

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 14, 2023

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

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
 2. Approve Agenda: No changes were made
 3. Public Comments: One resident stated that the corner on George Street has not been fixed and is dangerous. Wilson will talk to John about it.
 4. Public Comment from Emily Ruff: Ruff requested the board's response to her complaint about a comment made by Holmgren on Front Porch Forum concerning her position as Town Health Officer saying she was appointed by the Town of Orange selectboard and represents the Town, not the Department of Health. Ruff disagreed, saying she represents the Department of Health. After some discussion, it was stated by the board that the comment was made by Holmgren as an individual, not as the board's representative.
 5. Discuss Letter From BCM Environmental & Land Law: A letter was received from BCM regarding what they feel are errors in the proposed policy for hunting and trapping on Town-owned land. Holmgren read highlights of the letter out loud. In the past a hunter has checked in with the Town Clerk and allowed to hunt or trap on Town property as long as they followed State laws. BCM said Holmgren should recuse himself from voting on this issue because of his occupation. Guests stated they wanted Eric included in the vote.
 6. Consider Documenting Current Hunting and Trapping on Town Land Policy Allowing Tree Stands, Ground Blinds, and Trapping: Holmgren recused himself, and Vice Chairperson Stone presided. The board explained the State requires written permission to erect tree stands or ground blinds or to trap on town property. The board explained that the town has never restricted tree stands, ground blinds or trapping on town property; and instead of the board having to consider each individual request separately, a single statement from the board would meet State requirements. There was much discussion by the guests about letting the voters decide at Town Meeting. On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the Board voted to document allowing blinds, hunting, and trapping on Town-owned property until the next Town Meeting when an article will be put on the warning. A resident requested the document clearly state that the policy serves as written permission.
- Holmgren resumed the Chair.
7. Options For Storm Damaged Roads: For Provencher Road, the board decided not to put the job out to bid so the road can be opened sooner. Three companies responded but only two companies submitted written quotes: (1) Duranleau Construction at \$150/hr plus

equipment charges; and (2) G.M. Bowen Excavating at \$56,345. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to accept the quote by Duranleau Construction to repair Provencher Road.

There was discussion regarding repairs needing to be done on East Orange Road. The board is waiting to hear back from two companies regarding grinding and re-paving Tucker Road. Stone said she has contacted the Orange County Sheriff's Department to patrol Tucker Road because of the increased traffic due to the detour. One guest said 4 wheelers are tearing up Smith Road. The board is looking at how to fix the balance of road damage.

8. Review Current Budgets: General and Highway fund budgets were reviewed by the board.
9. Discuss Payroll and AP Warrants: Warrants were reviewed and signed.
10. Discuss Office Hours: It was decided that while the Town Clerk is away, the Town Clerk's Office will be temporarily open from 8:00-4:00 on Mondays and Tuesdays and from 8:00-3:00 on Wednesdays by the Assistant Clerk.
11. Discuss Town Hall Repairs: There was discussion regarding getting volunteers to paint the outside of the building until the town is in a better position to have the siding replaced. The town would supply the paint, and Stone offered to do a BBQ for the volunteers. Waters will contact the Alliance Church to see if they would be interested.
12. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

May 8 - Because Wilson was the only present member at that meeting, he made the motion to approve the minutes. Motion passed.

June 12 – On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with revision to Item 10.

June 26 – On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes,

July 10 – On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

July 11 – Approval tabled until the times are added.

July 16 – On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

July 17 (Executive Session) – On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

July 24 (Executive Session) – On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

July 24 – On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

13. Executive Session: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:44 p.m. per 1 VSA §313(a)(1) where premature general public knowledge would place the municipality at a substantial disadvantage.

On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:20 p.m.

14. Adjourn: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane Waters". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk