

TOWN OF ORANGE  
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OFFICE COMPLEX  
March 25, 2024; 6 p.m.

**Present:** Steve Simpson Chair, Kevin Wilson V. Chair, Wayne Symonds  
Town Clerk, Ginny Raboin

**Guests:** Aaron Blaisdell, Dustin Comstock, Eric Holmgren, Michael Raboin Jr., Ben Shaw, Rosa Kidder, Erin Brennan, Francis Kidder, Ernest Wilson, Adele Blaisdell, Sarah Field, Angela Eastman, John McNeil, Gary Eggleston, Tony Lajeunesse, Shelia Stone, Tim Stone, Kristin Paya, Lee Canttaneo, Carmella Tucker, Ron LeClair, Jim Wild, Ray Rossi

**6:00PM Call the meeting to order:** Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**6:05 Approve Select Board Minutes of March 11, 2024:** Chair Simpson made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Symonds made a motion to approve the minutes as amended to add the suggestions from Jim Wild on item 10 and item 11 and to record the alleged assault discussed was alleged, seconded by Chair Simpson. Discussion ensued where Wilson advised the board spoke about the safety of employees and didn't debate if an assault happened. Symonds stated there was an investigation that resulted in no assault, I'm not going there. Wilson confirmed no investigation occurred and suggested the minutes be printed with the additions Jim Wild recommended with no changes to item 5 and stated it should be printed as is. On a motion by Symonds to approve the minutes with the additions from Jim Wild and adding alleged assault and review of Sheriff's department on item 5, seconded by Simpson the motion passed. Symonds, Simpson voting to approve, Wilson denying.

**6:10 Approve Agenda:** Chair Simpson requested an addition at 7:20pm to add Delinquent Tax Collector. On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the agenda was approved with the addition.

**6:20 Approve Payroll/Warrants:** Wilson reported a concern with employee's time report, after brief discussion this was tabled to speak to during executive session.

1. **Discuss Vt Roads approval/re-signing of prior approved S.B. document.**  
Simpson described the Mileage Certificate explaining that it was previously signed by the previous Selectboard and sent. The office didn't receive the document. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the document was approved and signed by the board.
2. **B.T> EMS Contract:** After discussion regarding the contract Symonds made a motion to table this until the next meeting and invite the previous board to

needs to be done in the interim. Wilson advised he received a call from a resident volunteering to fill the potholes, there was discussion pertaining to liabilities and was determined that the road crew should fill the potholes with town equipment in the interim. Wilson advised he will work with the Road Crew to address this concern.

Dustin Comstock advised during the previous storm; Tucker Road did not receive a second pass with the plow leaving this road dangerous to travel. Carmella Tucker concurred.

Fred and Rosa Kidder expressed concerns over the performance of the Road Foreman and suggested increased oversight.

Simpson indicated Public Comment session was over, concerns were brought forward and as the Chair he was moving the meeting forward.

#### **6:55 Appointed positions by S.B.**

- A. Treasurer:** Chair Simpson advised when the board appointed Ginny Raboin as Town Clerk at the previous meeting they did not appoint Town Treasurer. Wilson made a motion to appoint Ginny Raboin as Town Treasurer as well as Town Clerk, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously.
- B. Road Commissioner/ Road Foreman:** Symonds advised at last meeting he recommended Selectboard review of description of Road Commissioner as it is robust enough to suggest a paid role. Clerk Raboin handed Chair Simpson a petition received in the office to have the Road Commissioner and Foreman roles elected by the residents instead of appointed by the Selectboard. Simpson stated, "Late to the party folks, I am not considering this at this time" Discussion continued pertaining to the roles and responsibilities Symonds indicated concerns around the Road Foreman role reporting to the Selectboard and not the Road Commissioner and advised that his motion made from previous meeting continued to carry and recommended to table the discussion until further review. Carmella Tucker asked if the discussion is tabled how would this issue be moved forward. Simpson advised he would assign homework to the other board members. Ben Shaw encouraged the board to extend Kevin Wilson's appointment of Road Commissioner until the board resolves concerns. Dustin Comstock addressed concerns about town employees meeting the members of the board at their homes to discuss issues. Symonds addressed the concerns stating while in their personal homes the board members are residents. Holmgren advised the board extend the review of job descriptions through the year as their responsibilities needing to be addressed by the board (ARPA Funds, Grants, Building repairs) with the extension it would afford time this summer to address the descriptions; Symonds addressed the comment indicating the biggest issue the town has is the roles and responsibilities, clear definition of what employees are being paid for. Eggleston recommended a part time road crew member; Shaw encouraged a Road Advisory Committee where Shaw advised being

Motion by Wayne, seconded by Kevin to approve payroll warrant. Voted = All in favor Motion by Wayne, seconded by Kevin to approve language revision to Groton Timber Works Contract. Voted = all in favor.

Motion by Wayne, seconded by Kevin to ask John M. and Ginny to attend April 8,2024 (Next S.B. meeting), at the start of the meeting to give the S.B. information regarding tax payments.

Note: The meeting time will be moved back to 5:30 PM, going into Exec. Session immediately after the start of the meeting to gather facts from John M. and Ginny. (This will be conducted with the S.B., each person individually).

**Adjournment:** 9:35 PM Motion by Kevin and seconded by Wayne to adjourn. Voted = All in Favor.

This concluded official business of the S.B. for March 25,2024.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ginny Raboin', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ginny Raboin