

**TOWN OF ORANGE**  
**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 28, 2023

Present: Samantha Lefebvre, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson  
Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Assistant Clerk Diane Waters, Road Foreman John Barnes  
Guests - Gretchen Baker, Dustin Comstock, Matt Wadsworth, Tom Stacey

Chairperson Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board had no items to add to the agenda. Eastman requested two items be added: (1) discussion regarding old Unifirst agreement and (2) grant announcement.

Guest Speaker:

Gretchen Baker, from United Construction & Forestry, presented information regarding the purchase of a new 6-wheel drive Model 672 John Deere grader. They offer 7-year municipal leases with payment in advance or deferred for one year. Orders are presently 5 months out. Interest rate is whatever was lowest at time of the order to delivery date. Cost to the town will be approximately \$339,900, including delivery, with a \$52,000 trade-in. The price will be honored for 45 days. Service would be out of Bradford. Baker added that UC&F offers excavator rentals to municipalities. Lefebvre told her the board will be discussing this further at the next meeting.

Town Treasurer's Report:

- a) *Approve payroll warrants.* The board discussed payroll rates with Eastman and via telephone with Lee Youngman and Emily Ruff. Eastman explained that ARPA funds are no longer shown as being included in the rates. Lefebvre stated an article should be put in the next town newsletter explaining how ARPA funds are being used to offset employee pay rates.
- Approve AP warrant.* The board questioned the Tech Group invoices because they felt their contract covered any miscellaneous service calls. Eastman discussed the on-going computer problems the office has been having. Eastman also requested clarification on whether the town should be billing property owners for fire calls. The board directed her to write a letter to the property owner requesting reimbursement. On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the accounts payable warrant.
- b) *Review current budget.* Eastman briefly explained the General Fund salaries account, Highway Fund overtime at 93%, heating account is ok. She stated that the Truck #1 account has \$12,000 against it.
- c) *Grant announcement.* Eastman stated she received word today that the town has been awarded a \$40,000 Transportation grant (\$32,000 + town share of \$8,000) for a scoping study for a sidewalk from the school to George Street and a crosswalk at the school. The

town's share would not come out of this year's budget so it can be budgeted in next year's budget. The board expressed their gratitude to Eastman for applying for and receiving the grant.

- d) *Old Unifirst agreement.* Eastman distributed a 12/30/2022 letter she had written to Unifirst expressing the town's displeasure with their service and requesting reimbursement and return of the garage keys. Since she has never received a response from Unifirst, Eastman requested permission to refer the issue to Town Attorney Jim Barlow. The selectboard agreed to have Eastman request Atty. Barlow write Unifirst a letter.

Other:

There was general discussion regarding the recent town plow truck accident on Provencher Road. Wilson mentioned he felt the snow being left in Rte. 302 at this intersection should be cleaned up better.

- a) *ACO paperwork:* Eastman presented the ACO paperwork for selectboard signatures.

Eastman requested permission to apply for a Structures Grant for the Lords Road bridge. The selectboard agreed.

Tom Stacey inquired how the town determines which towing company to use. He stated he owns 7 properties in town and feels as a taxpayer he should have priority. Barnes stated that Stacey didn't own a tow truck large enough to handle a loaded dump truck. Stacey stated he has a new truck which could. On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to place Action Towing on the preference list as having the right of first refusal before LaRoche Towing.

- b) *Executive session.* The first executive session was cancelled.

- At 7:43 p.m. a short recess was held. -

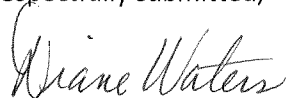
- c) *Executive session.* At 7:46 p.m., the selectboard went into executive session re: 1 VSA s313(a)(3) to discuss the employment or evaluation of a public employee. The board came out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Stone, the board voted to appoint Kevin Wilson as Town of Orange Road Commissioner. Wilson abstained from the vote.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk