

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

Monday, July 10, 2023

Present: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson  
Town Clerk Angela Eastman

Absent: Diane Waters-Assistant Town Clerk

Guests: John McNeil-Town Lister, Emily Ruff-Health Officer, Grant Committee Member, Marsha Bancroft-Resident, Greg Hoch-Resident, Rod Coronado-Cemetery Commissioner, Lee Youngman-Resident, Linden DeVoil-Resident

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.
2. Approve Agenda: McNeil added to certify the Grand List and make corrections to 2023 Town Meeting minutes. Holmgren added to review newsletter and discussed donation of land records shelving unit to the Town of Washington.
3. Public Comments: Bancroft read a letter from Resident Betsy Bancroft regarding decisions about the beavers. Ruff commented regarding the Highway Consolidated Ordinance. This was regarding cars parked on Riddel Pond Rd. Ruff stated that the ordinance was not followed, and Wilson acted alone in ordering “no parking” signs. Ms. Ruff considered this a personal attack. Coronado asked if this would affect parking on the side of the road by the George Street cemetery specifically are guests going to be ticketed. Youngman expressed concern about Wilson going onto residential property without contacting the homeowner first. Ruff asked specifically for an emergency repair report to be shared with Ruff. Eastman read Ms. Siobhan Perricone’s email as she could not attend the meeting. Eastman also stated that an anonymous resident asked that the Zoom link be posted on all agendas from here on out.
4. Discuss/Consider Beaver Mitigation Actions: Ongoing discussion was had amongst the guests and the Selectboard regarding beaver mitigation. Stone would like to try an alternative method for beaver mitigation. Stone will contact Tyler Brown, State of Vermont by email to ask him to come out to assess the beaver area and write up a written report on his findings and suggestions. Holmgren stated that he would be willing to “go a couple more weeks” in beaver discussions.
5. Discuss/Consider Documenting Current Hunting & Trapping on Town Land Policy: Holmgren read a new policy regarding hunting and trapping on Town property as drafted by Holmgren. Discussion was had amongst the Selectboard, and the residents and guests present. Ruff asked to have a point of order noted “conflict of interest has been pointed out a public official has been asked to recuse himself from the matter that has direct financial interest an indirect personal interest is a violation of our town policy.” This will be tabled to a later meeting.

6. Discuss/Consider Animal Control Ordinance: This was discussed amongst the members and will be tabled until the next meeting when it will be signed.
7. Discuss Fireworks Policy: The Selectboard decided that they would like to keep the policy the same. On a motion made by Stone and seconded by Holmgren, the fireworks permit will be signed by the Selectboard and will include the permit, the VT statues surrounding fireworks and the display checklist. All in favor.
8. Discuss Fire Hydrant Placement on Reservoir Road: Holmgren stated that the fire hydrant project is 75% completed and is being installed in at the lower reservoir.
9. Discuss/Consider Setting the Tax Rate: McNeil presented the Selectboard with the information for setting the tax rate and asked for a motion regarding an error in the Town Meeting 2023 minutes. On a motion made by Wilson and seconded by Stone, the Selectboard approved the correction to the 2023 Town Meeting minutes to correctly read a total town general fund budget of \$416,448.37. All in favor. On a motion made by Stone and seconded by Holmgren, the tax rate was set as proposed. All in favor. On a motion made by Holmgren and seconded by Stone to accept the Homestead rate at 1.3094. All in favor. On a motion made by Stone and seconded by Holmgren to accept the non-Homestead rate at 1.5438. On a motion made by Holmgren and seconded by Stone to accept the Veterans rate at 0.0063. All in favor.
18. Adjourn: On a motion made by Holmgren and seconded by Wilson to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm and hold an emergency meeting tomorrow July 11, 2023, at 5:00pm to assess road conditions, sign grants, sign AP and payroll and hold an executive session. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk