

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 29, 2023

(rescheduled from 11/27/23 due to power outages)

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

Guests: Erin Brenan, Carmella Tucker, Steve Simpson, Larry Eastman

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chair Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Agenda revisions include –
 - a) Update on garage (Wilson)
 - b) Citizen complaint (Holmgren)
 - c) Damage to East Orange Road (Holmgren)
3. Discuss Selectboard Meeting Protocols: Holmgren reviewed the following protocols during the board meetings –
 - Residents' comments will be heard at the beginning of the meeting under Public Comments.
 - Before a motion is made, the board will hear public comments.
 - Input from expert witness will be heard.

Additional Agenda Items:

- a) Update on garage -- Wilson said damage was done to the small dump truck when the body was up and caught the garage door 3 or 4 weeks ago. Damage to the truck was repaired; little damage was done to the building.
 - b) Citizen complaint -- Holmgren said a "domestic terrorist" hunting sticker had been put on the back of the Provencher Lane stop sign. Wilson will attempt to remove it with a heat gun. Stickers had also been put on the Cramp Road speed limit sign.
 - c) Damage to East Orange Road -- Holmgren said the plow truck did some damage to the grass on the side of the road. The highway crew will be advised to fix it and Holmgren will get back to the resident.
4. Discuss/Consider Policy for Collection of Signatures for Petitions: Holmgren discussed if the town should consider changing their policy to accept electronic signatures on petitions. He questioned how we can verify if the person actually signed it, short of calling each person and questioning them. The board tabled this item. They will check with VLCT to see what they recommend.
 5. Discuss Upcoming Employee Reviews: The board agreed to begin reviews after the budget work is completed.
 6. Review Current Budget: Eastman reviewed the current budget with the board. She advised that the 2022 audit has begun, and the guardrails were installed today on Fish Pond and George Street.

7. Consider Payroll and Accounts Payable Warrants: Stone questioned why Eastman had the office open on the 14th until 5:30. Eastman's flex time was discussed. After asking permission to speak to the board, Carmella Tucker advised that she worked in corporate HR for many years and a salaried employee has flexible hours and does not have to be on the job the whole 40 hours. She stated salaried workers are typically expected to work 40-45 hours per week. Holmgren responded that Eastman is only required to cover the office 35 hours per week. She feels Eastman should be thanked for staying late at tax time. Larry Eastman stated there is a lot of confusion on this issue and it needs to be clarified. The board inquired why Eastman was in the office with someone when the door was locked and the outside and entryway lights were off; Eastman denied this happened.

The compressor purchase was discussed.

On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to approve the payroll and accounts payable warrants.

8. Review 2024 Budget: Tabled until Monday, December 4 from 5:00-6:00 p.m.
9. Adjourn: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Clerk