

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
TOWN OFFICE COMPLEX
April 22, 2024

Board: Steve Simpson, Chair; Kevin Wilson, Wayne Symonds
Town Clerk, Ginny Raboin

Guests: Lee Youngman, Tony Lajeunesse, Gary Eggleston, Eric Holmgren, Jim Wild

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

6:05pm Approve April 8, 2024 Selectboard Minutes: On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson the minutes were approved unanimously.

6:10pm Approve minutes of April 16, 2024 Special Selectboard meeting minutes: On a motion by Symonds seconded by Wilson the meeting minutes were unanimously approved with the correction of the typo in the year.

6:15pm Approve Agenda: Simpson added AP Warrants and Payroll to the agenda. Wilson suggested adding Clement Road to the Agenda as a resident had asked for it to be discussed. Simpson reported there isn't enough time to address everything, Wilson added if a resident asks for something to be discussed it should be. Simpson stated it could be added to the Public Comment. On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Symonds, the agenda was approved with the addition of the AP Warrants and Payroll unanimously.

- Addition: Approve AP Warrants & payroll: Noticing the towing bill, Symonds recommended potentially getting bids on towing making sure we aren't paying premium locally. Wilson stated the Road Crew calls locally then reaches out to LaRoche or whoever is available. On a motion by Wilson seconded by Symonds the AP Warrants & Payroll were approved unanimously.

6:20pm Road Commissioner Report: Wilson stated the Road Crew is working on grading the roads. Wilson expressed concern on the Riddle Pond Road Bridge #8, VTrans has inspected, and the Town is awaiting the results. There was discussion regarding the weight of the bridge and posting it, if the bridge could withstand emergency vehicles driving over it, potential solutions and diverting traffic. Holmgren suggested using a pre-form bridge as they previously used on Cramp Road as a potential cost-effective method to resolve if the bridge needs to be replaced. Symonds encouraged Wilson to obtain RFP's for filling the potholes on Tucker Road.

6:25pm

- Selectboard Rules of Procedures (Last Updated 2022): Symonds made a motion to approve, seconded by Wilson. Chair Simpson opened for discussion; Wilson

advised he felt under D1 of the policy “the chair shall determine” that it inhibits the public to add to the agenda. Chair Simpson stated that he attempts to put everything on the agenda that is asked for the Chair is responsible to decide. Holmgren stated if something is put on the agenda after the meeting has begun it cannot be acted on during the meeting because it hasn’t been publicly warned. Simpson stated it is up to the board what happens, Holmgren stated the board can talk about what is on the agenda prior to the meeting and it wouldn’t fall under public meeting. Simpson stated he is trying to stay within a time limit. Wilson stated what is on the agenda should be a decision for the whole board and not one person solely, it appears that you are hiding something. Symonds recommended putting the agenda together earlier for board review prior to posting on Friday. Wilson made a motion to amend the original motion to state “Any Selectboard member can add to the agenda”, no second, the motion failed. Symonds made a motion to add to the policy “The Chair will make an effort to provide a draft agenda 24 hours before posting”, seconded by Simpson. The vote passed with Simpson and Symonds voting Yay, Wilson abstaining from vote.

- Animal & Nuisance Ordinance (Last Updated 2012): Simpson stated to approve the new ordinance many steps need to be taken. Simpson asked Holmgren about the process, Holmgren states he never saw the updated policy that the previous board worked on after multiple attempts asking for it. Wilson recommended adding a leash law due to previous issues with dogs chasing livestock, Symonds recommended adding “harassing livestock”. After further review the board approved the policy with the changes and will make a vote with a clean copy including the changes at the next meeting so the policy can be signed.
- Town Property Keys (New): On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson the board voted unanimously to approve the Town Property Keys Policy. Eggleston asked the board if the Lister needed a key to the building, Symonds recommended a spreadsheet with who has keys, Clerk reported the locksmith is coming to discuss re-keying the doors.

