

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 27, 2023 - Town Clerk's Office

Board members present: Samantha Lefebvre-Selectboard Vice Chair, Sheila Stone Selectboard Member-by phone and Selectboard Chair Emily Ruff-by Zoom.

Other Staff: Town Clerk/Treasurer Angela Eastman, Michele Boyer-ACO and Road Foreman John Barnes

Guests: Kevin Wilson-Resident, David Gomo-Resident, Tim Stone-Resident, Shane Lefebvre-Resident, Lee Youngman-Resident, Sandra Lory-Resident, Eric Holmgren-Resident, Zach Tonnisen-Resident, Anthony Lopez, Rod Coronado-Resident, Betsy Bancroft-Resident and Marsha Bancroft-Resident

Chairperson Ruff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Samantha Lefebvre. Ms. Lefebvre stated there will be no pledge in absence of a flag.

Agenda revisions: No agenda revisions noted.

Guest Speakers:

- a) Mr. Holmgren asked that Mr. Rodney Coronado step down as Cemetery Commissioner for abusing his powers and carrying out a political agenda while holding his office as Cemetery Commissioner.
- b) Mr. David Gomo asked for the removal of Mr. Coronado due to his being a convicted terrorist. He presented the board a signed letter which he asked to be kept on file at the Town Office.
- c) Mr. Rodney Coronado responded to the alleged complaints stating they had nothing to do with his capacity as a Cemetery Commissioner but had to do with his constitutional rights of free speech. He intends to finish his term.
- d) Mr. Zach Tonnisen spoke on behalf of Mr. Rodney Coronado stating citizens should look at his merit, not just in opinions, and that Mr. Coronado has been respectful, and it would be a loss to not have him in that position.
- e) Mr. Dirk Anderson spoke on behalf of Mr. Rodney Coronado stating he was elected to the Cemetery Commission and has by all accounts been a very good commissioner. The citizens can decide to vote against him should he decide to run for another term.
- f) Ms. Lee Youngman spoke on behalf of Mr. Rodney Coronado and asked to go on record stating that since she has worked with him on Cemetery Commission, he has been nothing but pleasant and professional. She supports him fulfilling his term as he has done an amazing job and it would be a shame to lose that energy to a political agenda.
- g) Ms. Lefebvre stated that there was nothing in state statute that warrants removal of Mr. Coronado and there is nothing to refer to in Town of Orange that provides for the removal of any elected official prior to the end of their elected term.
- h) Ms. Ruff stated that she received a voicemail from Ms. Shirley Nolan with disappointment that her deceased husband was not recognized in the town report for his work and volunteer time with the Town of Orange. Ms. Ruff will follow up with her.
- i) Mrs. Stone gave an update on her condition.

Town Treasurer's Report:

Eastman reported on the following:

- a) On a motion by Ms. Lefebvre, seconded by Ms. Ruff, the board voted unanimously to approve the Payroll Warrants.

On a motion by Ms. Lefebvre, seconded by Ms. Ruff, the board voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable Warrant.

The current budget was reviewed by the Selectboard. On a motion by Ms. Lefebvre, seconded by Ms. Ruff, the board voted unanimously to reactivate the IT Services account line for payment to Mr. McNeil in an amount no greater than \$150.00 for services provided.

Old Business:

- a) The board reviewed possible paving scenarios as presented by *Pike Industries*.
- b) The board reviewed the ACO draft. Ms. Boyer discussed a complaint regarding barking dogs at the home of Ms. Voitle and the selectboard will draft a letter to send to Ms. Voitle. On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Ruff, the board voted to table the ACO ordinance until further notice.
- c) Ms. Eastman presented the modified Park and Ride grant and this was signed by Ms. Lefebvre extending the grant until December 31, 2024.
- d) Ms. Eastman discussed the gazebo repairs and that we are waiting on PACIF insurance to contact us with next steps. We have received 3 bids which have been forwarded onto PACIF for review.
- e) Mrs. Eastman and Mr. Barnes presented and discussed the Diesel Emissions Grant with the Selectboard, and it was decided to wait for more funding in the fall to apply for a replacement grant for the town grader.
- f) Mrs. Eastman discussed the Congressional Directed Spending, and she has applied for two-way radios for emergency planning in town.

Other:

- The budget was discussed amongst residents present and the Selectboard. Ms. Youngman suggested having a budget forum on Friday March 3, 2023, from 5-6pm at Town Hall. Ms. Lefebvre will make a flyer and send to Ms. Eastman for distribution.

At 7:20pm a 5-minute recess was taken.

At 7:25pm, on a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Ruff, the board moved into Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment or evaluation of a public employee.

At 8:01pm, on a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Ruff, the board exited Executive Session.

Adjournment: On a motion by Ruff, seconded by Lefebvre, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Angela Eastman, Town Clerk/Treasurer