

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 22, 2023

Present: Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson
Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Assistant Clerk Diane Waters, Road Foreman John Barnes
Guests - Ernest Wilson, Eric Holmgren, Lee Cattaneo, Dustin Comstock, Tim Stone, Tyson Chouinard, Wayne Symonds via phone, and Emily Ruff via phone

Call Meeting to Order: Stone called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm.

Consider Approving Agenda/Agenda Revisions: Eastman requested an addition to the agenda under Treasurer's Report - Sign bank resolution. No other changes were made.

Appointment of New Selectboard Member: Stone acknowledged Wayne Symonds' interest in the selectboard position and inquired if there were any other people interested. Eric Holmgren expressed interest at this time, stating he felt he can be an asset to the town.

At 6:07 pm on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted to go into executive session. At 6:10 pm the selectboard came out of executive session.

On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted to appoint Eric Holmgren as selectboard member. The oaths of office were given to Holmgren by Town Clerk Eastman and signed and notarized.

Election of New Selectboard Chair: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted to nominate Eric Holmgren as Selectboard chair.

Public Comment:

a) *Discussion of Paving Bids.* Dustin Comstock stated he never received a bid request for the Reservoir Road paving project. Eastman said she did mail him a bid request to his address in East Barre. Comstock questioned why Whitcomb was awarded the bid. Stone said the board reviewed all the bids including seeking Road Foreman Barnes' opinion. Barnes stated he had worked with Whitcomb in the past but never worked with J. Hutchins. Stone added she trusts the Road Foreman's recommendation.

b) *Other.* Tim Stone reported on a dog incident on Bennetts Mill Road in the area of the trailer park. He stated a few weeks ago as he was driving, a German Shepard jumped at his car window and chased his car down the road. He wanted the board aware of this vicious dog.

Town Treasurer Report:

- a) *Approve Warrants* - On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the AP warrant of 5/22/2023. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the payroll warrants of 5/15/23 and

5/22/2023. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to authorize Holmgren to sign payroll warrants on off weeks.

- b) *Sign Bank Resolution* - Eastman stated she noticed the resolution had an error so it could not be approved at this meeting.

Other Business:

- b) *Discuss Grant Committee Formation:* Emily Ruff (via phone) said she has presented the board with a proposal to form a citizen committee (including a Planning Commission member and a Selectboard member) to work on applying for grants for the town. Holmgren questioned what grants they are referring to – highway, ditching, etc? Ruff explained that would be determined by the Selectboard. Lee Cattaneo said they would be seeking competitive grants, not routine ones, and CVRPC will help the committee write the grants. Cattaneo said if they see an available grant, they would come before the selectboard for approval to apply. The selectboard expressed an interest and will put it on the next agenda.
- a) *Sign Grant Agreement for Transportation Alternatives Grant:* Eastman explained this is for the scoping study for the sidewalk and crosswalk. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to accept and sign the grant agreement as presented.
- b) *Sign Engagement Letter with Sullivan and Powers:* Eastman explained this is for Sullivan & Powers to prepare the audit for fiscal year ending December 2022. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to sign the Sullivan and Powers engagement letter.
- c) *Sign PDM19 Grant Addendum for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan:* Eastman explained this will extend the deadline to 2024. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to accept and sign the addendum.
- d) *Report on Culvert Replacement on Reservoir Road:* Road Foreman Barnes said 3 of the 5 culverts need to be replaced on Reservoir Road where the road will be paved. These culverts are buried from 45" to 56" deep. The job will be for digging only and be paid out of the paving budget; culverts will be purchased by the town out of the culvert budget. Barnes got two quotes: (1) Bellavance \$11,000; (2) Duranleau \$10,000. It was the opinion of the selectboard that the town should go out to bid for the culvert replacement work, i.e. send out the bids to known contractors and also post publicly that the town is going out to bid.
- e) *Report on Switching to **Municipay**:* Eastman advised she is switching to Municipay for credit card and electronic check payments. Fees will be cheaper for residents. Eastman said the \$229.00 equipment cost will come out of the Town Clerk budget.

Pike representative Tyson Chouinard was present to briefly discuss paving. He said in the paving industry they use the price per ton.

Adjournment: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk