

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

September 11, 2023

Present: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson
Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Asst. Clerk Diane Waters

1. Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Eastman requested adding a FEMA update and town website update.
3. Public Comments: Tom and Gail Wilde questioned if the town could help them with a disorderly neighbor with whom they have a right-of-way for a driveway. The neighbor yells obscenities at them, has pulled up their flags and signs, parks in their driveway, etc. The Wildes have talked with the Sheriff's Department and the State Police numerous times but received no assistance. The board was sympathetic with their situation but there is nothing the Town could do. It was recommended to the Wildes that they contact an attorney.

Also discussed were missing street signs and speeding on Reservoir Road now that the new pavement is down. Stone will contact the OCSD and request they patrol the road.
4. Discuss Municipal Attorney: Attorney Robert Fletcher, from Stitzel, Page & Fletcher, was introduced by Stone. The firm had been requested to attend a Selectboard meeting so the board could meet them. Fletcher explained their firm represents primarily municipalities. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to retain Stitzel, Page & Fletcher as legal counsel for the town.
5. Discuss Bank Reconciliation/Bookkeeping and Audit: Holmgren reported that Lee Youngman has stepped down from the position. Eastman has spoken with NEMRC to give the town a quote on doing the bank reconciliations, which must be done before the audit can be started. The item was tabled until Eastman receives the quote from NEMRC.
6. Discuss Road Work Updates for Tucker/Reservoir/Provencher (and George). Wilson said he spoke to F.W. Whitcomb about getting a quote for milling a section of Tucker and Reservoir Roads. He said there is one small section of Provencher Road that is left. Tomorrow is the last day for roadside mowing. The George Street corner needs to be widened and fixed. The top section of Eastman Road needs to be repaired. Temporary help has been hired to grade roads so the town crew can concentrate on flood damage repairs. Emily Ruff inquired if the landowner is responsible to clean up the trees that were cut down near her landing on Provencher; she was told that the wood is the property of the landowner. The Selectboard requested Eastman to complete the VT DOC permit asap for the installation of the culvert at the end of Provencher.
7. Discuss Grants: Stone reported on the first meeting of the newly formed Town Grant Committee and the grants being considered. Steve Simpson spoke on the timeframe of some of the grants.
8. Review Budgets: The General, Highway, and ARPA budgets were reviewed. The Selectboard noted that the mowing account is over-budget for the Town Clerk/Town Hall property. Eastman explained how the mowing

invoice is presently broken down. The board feels no additional mowing expenses should be charged to the General and Recreation funds, but should be billed to the Cemetery fund.

9. Discuss/Consider Approving Warrants – Payroll and Accounts Payable: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted to accept the 9/11/2023 warrants. Stone abstained.
10. Set Date For ARPA/Budget Meeting: Stone will speak with Youngman because it was felt the ARPA budget should be determined before a budget meeting is held.
11. Discuss/Consider Approving Previous Meeting Minutes: Action on the August 28 minutes was tabled until the executive session times were added. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 11 and August 14 minutes as modified.

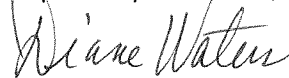
Additional Agenda Items:

Website: Eastman reported the town's website host is retiring and questioned turning over our contract to a new team beginning July 2024. She will call for pricing for the next budget year.

FEMA: (a) The gazebo replacement has been approved -- \$27,500 plus roofing costs, along with debris removal. (b) FEMA representatives were at the Town Clerk's Office all day reviewing flood work. One item they requested were the bids and RFP for the Provencher Road repair work. Eastman said FEMA will be unable to pay if the town did not follow the Procurement Policy. Stone questioned this saying they received 3 bids (2 in writing) and have an RFP; and with the urgency to repair the road with the timeframe, there was the leniency of advertising for bids. The FEMA representative will be contacted for clarification.

12. Executive Session, as per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) to discuss the employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee: At 7:44 p.m. on a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session as per 1 VSA §313(a)(3) to discuss the employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee. At 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go out of executive session.
13. Adjourn: At 8:41 p.m. on a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Clerk