

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

June 24, 2024

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

Guests: John McNeil, Eugene Bedard, Shannon Pelchuck, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone, Eric Holmgren, Kristin Paya, Keating Cariff, Alexia Voitle, Aaron Blaisdell, Adele Blaisdell, Lisa Woodworth

1. 6:00 - Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
2. 6:01 - Approve Selectboard Minutes of June 10, 2024: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the June 10 minutes.
3. 6:05 - Approve Agenda: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the following additions to the agenda --
 - Simpson requested addition of approval of the minutes of the Special Meeting on June 20. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board. voted unanimously to approve the June 20 minutes.
 - Wilson requested addition of approval of Fireworks Permit for Adam Spencer. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the permit.
4. 6:10 - Road Commissioner's Report: Wilson said he dealt with two issues today. (1) On Tucker Road he received a complaint that a truck hit a pothole which threw a rock at the Bedard house making a hole in their siding. Wilson will look at it tomorrow. (2) On Spencer Road the grader hit a mailbox. We will be fixing it tomorrow.
 - Riddel Pond Road -- Wilson stated he has more information to get. He has contacted EJ Prescott re: the culvert. The State needs the culvert specs to do a hydraulics study. Symonds stated we can use ARPA money for the culvert.
 - Town Clerk's Office -- Wilson spoke to EF Wall who suggested we get an architect to tell us what is needed. Resident Sheila Stone advised a description of what needs to be done to the building was done a few years ago.
 - Resident Tim Stone stated he feels the grader is going too fast when grading roads and that is why bumps are being created. He said the grader needs to slow down.
 - Security System Upgrade -- Wilson said two estimates were received for upgrading the Town Clerk's Office security system. Simpson suggested the board review them and put the item on the next agenda. He said a system is dependent on WiFi and reviewed his findings from his meeting with Consolidated. Symonds stated it will be mandatory in July that Selectboard meetings must be recorded.

5. 6:25 - Grants Update: Simpson gave a brief update on the sidewalk grant, energy grant, and MPG. He encouraged people to fill out the survey on the Town website regarding the sidewalk grant.
6. 6:30 - Public Comments:
- Resident Eric Holmgren questioned why the backhoe has been parked on the side of the road on George Street for over a week. Wilson said he didn't know why but will check into it. He was questioned how many times is an incident done repeatedly before it is addressed. Simpson explained it is a personnel issue and steps are in place to be taken.
 - Resident Tim Stone said he heard rumors that the Selectboard have met at the Eastman house; Simpson and Symonds denied any such meeting.
 - Kristin Paya questioned what progress is being made to fix Reservoir Road. The board explained there have been no responses to the RFP. Stone suggested the possibility of laying down a shim coat; Wilson replied that the road surface is too far gone to put a shim coat on according to Pike and Whitcomb. It was suggested that the town could save money on fixing the road by having town forces do additional work such as trucking the asphalt. The Board agreed to post the RFP on the bulletin board, mail it to the two town residents who own paving businesses, and post on www.vermontbusinessregistry.com.
 - Resident Alexia Voitle said she spoke to the new ACO about a barking dog across the road from her house. She said the ACO told her the town ordinance does not apply if the dog is inside a home. She does not agree and requested the Selectboard have the ACO enforce the ordinance.
7. 6:45 - Warrants/Payroll: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to accept the 2 Payroll warrants. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to accept the Accounts Payable warrant.
- Wilson questioned why the Town's mailbox is on George Street and not by the office. He feels it is a dangerous situation for the staff to cross the highway to get the mail. Simpson will ask the East Barre post office and Barre City post office about it tomorrow.
8. 7:00 - Road Commissioner and Road Foreman Job Descriptions: Symonds said he has made the changes discussed at the last meeting. For the Highway Supervisor he added requiring training as part of the job and that the position reports to the Road Commissioner (strike out Selectboard). For the Road Commissioner he added knowledge of MSHA requirements. He will change the signature pages by removing the Supervisor Approval line and add lines for all 3 Selectboard members to sign. Approval was tabled until the next meeting, after the changes have been made.
9. 7:20 - ACO Update: Simpson said the ACO has dealt with 4 complaints. The Board discussed the possibility of making changes to the ordinance in the future. They will check with VLCT.
10. 7:25 - Town Clerk/Town Treasurer (Interim Plan): Simpson reported that former Barre City Clerk Carol Dawes will be at the office Wednesday morning to assist Diane, particularly with election procedures. The office will be open 4 days a week for now. The board will advertise for a Town Clerk and a Town Treasurer; interested candidates can apply for either. Symonds and Diane will work together to get an ad written. The Board will check with VLCT about the interview process.