6:40pm NEMRC, Reconcile Update: Clerk read email from Darlene at NEMRC that indicated she was not going to be able to reconcile the account for 22/23 in the 23 hours previously agreed on. Darlene wrote that there were many deposits that were not recorded in time, some months later causing significant difficulty in reconciliation. She advised a 96-hour contract would better support the project. Simpson advised it is critical to know where the finances are at, Clerk went on to advise that the auditors will require a signature from the Town stating the financials are accurate to the best of their knowledge, Raboin advised she is not willing to sign those documents. Youngman advised she resigned from being the Treasurer in November of 2022 and agreed to be the bookkeeper to reconcile, due to life circumstances that did not happen, and she did not complete the reconciliation. Symonds state we don’t really have a choice and recommend going with the 96 hours. Simpson stated he was concerned to go outside of the budget but recognized the necessity. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson the board unanimously voted to

contract with NEMRC for 96 hours at \$110 per hour to complete the reconciliation.

6:45 ARPA Funds: Clerk compiled budget reports from NEMRC for years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 showing revenue and expenditures. Raboin reviewed meeting minutes, the ARPA binder which showed no disbursements. Clerk Raboin advised no clear documentation on expenditures. After the discussion Simpson advised he will review meeting minutes to determine funds allocated and spent. Youngman asked if funds could be allocated for the Riddle Pond Bridge, Holmgren shared \$70,0000 was used to offset a paving expenditure from the ARPA funds, Eggleston asked if the Grant Committee continued to be active, Simpson reports there is still a committee. Symonds advised needing a net number even if it isn't perfect, Holmgren advised approximately \$200,000.00 was spent and to report accurately the amount spent will need to be in previous meeting minutes to meet the reporting requirements.

6:55pm Emergency Management Plan Update: Holmgren advised this is a report updated yearly, it needs to be completed in a timely manner due May 1st and will affect FEMA funding if not completed. After discussion about Emergency Procedures Wilson made a motion to approve the updated Emergency Management Plan, seconded by Symonds, the board approved unanimously.

7:00pm Public Comment: Eggleston suggested a sign stating "Honesty, Ethics, Transparency" would be a nice addition to the wall in the Town Hall. Wild expressed appreciation for grading and suggested the Road Crew bring the material on the sides of the road back into the road, grading it in and crowning the road.

Clement Road: With discussion regarding the Town making Clement Road to a Class 3 road from a Class 4 road, the costs versus benefits to the town and the necessary standards Simpson stated the petition previously submitted has expired. Lajeunesse stated he felt this was getting sidelined and not getting done, Simpson stated there wasn't the estimated \$50,000 needed budgeted to take over the road. Holmgren suggested doing brushback, checking the ditches and culverts, ditching if needed, the additional tax revenue would provide increased income for the town. Symonds asked if a public meeting with testimony had happened, to date, it hasn't happened. Lajeunesse stated other property owners were on board and have advised they will provide land for a turnaround. Symonds stated without utilizing the state land for a turnaround the projected cost would be much less. Simpson will review and provide information to the board for review at the next meeting.

Wilson advised he was hoping to get the approval of the board to write a letter outlining the benefits of the state taking over the maintenance of Tucker Road . He hoped to add a counter to the road and add in information obtained from the counter. Simpson advised Wilson to go ahead with the letter.

Simpson read an email from Shelia Stone reporting many concerns. No discussion.

7:15pm Roach Commissioner and Road Foreman Job description: Tabled until the next meeting.

7:45 ACO Update: Simpson stated the board has candidates they will review in executive session and will decide who to go with.

7:55 Executive Session to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 VSA § 313(3).

Below minutes provided by Chair Simpson:

8:46 PM in Executive Session, Wayne 1st/Kevin 2nd., all approved.

9:30 PM out of Executive Session.

9:31 PM Steve talked briefly about our Insurance (Risk Management) audit that had occurred since our last meeting. Results coming soon and SB will schedule a visit to Town Garage and Town Clerk office to make recommendations for any repairs needed.

9:32 Motion by Wayne, Kevin 2nd. Town Clerk will be paid Delinquent tax fee/penalties from December 28,2023 through end of business, March 11,2024. Current Delinquent Tax Collector will be paid tax fees/penalties from March 12,2024 forward. Voted ALL in favor.

9:40 PM Motion by Wayne, Kevin 2nd. Request ACO candidate, Jayme Palmer to attend SB meeting of May 13, 2024 @ 5:30 PM to interview with SB.

Voted All in favor.

9:45 PM Motion by Kevin, Wayne 2nd to adjourn. All in Favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Ginny Raboin
Town Clerk