

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 22, 2024

Present: Selectboard members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Wayne Symonds
Diane Waters, Interim Town Clerk

Guests: Lee Cattaneo, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, Kristin Paya, John McNeil, Jim Wild, Carmella Tucker, Lisa Woodworth, Adele Blaisdell, Aaron Blaisdell, Eric Holmgren, Ginny Raboin, Brent Kidder

1. 6:00 - Call meeting to order. Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to add at 7:30 pm the following agenda item: Open Meeting Law

2. 6:01 - Approve July 8, 2024 and July 15, 2024 Selectboard Minutes.

On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 8, 2024 minutes with a change to item 6: *"Simpson reported he has ~~received~~ requested three estimates ..."*

On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 15, 2024 minutes with a change to the 6:33 item: *"Kevin discussed Cutler Corner washout caused by broken ~~because the headwall broke for the 4' foot culvert ..."~~*

3. 6:10 - Road Commissioner Report.

▪ Flood Damage: Wilson reported that the crew has been working hard making flood damage repairs. Many items have been stolen from the sites, i.e. cones, signs, sawhorses. It was suggested that trail cams be set up to catch the thieves. Symonds questioned if they would be legal to use in that situation; Simpson said he would check with VLCT. Wilson said they have bought a tamper. Symonds stated he appreciates the time Wilson and the crew have worked to fix the damages. Tim Stone said he feels the crew was not using large enough stones; he apologized to his neighbors that their road wasn't being graded due to what he described as possible retaliation against him; and the fact the backhoe was parked with the bucket up in the air. Additional citizens' criticisms included: the town should inventory their equipment; the crew should have a work schedule each day; the signs and cones should be labeled.

Simpson expressed the fact that stealing cones and signs can create a dangerous situation for vehicles traveling along the damaged roads. He reported the Town of Orange just received \$108,691.32 from FEMA for Smith and Provencher Roads. We are waiting for another \$74,317.90. He will be working this week to get the balance of documentation to FEMA. Simpson received an email advising of a Local Economic Recovery Grant for \$10,000 to cover things not being reimbursed by FEMA. Symonds suggested it could cover the cost of the tamper and signs. Linda

Woodworth questioned if this item can be added to the agenda, and Simpson said it is being covered under the Flood Damage report. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chair Simpson to apply for the Local Economic Recovery Grant. Symonds stated we must document the \$74,000 request first, then possibly do upgrades. It was added that the State has not yet been declared a disaster area.

4. 6:30 - Public Comments.

- Brent Kidder stated stoning the flat ditch on George Street is a waste. Crew was slow in ditching his road in June. Needs coordination.
- Aaron Blaisdell requested to be put on Selectboard agenda on August 26 to discuss Energy Coordinator items.
- Tim Stone questioned if Wilson meets with the crew regularly.
- Ginny Raboin stated the larger jobs should be contracted out and projects should have a schedule.
- Lee Cattaneo, Planning Commission member, questioned how public meetings need to be recorded. Simpson said he will get an answer from VLCT. Symonds questioned if a digital camera could be used. Discussion followed concerning the poor internet connection here and the audio being very poor in the Town Hall. Simpson said he is working with Tony Campos, Video Vision, to possibly post our meetings on his YouTube channel.
- Brent Kidder suggested using Star Link.
- Kristin Paya said Griggs Road is rough and could use grading.
- Jim Wild stated it seems the stoned ditches are washing out.
- Tim Stone said larger stones should be used.
- Carmella Tucker thanked Wilson for the time and effort he puts into his position as Road Commissioner.
- Sheila Stone thanked Wilson for his work for the town.

5. 6:40 - Warrants/Payroll. On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 20 and July 13 payroll warrants. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the AP warrant.

6. 6:50 - Fireworks Permit Discussion. Symonds said he is concerned that the timeframe to apply for a permit is not being followed and transparency is needed. Discussion followed on possibly changing the timeframe, putting permit applications with addresses on the agenda, and/or consequences for the applicant the following year if they did not follow regulations.

7. 7:10 - Town Clerk/Treasurer Update. Simpson said six people have expressed interest but only two have applied to date. Symonds suggested interviews should be scheduled by Friday.

8. 7:20 - Web Provider Status. Simpson reported that Ann McKinstry sold her business in July, and he has met with her and the new owner about doing the posting on our web site. Much discussion from the

citizens present ensued about agendas not being posted on the web site; Simpson explained that no one presently is trained and he is looking for a local person who could do the posting. Raboin said she left instructions and questioned why the Assistant Clerk is not doing it; Diane stated she is too busy doing the Clerk and Assistant work. Raboin also questioned why her name was left off the last minutes that were posted. Simpson said the town's web site will be down July 27 and 28.

At this point, the meeting attendees became so disruptive that Chair Simpson said he would be adjourning the meeting and scheduling a Special Meeting regarding the Open Meeting Law item. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Waters, Interim Town Clerk