

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 10, 2023

Present: Samantha Lefebvre, Kevin Wilson
Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Assistant Clerk Diane Waters, Road Foreman John Barnes
Guests - ACO Michele Boyer, Lee Youngman, Dirk Anderson, Alexia Voitle, Keating Coniff, Jo-Ellen Coates, Shane Lefebvre

Absent: Sheila Stone

Chairperson Lefebvre called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was approved, with no revisions made.

On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting were approved. On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the minutes of the March 28, 2023 meeting were approved.

Guest Speakers:

- Lee Youngman and Dirk Anderson were present to discuss the Town Forest. She stated the CVRPC has a grant available to map trails. There are 3 trails uphill and a lower 4th trail through a beaver pond. Youngman would like to pursue a grant to have the upper 3 trails mapped. The deadline to submit a grant is July. The Selectboard agreed with the idea. Youngman said she will send an email to Lefebvre tomorrow with the grant information. Youngman stated she would like to mark the trails with signs and to have a designated parking area off Beard Road. She suggested approaching the Chandlers for an area on their property in exchange for naming one of the trails "Chandler Trail". On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to send a letter to the Planning Commission supporting the mapping of the trails.
- Alexia Voitle, resident from East Orange, was present to complain about how she feels ACO Michele Boyer handled an incident involving a dog she is fostering. After much discussion, Lefebvre stated she will request a statement from Trooper Goodwin.

- At 7:06 pm, Lefebvre called a 10-minute recess. She resumed the meeting at 7:12 pm. -

Lefebvre said she will also contact the Game Warden. For the time being, she wants any issue between Voitle and Boyer to be directed to the Selectboard.

Town Treasurer Report:

- a) *Approve warrants.* On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to approve the payroll warrant and the accounts payable warrant.
- b) *Review current budget.* Eastman spoke with Tech Group representatives, and they will be issuing the town a credit back to March. Eastman attended a FEMA meeting last week and will be writing a FEMA grant application. She questioned the town garage phone bill and will check into the high cost. Wilson stated he feels John Barnes should be reimbursed for the use of his cell phone on the job; Barnes will supply the board with a copy of his cell phone bill.
- c) *Approve journal entries for February and March.* On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to approve the journal entries for February and March.

Town Clerk Report:

- Eastman requested permission to assist the new Washington Town Clerk at her office. Lefebvre said she would agree to let her go for two hours, with one hour being her lunch hour.
- The town clerk's office will be closed on April 27 for training in Fairlee.
- She has applied for a \$400 Green Up grant.
- Eastman will be applying for a \$4,000 MERP grant. They will perform a free energy assessment at the Town Hall.
- Eastman contacted Town Attorney Barlow about the Unifirst problem and their lack of response. He advised keeping the clothing items in storage for the time being and the town can get rid of them after one year.
- Eastman spoke to Sheriff Poulin, Washington County Sheriff's Department, and he will put together a proposal for covering the Town of Orange. The board would like Sheriff Poulin to attend a future board meeting to discuss it.

Road Foreman Report:

- Roads are holding up well.
- Barnes questioned if the board would like him to remove the gazebo now. The board responded yes, but save any items such as the bench, any plaques, etc.
- Barnes and Eastman discussed the Lords Road bridge grant, estimated at \$293,797. Bids will be sent to 14 bridge contractors in the region. The paving grant will cover Reservoir Road from the treatment plant to the 302 apron.
- Barnes questioned if the board will be deciding soon about the grader proposal. He recommended purchasing it instead of leasing. Lefebvre said she feels the board should wait for board member Stone to return before deciding.
- Barnes heard from Allegiance who suggested the town start the process now to get a quote for next year's new truck.

Old Business:

- a) *Review ACO final draft.* On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to table this item.

- b) *Review fireworks policy.* On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to table this item.
- c) *Update on gazebo.* The town's PACIF insurance agreed upon the gazebo value at \$10,256 with a \$1,000 deductible. They will be sending a check. Eastman stated she hopes the FEMA grant will cover the balance of the \$27,000 cost for a new gazebo.
- d) *Update on Unifirst invoice.* Done
- e) *Discuss date for LEMP.* Lefebvre will get dates to Harry Schoppmann to meet in May.

New Business:

- a) *Town employee emails.* John McNeil was unable to attend. Eastman said Tech Group strongly recommends not having private emails and that all should get switched to a town email address.

Other: Lefebvre announced she is moving to Barton at the end of May. May 26 will be her last day.

Adjournment: On a motion by Lefebvre, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to adjourn at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk