Emily Ruff, Selectboard Chair (by Zoom), Eric Holmgren, Selectboard Member and Sue Perreault, Selectboard Member

**Others Present:** John Barnes, Road Foreman, Lee Youngman, Treasurer, Angela Eastman, Town Clerk (by Zoom), Susan Terry – Mediator (by Zoom), Samantha LeFebvre, Orange County Rep (by Zoom)

**Call to order:**

Ms. Ruff called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

**Agenda Revisions**

Ms. Ruff added two items: Discuss distribution of Town Office keys to select board members and Addition to the public record to acknowledge a meeting held by the Select Board on May 12 – Both items to be discussed under new business

Ms. Eastman added discussion of the motor home parked in the town rec field parking lot, to be discussed under new business

Mr. Holmgren called for an Executive Session in accordance with 1VSA 314.a3 to discuss employment and evaluation of employees, to be discussed under other business.

**Consider approving minutes from 5/10/21**

On a motion made by Ms. Perreault and seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

**Public Comment/Guest Appearances**

Representative LeFebvre attended by zoom to provide a legislative update. Due to a precarious internet connection, she informed the board she'll send update in writing.

**Town Treasurers Report**

**Review of warrants:**

Ms. Youngman circulated May 22 payroll warrant, and two accounts payable warrants for review and approval. On a motion made by Ms. Perreault and seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the warrants were approved and signed by members physically present. Ms. Ruff asked that the May 22 payroll warrant be emailed to her for review.

**Review current budget:**

Ms. Youngman then discussed the current budget with the Select Board. No members had questions about the numbers as presented.

**Update of 2020 Audit**

Ms. Youngman informed the board that the first batch of data is in the hands of Sullivan Powers and Company and she will begin working through their questions this week.

#### Discuss Putting Cemetery Commissioners on Payroll

Ms. Youngman provided context and background. The cemetery commissioners do not have liability insurance or workers comp coverage, and as such, will not sign VLCT's required non-employee work agreement. VLCT suggested the solution to this perennial problem would be to put the Cemetery Commissioners on payroll and treat them like all other elected officials. Ms. Youngman presented pros and cons, and a lively discussion about workers comp insurance followed. Ms. Ruff proposed tabling the discussion until the next meeting, to give staff time to speak to VLCT attorney staff about town's liability exposure.

#### Town Reports:

##### Town Clerk:

Ms. Eastman reported that residents are happy to have in-person access to the office again, and that there has been no push-back from researchers about needing to continue to schedule appointments. She further stated that there has been a lot of real estate transfer activity in town, which is good for clerk fees revenue. She knows of two closings scheduled for the end of May and several homes being listed. Finally she reported that the 8 foot meeting tables and chairs she purchased using last year's election grant funds, have arrived and she's pleased with them.

#### Old Business

##### Continued discussion regarding Hydroseeder

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion weighing the pros and cons of purchasing a mechanized 400T model vs a jet 300T model, and new trailer vs used trailer, and trailer as part of the package vs trailer purchased independently. Ms. Ruff moved to approve the purchase of a new John Deere mechanized model 400T with a trailer to be purchased separately, and amended the motion to include any freight charges that come with delivery of the separate trailer. Ms. Perreault seconded the motion. Mr. Holmgren amended the motion to limit the purchase to \$7500.00 to maximize the grant and minimize the unbudgeted expense to the town. The motion was not seconded. He also disagreed with the need to spend an additional \$4000 on a mechanical agitator. Ms. Ruff and Ms. Perreault voted to approve the original motion. Mr. Holmgren voted against the motion.

##### Continued discussion regarding Ordinances

Burn and building ordinances are nearly complete. The board is awaiting planning commission review and approval of town attorney Jim Barlow's edits. The board will review for final sign off at the next meeting, pending approval by the planning commission.

Mr. Holmgren brought up a potential loop hole in the Consolidated Highway ordinance. Town resident Steve Pratt has been using his own equipment and materials to widen and level off the road. He maintains his driveway permit allows this. Mr. Holmgren expressed concern that materials are not up to town standards and violate our ordinance. John Barnes will review the driveway permit and the Consolidated Highway ordinance and report back to the board for possible revisions to that ordinance. He expressed concern that the ordinance does not have a provision to fine offenders.

Ms. Eastman and Mr. Barnes reported that someone put a boulder in the road on George Street, which may also be a violation of the Consolidated Highway ordinance.

Ms. Ruff asked Road Foreman Barnes to research how other towns handle these matters and report back before the next meeting.

**New Business:**

**Addition to Public Record to acknowledge the May 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the select board**

The Select Board met on May 10<sup>th</sup> with a professional mediator to discuss contracting for services. Because misinformation obtained from VLCT, the meeting was not properly warned. No action was taken, and the Select Board consulted with the town attorney that going forward, meetings with contractors must be warned.

**Discussion Re: Motor Home parked at Town Recreation Field Parking Lot**

Ms. Eastman told the board that LaRoche Towing was hired to tow a motor home to the parking lot at the town rec field. It belongs to the daughter of the residents across the road. Ms. Eastman spoke to LaRoche and to the resident. The resident states she did not know it was coming, and Mr. LaRoche indicated that the motor home does not run. If he had known it wasn't running, he would not have towed it there.

Mr. Holmgren expressed concern about the lack of signage against parking and warning of towing. Ms. Perreault made a motion to ask LaRoche to move the motor home, and if he will not do it to give the owners a 7 day notice to remove it. If they do not comply, the board will pursue options with the State. Ms. Ruff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

**Other Business**

**Distribution of office keys**

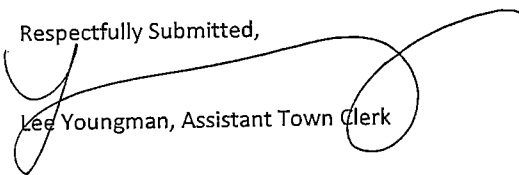
The board discussed the distribution of keys to the office to select board members. Mr. Holmgren stated that it has been town policy to distribute keys to select board members. The board instructed Ms. Eastman to provide keys to all select board members.

Mr. Holmgren made a motion at 6:25 pm to enter into Executive Session in accordance with 1 VSA 314.a3 to discuss employment and evaluation of employee. Ms. Ruff seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. On a motion made by Ms. Ruff and seconded by Ms. Perreault, the board adjourned Executive Session at 6:59 PM.

**Adjournment**

On a motion made by Ms. Ruff and seconded by Mr. Holmgren, the meeting adjourned at 6:59 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Lee Youngman, Assistant Town Clerk