

**TOWN OF ORANGE**  
SELECTBOARD MINUTES  
January 8, 2024

PRESENT: Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Kevin Wilson  
Town Clerk Ginny Raboin, Asst. Clerk Diane Waters

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chair Holmgren called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Approve Agenda:

Agenda #7 (Discuss Grant Agreement) will be tabled until next meeting.

Add dog complaint.

Add executive session.

Chair Holmgren read a brief statement regarding the appointment of the Town Clerk. He stated the board is not entertaining questions, only comments.

3. Public Comment:

Michelle Brock – asked for the qualifications of the new clerk.

Lee Youngman – presented a petition of 114+ voters to change the Town Clerk/Treasurer position from appointed to elected, and to elect the Town Clerk/Treasurer for a term of 1 (one) year.

Gary Eggleston – feels it is a good working board making decisions on behalf of the town.

Lee Youngman – has filed a public records request to be answered within 2 days.

Don Mountford - questioned if there is a policy for termination of an employee.

Susan Childs - questioned how the term went from November to December. Holmgren stated it was because of the change in duties (Treasurer).

Lee Youngman – questioned the term of the new clerk, ie until next Town Meeting? Holmgren stated it is for a full year.

Carmella Tucker – heard Dustin Comstock got the bid to do Tucker Road. Holmgren stated the work has not been authorized yet and needs to be re-bid.

Tim Stone – would like the town to start caring for each other including supporting Tom Stacy, John Barnes, the Bedard Farm.

Michelle Brock – complained about the constant barking of a dog in East Orange.

Carmella Tucker – asked for the qualifications of the new clerk. Raboin replied she has lived in Orange since 2005, has run her own business (a.p./payroll), presently works for Upper Valley Services, and looks forward to serving the town.

Lee Youngman – disappointed in the way it was done, that the timing was intentional, and was not done in a public way.

Steve Simpson – Angela held the position for 5 years when the board pulled the rug out from under her. Not correct from the human aspect.

Ashley Brown – The town of Washington had a similar thing happen. Feels it is important it remains an appointed position.

Additional Agenda Item – Dog Complaint:

Brock and Kevin Farnham filed a complaint about a barking dog in East Orange. It has been a problem for a long time with the constant barking. Wilson acknowledged hearing the dog. Holmgren will review the ordinance to see what can be done.

4. Discuss/Consider Sheriff's Contract: OCSO questioned why their fee was dropped back to \$8,000 for 2024. Holmgren tabled the item until the 2024 budget is finalized.
5. Discuss/Consider Signing Washington Snow Flyers landowner permission form: On a motion by Stone, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to sign the form.
6. Discuss/Consider Town Vacancies – Delinquent Tax Collector, Lister, Cemetery Commissioner, Health Officer, Animal Control Officer: Some of the vacancies (Cemetery Commissioner/Lister) will be voted at Town Meeting and some (Tax Collector/Health Officer/ACO) are appointed by the Selectboard. Until appointments are made, the Delinquent Tax Collector position falls to the Town Treasurer and the Health Officer position falls to the Chair of the Selectboard. Holmgren will post the vacancies and announced that if anyone is interested in the vacancies to reach out to the Selectboard.
7. Discuss Grant Agreement: Tabled
8. Discuss/Consider Approving Warrants – Payroll and Accounts Payable: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to approve the Payroll and the Accounts Payable warrants.

~ At 6:48 p.m. Holmgren declared a 10 minute recess. ~

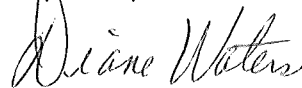
9. Discuss/Consider 2024 Budget: The proposed 2024 budget was discussed.

Additional Agenda Item - Executive Session: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 7:14 p.m. to discuss the appointment or employment of a public officer or employee per 1 VSA §313(a)(3).

On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 8:08 p.m.

10. Adjourn: On a motion by Holmgren, seconded by Stone, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Assistant Town Clerk