

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 21, 2023

(rescheduled from 12/11/23 and 12/18/23 postponed meetings)

Present: Eric Holmgren, Kevin Wilson, Sheila Stone

Town Clerk Angela Eastman, Assistant Clerk Diane Waters

Guests: Erin Brennan, Larry Eastman, Carmella Tucker, Tim Stone, Tony Lajeunesse, Gary Eggleston, Cole Contois, Dane Deberville, Josh Woodworth

1. Call Meeting To Order: Chair Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda: Eastman stated the board has to sign the forms for appointment of Health Officer and Deputy Health Officer for 2024; Holmgren stated it will need to be an item on the next agenda. There were no other revisions.
3. Public Comments:

Larry Eastman expressed his concern over the board publicly shaming town employees and questioned what action is being taken with his citizen complaint. He reiterated that the board should not attack town employees during the public meeting.

Tony Lajeunesse presented a petition to the board requesting the town take over the second half of Clement Road. This will be on the next agenda.

Carmella Tucker requested someone check the end of her driveway for damage from the recent flooding.
4. Discuss/Consider Town Policy Updates Including Personnel Policy and Financial Policy: The board agreed to table the Personnel Policy updates. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to update the Financial Policy to show the changes in the credit card limits as approved by the board at their October 23, 2023 meeting.
5. Discuss/Consider Appointed Employees Compensation – Previous Town Meeting Warning: Holmgren explained that the Selectboard last year voted to increase the hourly rate of an employee to \$25/hr. However, the original rate of \$20/hr. was a voted article at Town Meeting and the Selectboard cannot change what was voted. Holmgren will check with the VLCT attorney on how to handle the pay increase without making the employee pay it back. Also discussed were the Cemetery Commissioners' pay which should be going thru payroll. Holmgren said he will ask the VLCT attorney about it also.
6. Discuss/Consider Washington Snow Flyers Landowner Agreement Form: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to accept and sign the agreement.
7. Discuss/Consider Orange County Sheriff Contract: Eastman presented 2 copies for signing. Holmgren stated the downside is the town is locked into a contract without a passed budget. The board felt they should level-fund at \$8,000 unless the town votes for a higher amount at Town Meeting and the board can raise the not-to-exceed

amount. On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to agree to the terms of the OCSD contract beginning January 1, 2024 for one year at \$58/hr., not-to-exceed a total of \$8,000.

8. Review Budget: The current budget was reviewed.
9. Approve Warrants – Payroll and Accounts Payable: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the payroll and accounts payable warrants.
10. Legal Consultation With Town Attorney: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body per 1 VSA §313(a)(1). On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:26 p.m.
11. Discuss ARPA Fund Balance Committed and Uncommitted Funds: Eastman distributed a detailed list of what has been paid out from ARPA Funds to date. With a starting balance of \$332,704 and minus \$206,645 expended, the amount left totals \$126,059.

Holmgren discussed he has heard of the availability of a 2006 Mac 10-wheel dump truck with plow. Holmgren will call the owner expressing the town's interest, and Wilson and Road Foreman John Barnes will go look at it.

12. Review 2024 Budget: Because of the late hour, the board will take home and review budget figures. The next meeting will be Thursday, December 28 at 6:00 p.m.
13. Adjourn: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Holmgren, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk