

TOWN OF ORANGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 26, 2023

Present: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson

Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Assistant Clerk Diane Waters

Guests: Carol McGranaghan, Oliver Stotesbury, Emily Ruff, Lee Youngman, Marsha Bancroft, Tim Stone, Lee Cattaneo, Bob Galvin, Rod Coronado, Tammy Keane, John Alberth, Jacinta Mack

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Holmgren called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm.
2. Approve Agenda: Per Holmgren, agenda item #7 (Consider Options for Removal of Nuisance Beavers) was moved up to after item #3 (Public Comments).
3. Public Comments: Lee Youngman expressed her concern about the upcoming deadline for ARPA funds. The town needs to have a committed budget for the remainder of the funds by the end of the year or will lose them. She suggested that maybe the committee members need to be active again. The selectboard will consider this at their next meeting. Eastman advised the board she will be attending an ARPA informational meeting on Wednesday.
7. Consider Options for Removal of Nuisance Beavers: Marsha Bancroft, from Provencher Lane, presented a petition (with more than 5% of the town's registered voters) to the selectboard requesting the town use non-lethal methods to control the beavers. Holmgren read the petition out loud. Public comments from the present residents and non-residents included:
  - Need a different approach besides trapping; there are lots of different methods to be taken first.
  - The beavers present outdoor education for the school; a new era for outdoor management of wetlands.
  - New beavers will move in when others are removed; devices as invented by Skip Lyle are the way to go to manage them. Skip Lyle should be invited to assess the situation.
  - Emily Ruff distributed copies of her report; she met with Barre Septic person who said town's system is not in jeopardy except for the trees which are growing over it presently.
  - No action necessary if no damage is presently being done.
  - Multiple grants are available so there would be no burden to the taxpayers.
  - Feel that their alternatives are not being taken into consideration.

The selectboard's comments included:

- The town has trapped beavers before, and they have not returned.
- The town is liable for any damage downstream.

- Fire departments do not pump from beaver ponds because the sediment can damage the pumps.
- The beaver dam would not be removed; it would left to degrade on its own.
- If the town’s septic system needs to be replaced on the alternate site, it would be a very costly mound system.
- Not against beavers, but not here; is putting town’s assets at risk.

Holmgren will contact a Fish & Wildlife representative to get their recommendations. Stone will contact Skip Lyle. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting.

4. Consider Appointment of Grant Committee Members: On a motion by Stone, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to appoint Lee Youngman, Lee Cattaneo, and Emily Ruff to serve on the Grant Committee. Cattaneo suggested the Town Clerk and a selectboard member also be appointed. Youngman suggested Steve Simpson also be appointed because of his experience with grant writing. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to appoint Town Clerk Angela Eastman to serve on the Grant Committee. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to appoint selectboard member Sheila Stone to serve on the Grant Committee. Youngman will reach out to Simpson to see if he would be agreeable to serve also.

5. Review Current Budget: Eastman reviewed the status of the General and Highway budgets. She explained that 2 items under FEMA showing overages are for the gazebo removal and will be reimbursed by FEMA. Equipment Repair & Maintenance for truck #1 is over. Eastman advised that John McNeil has been very active in getting delinquent taxes collected. The generator has been installed at the back of the Town Hall.

Wilson expressed concern over the fact that the grader has been overheating. After discussion, it was suggested that Road Foreman John Barnes look into the problem and have it repaired.

6. Discuss/Consider Warrants: The selectboard signed the payroll warrants for 6/20/2023 and 6/26/2023 and the accounts payable warrant for 6/26/2023.

The bank authorization resolution, which was previously approved by the board, was signed by Chairperson Holmgren.

8. Discuss/Consider Culvert Bids: This is for replacing 3 culverts on Reservoir Road in anticipation of the road being repaved. Two bids were received and were opened and read aloud by Town Clerk Eastman:

1. K. Bellavance Landworks & Hauling	-	\$15,995.00
2. Duranleau Construction	-	\$ 9,650.00

After review and discussion, on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to award the culvert replacement contract to Duranleau Construction for \$9,650.00.

Wilson reported damage to Smith Road by a loader.

9. Discuss/Consider Fireworks Permit and Policy: Stone distributed sample permit forms and information to the board. There was a consensus that the town does not need a Policy but needs to require permits. When a permit is submitted by a resident, a board member would have to do a general

inspection of the area. The approved permit to be given to the resident would have a checklist and relevant State statutes attached.

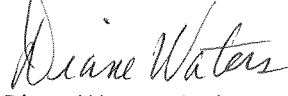
-- Other -- Lee Cattaneo advised he received notice from the Public Utilities Commission that they will be reviewing the application for the solar array on Lowery Road on July 11. He will put it on the July 12<sup>th</sup> Planning Commission agenda if the selectboard wishes to comment on it.

10. Executive Session #1: At 8:15 pm on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(1). The board exited executive session at 8:45 pm.

11. Executive Session #2: At 8:45 pm on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session per 1 VSA §313(a)(3). The board exited executive session at 9:15 pm.

12. Adjourn: At 9:15 pm on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Waters".

Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk