

TOWN OF ORANGE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES September 23rd, 2024

The scheduled Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person and via video platform by Selectboard Chair Steve Simpson at 6:03pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were: Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Wayne Symonds, and Kevin Wilson. Town staff members present were Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire, Lister/Delinquent Tax Collector John McNeil, and Cemetery Commissioner Rod Coronado. Guests from the public present were Gary Eggleston.

Approval of Minutes

- A. Selectboard Meeting Monday, September 9th, 2024

Motion moved by Selectboard Member Symonds, seconded by Selectboard Member Wilson – Approved.

Approval of Agenda

- A. Additions/Amendments to Agenda
 - a. Grant in Aid FY24
 - b. Fire Warden Business Cards
 - c. Smith Rd. Meadow

Cemetery Commission Policy Update

* Cemetery Commission Investment Policy updated, amended to say “...the Town Clerk and/or Town Treasurer...” under Article 3.

* Policy approved, pending signatures from all Cemetery Commissioners and Selectboard Members.

Road Commissioner’s Report

- A. Flood Damage
 - i. The grader is being repaired. It required a water pump and fuel injectors. It will cost approx. \$7,900.00 to replace the injectors. An oil sample will be collected to help determine the life of the engine.
 - a. Selectboard Member Wilson recommended doing oil samples on all town highway equipment and purchasing a back-up grader.
 - b. Chair Simpson requested SB Member Wilson compile a list of equipment that the town may need to bid on. Grants may be available to municipalities to retire old equipment.
 - ii. The Highway Department is getting caught up on storm damage from July 2024. Multiple roads have been graded and a washout in East Orange has been repaired.

- iii. Grants have been awarded to the town for paving on Tucker Road and Lords Road. The Lords Road grant will require an environmental study.

Grant in Aid FY24

- * Must be spent by September 28th, 2024
- * Could be used to hire someone to complete ditching on Cutler Corner Road near Bisson Road and Preston Road.

Motion moved by SB Member Symonds to suspend the purchasing policy up to the amount of the Grant in Aid for the purpose of expending the grant before the end of the month, seconded by SB Chair Simpson.

Motion moved by SB member Wilson to hire Duranleau Construction to do the work, with our highway employees trucking material. Seconded by SB Chair Simpson.

Stone in Meadow

* A meadow on Smith Road is full of stone from a washout, and the meadow is too wet for a tractor to come in and rake them. The landowner is concerned about damage to her property.

* Another homeowner on Smith Road called SB Chair Simpson with concern about washout in their driveway.

FEMA Disaster Declared for July 10-11, 2024 Flood

- A. SB Chair Simpson filed paperwork two weeks ahead of time to have the Town of Orange declared as a disaster area. The town is waiting on more information from FEMA.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson would like to request reimbursement for changing or cleaning culverts. Requested SB Member Wilson research what Barre Town charges per hour to better calculate what to request for reimbursement.

Grants Update

* The Grants Committee would like for the Selectboard to be in attendance at their joint meeting with the Planning Commission on October 9th, 2024 at 6:30pm. The Committees have three proposals planned pertaining to the Sidewalk Scoping Study.

SB Member Symonds voiced concern for the additional equipment and personnel time required to plow sidewalks in the winter.

SB Chair Simpson noted a final decision will be needed, as plans need to go through the State for approval.

SB Member Symonds inquired if the town could use other grants to pay our portion of the grant, SB Chair Simpson answered in the affirmative.

Gary Eggleston inquired if the Scoping Study is something the state had suggested we do along with a grant we already have.

SB Member Wilson inquired if the school would also provide a portion of the funding.

SB Member Symonds acknowledged the importance of speed reduction, and that requests to lower speed limits must be approved by the Vermont Traffic Committee.

* The Tree Cutting & Signs grant will be used, in part, to help remove trees in the town's Right of Way on Trickle Brook Drive. The town will either leave or remove lumber, per the landowner's request.

* The town has received another \$25,000 installment from the state for flood damages.

* The work required from the Tucker Road Grant will require an RFP.

Warrants and Payroll Approval

Motion moved by SB Member Symonds to approve payroll from weeks of September 14th and 21st, 2024. Seconded by SB Member Wilson.

SB Member Symonds inquired about the roadside mowing bill.

SB Chair Simpson requested the board research what neighboring towns do for roadside mowing.

SB Member Symonds recommended checking highway department timesheets for an estimate on how many hours the town could expect a contractor to charge for.

Motion moved by SB Member Symonds to approve AP Warrants from weeks of September 14th and 21st, 2024. Seconded by SB Chair Simpson.

Budget

* NEMRC will be adjusting the budget as needed to prepare for the year end.

SB Member Symonds requested monthly work sessions with NEMRC. SB Chair Simpson will schedule this.

* Vehicle maintenance costs

SB Member Symonds moved to table discussion on vehicle maintenance costs. Seconded by SB Member Wilson.

Public Comment

* Gary Eggleston inquired about the Riddle Pond Bridge.

* John McNeil inquired about updating the internet in the Town Office.

* John McNeil noted that the shelf in the attic of the Town Hall will need to be replaced.

Future Discussion on Culvert Replacement

* SB Chair Simpson inquired if the Board would like to change the Driveway Culvert Policy. SB Member Symonds to review the current policy for future discussion.

Adjournment

Motion moved by SB Member Symonds to adjourn at 7:32pm. Seconded by SB Member Wilson.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 15th, 2024.

The open portions of the meeting were recorded on the video platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk