

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING

February 26, 2024

Present: Eric Holmgren, Shelia Stone, Kevin Wilson

Ginny Raboin, Town Clerk

Guests: John McNeil, David Childs, Sue Perrault, Angela Eastman, Sara Field, Alexia Voitle, Carmella Tucker, Aaron Blaisdell, Steve Simpson, Kristen Paya, Dennis Grimard

1. Call meeting to order: Chair Holmgren called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.
2. Approve Agenda: No revision.
3. Public Comment: No Public Comment.
4. Discuss/review gazebo contract: After reviewing the contract Holmgren discussed the size of the concrete pad and wanted to ensure Groton Timberworks measures the pad for accuracy. The total cost from the contract is \$27,210., FEMA funds will cover \$26,552.34 the difference will be covered with the insurance funds. Chair Holmgren made a motion to award the contract to Groton Timberworks, seconded by Shelia Stone by unanimous vote the contract with Groton Timberworks approved and signed. Town Clerk will confirm with Groton Timberworks estimated date to commence on and target end date.
5. Discuss Town Meeting: David Childs discussed Voter Identification and proposed using a label to clearly identify voters, David Childs advised having the errors corrected and printing the budget for review at the meeting. General discussion about corrections to the budget, Chair Holmgren advised the board to offset the corrections with Delinquent Tax Revenue, which was not budgeted doing this did not change the total dollar amount in Article two. Delinquent Tax Revenue in the past has been budgeted as what was expected to take in for income, this budget the board did not budget this as revenue. David Childs advised he would like to appoint the Justices of the Peace to count votes and advised it would be better if the board recused themselves. Chair Holmgren reports in past years the Clerk, and board members that were not up for election counted votes with the Justices of the Peace. This election would allow Kevin Wilson from the board as he is not up for election, the Clerk and the Justices of the Peace to count ballots. David Childs advised he intends to allow people the opportunity to speak once and move on. The board discussed set up and advised they would approve of having an Orange County Sherriff at the meeting.
6. Discuss/consider animal control officer position: Chair Holmgren advised reaching out to candidates with no response as of yet to fill the position. There was general discussion

regarding the ordinance and who is able to act on complaints. Carmella Tucker stated she would be the Animal Control Officer until Town Meeting. After discussion pertaining to the role duties Chair Holmgren made a motion to appoint Carmella Tucker to the Animal Control positions for a term lasting until Town Meeting Day, seconded by Shelia Stone by unanimous vote Carmella Tucker was appointed as Animal Control Officer until Town Meeting Day.

7. Discuss/consider ARPA funds expenditure: The board reviewed the remaining funds and advised money was previously used Paving, CV Fiber and for Salaries. The remaining money needs to be obligated by the end of the year. There was discussion regarding the necessity of a well for the Town Clerks office and Town Hall. Chair Holmgren advised there is work that is needed for the Clerks office and Town Hall and the funds could be used for siding, sill work and general upkeep before the buildings are beyond repair. Angela Eastman reported the Red House next to the Clerks office is fed from the spring the school, and both the Clerks office and Town Hall are using. The water lines go under the home, and it is in the deed of the home the Town has to replace the well for the red house. After discussing this further with input from residents present; the board decided to review MERP grant money available and review the deed of the home before proceeding.
8. Discuss upcoming training sessions: Chair Holmgren advised there will be Training Sessions available for Clerk, Listers, Highway, Selectboard and asked the Clerk to add a note to the door and add any office closures to the website.
9. Review Budget: Discussion regarding the changes to the budget from the budget printed in the Town Report. The Town Clerk will prepare a list of the changes and copies of the revised budget to have available at Town Meeting.
10. Discuss/consider payroll and accounts payable warrants: Wilson advised there will be a grader blade bill. Wilson noted that the bill for the Truck repair was different from the check received from the insurance company. Chair Holmgren asked if there were any other repairs or work completed. Wilson reported no other work was approved according to John Barnes. Chair Holmgren made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable warrants, seconded by Wilson by unanimous payroll and accounts payable warrants were approved.
11. Other business: Angela Eastman stated she was told she wasn't allowed to have a dog in the office but, Ginny is allowed. Chair Holmgren advised there is no dog policy, the Clerks office has had Rabies Clinics yearly. Holmgren stated the board is allowing the dog in the office. After general discussion regarding the issue Stone suggested solutions to ease concerns. Eastman asked for it to be noted in the minutes that the Selectboard didn't want to discuss the dog policy for the office.

Dennis Grimard suggested ways for the Selectboard and the Residents to work together clearing any animosity and asked if this could be addressed going forward. Grimard also suggested using a group text to get communication out to residents in an efficient manner.

There was continued discussion from John McNeil proposing a you tube channel to record and post meetings, Aaron Blaisdell and Sarah Fields spoke to the wifi and potential for use of Starlink to support video, record and upload. The board advised they encouraged public participation. Chair Holmgren advised the board does not want to hinder anyone who wants to participate and are required to follow open meeting laws.

12. Adjourn: Chair Holmgren made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wilson by unanimous vote the meeting adjourned at 5:11pm.

DRAFT