

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 12, 2023

Present: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson
Assistant Clerk Diane Waters

Guests - Emily Ruff, Marsha Bancroft, Bev Saychale (Monkton), Nancy Fitzpatrick (Barre Town),
Bob Galvin (Richmond), Tim Stone, Rod Coronado, Lee Cattaneo, Ken Danforth

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.
2. Approve Agenda: Approved with no changes made.
3. Public Comments: Emily Ruff inquired if the town's Fireworks Policy has been updated yet. Stone advised the item had been tabled and has not been brought up again.
4. Discuss and Sign Annual Highway Codes and Standards: On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to accept and sign the document.
5. Discuss Fire Hydrant Placement on Reservoir Road: Stone explained this item had been brought up several months ago. Barre City was contacted and had agreed to putting in a hydrant. Holmgren said he will call Barre City and give an update at the next meeting.
6. Consider Formation of a Grant Committee: This was discussed at the last Board meeting and the consensus of the Board was that a committee is a good idea and will be a benefit to everyone. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to form a Grant Committee. The Selectboard will appoint the committee members as recommended by Emily Ruff and Lee Cattaneo.
7. Review Current Budget: The Board reviewed the budget pages that were distributed. Items discussed included the cold patch budget and recent work done on the new truck that was not covered under warranty. Tim Stone questioned the town's grading schedule because he hasn't seen the grader on his road since mud season. Wilson will look into it with Road Foreman John Barnes.
8. Approve Warrants: On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the Board voted unanimously to accept the payroll warrants for 5/30/23, 6/5/23, and 6/12/23. On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to overspend 7 budget items. These items include:

02-6-50-68.09	2022 International repairs	\$1,686.62
01-5-30-37.01	Security system	\$ 50.00
02-6-55-55.00	Cold patch	\$760.32
02-6-50-68.11	Grader	\$247.96

02-6-50-10.00	New equipment	\$ 47.00
02-6-30-69.01	Garage generator	\$ 30.00
15-6-06-04.00	R. Coronado	\$300.00

The Board postponed approving the Accounts Payable warrant until they discussed the Police Protection agenda item.

9. Review Journal Entries: None

10. Discuss Police Protection: Holmgren stated he received a call from the Orange County Sheriff's Department inquiring if the town will be renewing its contract. The board had discussed the updated contract already but waiting for a hard copy to sign.

11. Discuss ARPA Funds: Wilson stated he feels some ARPA funds should be used for repairs to the Town Clerk's Office. Holmgren said they should authorize someone to check the building to determine what needs to be done first, possibly pulling off the bottom few rows of siding so the Selectboard can see any damage. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to have Wilson contact a contractor he knows to look at the building and diagnose what the building needs.

12. Consider Options for Removal of Nuisance Beavers: This item is regarding the beavers located between the Town Clerk's Office and the Brookhaven Cemetery. Resident and non-resident input included:

- Trees can be wrapped with wire to keep the beavers from damaging them.
- Beaver activity cleans the water that leads to the wetland area.
- There are non-lethal devices that can be used to regulate their activity.
- By speaking with experts it can save the town repeated expense.
- Beavers help the ecology and we should do whatever we can to keep them.
- Underwater traps also trap other animals such as otters; pets can get caught in culvert traps.
- Beavers create natural retention ponds that can be used for fighting fires.
- There is much information available on controlling beavers, including grants.

Stone questioned if the beavers can be relocated; however, relocation is against Fish & Wildlife regulations. Wilson said wrapping trees with eventually kill the tree, that he is concerned the water will damage neighboring property, and that it is close to the town's backup septic system. Holmgren stated we need to cut expenses and stop damage to town property. Mr. Holmgren pointed out that beavers will multiply, and the offspring will seek new areas. Land both upstream and downstream are owned by private landowners who would have to bear the burden of removal. He is in favor of getting rid of them but is willing to wait two weeks to find other options before making a decision. On the recommendation by Stone, the board agreed to table their decision until the next meeting.

13. Approve Previous Meeting Minutes:

5/8/23 - Holmgren was not on the Board; Stone was not present at that meeting. Because the times of the executive session and adjournment were not available, the minutes were not approved at this time.

5/10/23 - Holmgren was not on the Board. On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the Board approved the minutes of May 10, 2023.

5/22/23 - On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes of May 22, 2023.

8. Approve AP Warrant: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to approve the June 12, 2023, Accounts Payable Warrant.

14. Executive Session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) to discuss the employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to enter executive session at 7:40 pm. On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to exit executive session at 8:42 pm.

15. Adjourn: On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk