

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE TOWN HALL
May 13, 2024

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

Guests: Tim Stone, Shelia Stone, Sam Lash, Eric Holmgren, Michael Raboin Jr., Jim Wild, Tony Lajeunesse, Carmella Tucker, Steve Riseberg, Gary Eggleston

5:30 PM Call the meeting to order: Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 5:34pm.

5:31 PM Executive session for personnel/legal issue to discuss the appointment or employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A. § 313(3): With a motion by Chair Simpson seconded by Wilson the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 5:34pm. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session at 6:05pm with no action taken.

6:00 Regular Selectboard meeting: Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:12pm.

6:01 Approve SB minutes of April 22: On a motion by Symonds seconded by Simpson the minutes of 4/22/24 were approved unanimously.

6:05 Approve agenda: Chair Simpson reported Appointing an Animal Control Officer needs to be postponed as the candidate had a family emergency. Chair Simpson made a motion to approve the agenda with the previous adjustment, seconded by Wilson, approved unanimously.

6:10 Appoint Animal Control Officer: Postponed

6:15 Guest, Sam Lash, To discuss Town of Orange Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Sam Lash reviewed the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan and afforded an opportunity for questions and answers.

6:30 Approve Town of Orange Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Symonds made a motion to approve the 2024 Local Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented, seconded by Wilson. With no further discussion the board voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

6:40 Public Comment: Chair Simpson noted there were Survey's on the Sideway Scoping Study and encouraged residents to complete. Residents Wild, Tucker discussed the potholes on Tucker Road and repair plan, Holmgren noted the Capital Improvement Plan speaks to road

management. Stone inquired on the 187 Tons of material on Cutler Corner Road in comparison to the 164 tons of material on Preston Road asking if there was an issue to be resolved on Preston. Riseberg advised the culvert on Clement Road is approximately ½ way out of the ground and needs to be reset. It presents an issue for heavy trucks or emergency trucks traveling on the road. Tucker stated there are rumors that there are town funds missing, Simpson responded NEMRC is continuing to reconcile and has not reported missing funds. The town accounts have not been audited for 2022 and 2023. Stone stated the Cemetery Commissioner Rod Coronado spoke at a previous meeting indicating that \$20,000 was not accounted for. Raboin clarified that since 2018-2019 no money has been deposited into the Perpetual Care Fund, instead it was left in the General Fund.

6:55 RC Report: Wilson reports the Road Crew is working to fill potholes on Reservoir Road, and general maintenance of other roads in town. Wilson shared he is working on the RFP for pothole filling on Tucker Road and advised that Wilson and the Clerk applied for a grant to pave Tucker Road which is currently in the approval process. Symonds stated reclaiming is not worth the money and encouraged the road to be paved.

7:05 Reservoir Road RFP: After review and discussion Symonds offered recommendations to change the wording from pothole patching to repair, removing the loose material from the potholes, compacting the subbase with 3” of pavement in the potholes. Wilson shared concerns the \$20,000 the town approved may not provide enough funding for the whole section. Simpson indicated the importance of making the repair to the road as quality as possible, advised putting the additions into the RFP and reaching out for bids. Symonds made a motion to approve the RFP with the additions discussed, seconded by Wilson, and voted unanimously.

7:15 Town Clerk report (VLCT Insurance visit results): Clerk Raboin shared the findings and recommendations from the VLCT audit of the Town Office, Hall and Highway buildings. One recommendation was improved security for the Town Office to include a barrier at the counter with plexi glass and an additional full door where the half door is currently. The board agreed to move forward with the security recommendations. Lajeunesse indicated support and willingness to complete the work.

7:20 Warrants/Payroll: After board review Symonds made a motion to approve the warrants dated 4/27/2024 & 5/4/2024 as presented, seconded by Wilson, voted unanimously.

Symonds made a motion to approve warrants dated 5/11/2024 with the amendment as written on the warrant, seconded by Wilson, voted unanimously.

Symonds made motion to approve AP Warrants dated 4/29/2024 and 5/13/2024 as presented, Wilson seconded, and voted unanimously.

7:25

- Animal & Nuisance Ordinance (Last updated 2012), 2nd reading.

- Comments/next step: After reviewing the ordinance Symonds made a motion to approve the Animal & Nuisance Ordinance seconded by Wilson and voted unanimously. The ordinance was approved by the majority dated 5/13/2024, the Clerk will post in five locations: Front Porch Forum, Town Website, Town Office (inside and out on the bulletin board), Town Hall and at Orange Center School. In addition to an ad in The World newspaper.
- Review/Sign Rules of Procedure for Town of Orange Selectboard: As this policy was already approved with additions the board signed the policy and provided signed copy to the Clerk to post on the website.

7:40 Petition to call a special meeting related to election of Road Commissioner: Chair Simpson stated he reviewed the petition with the town lawyers who reported it cannot be acted on per 17 V.S.A. § 2652. Simpson stated the board didn't have the authority to vote on this until the 2025 Town Meeting. The town lawyers indicated while the petition could be added to the warning for 2025 Town Meeting, it would be best to have a new one completed and signed by 5% of the voters submitted 47 days prior to Town Meeting. Symonds suggested the board crafts a response to the petition so the individuals who signed the petition can review. Holmgren asked if the board made a statement would they include in the statement the intent to put this petition on the 2025 warning. Simpson indicated yes. In further discussion Simpson indicated if the board added the petition to the warning for the 2025 Town Meeting, they would need to change the wording for the warning. Raboin raised the question if the board changes the wording of the petition to put on the warning for the 2025 Town Meeting wouldn't that potentially change the intent of the petition.

8:00 Road Commissioner and Road Foreman Job Description: Symonds reports the intent of the draft descriptions of the Highway Supervisor and Road Commissioner was to make clear the authority the Selectboard and Supervisors have. Symonds utilized current descriptions and VLCT template to create the draft. The Road Commissioner role would provide oversight, create highway budget, oversight on bids, purchasing and updating board. Highway Supervisor would be in the truck, on the project, supervising employees, completing grants, operation, and maintenance of equipment etc. With much discussion, including the residents in attendance this was tabled until the next meeting.

8:25 Next meeting date, May 28, 2024 (Memorial Day): Wednesday, May 29, 2024

8:30 Adjourn: Symonds made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson by unanimous vote the board adjourned at 8:57pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Ginny Raboin
Town Clerk