

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday, February 12, 2024 - Town Office Complex

Present: Selectboard -- Eric Holmgren, Shelia Stone, Kevin Wilson

Town Clerk Ginny Raboin

1. Call meeting to order: Chairman Holmgren called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.
2. Agenda approval/revisions: Chairman Holmgren revised the agenda to include public record requests from Emily Ruff.
3. Public Comments: No Public Comments
4. Discuss/consider Orange County Sheriff contract: Contract is for one year, currently had \$8,000 contract starting January 1. The new contract starts February 1, 2024 for \$14,304 (\$15,000 for one year less what has already been paid in January). General discussion about how the contract hours and dollars are utilized. Holmgren reports the Sheriff will focus on patrol areas as requested. Kevin Wilson made a motion to accept the contract, Shelia Stone seconded, the board voted unanimously to accept the Orange County Sheriff's contract as written.
5. Discuss/consider signing State certification of highway mileage form: Holmgren advised each year the state sends this certification to verify the mileage of roads in Orange. It only accounts for roads the state reimburses for. Holmgren made a motion to accept the state certification, Wilson seconded the motion, the board voted unanimously to accept the State certification.
6. Discuss/consider Grant programs: Holmgren stated there were several grants currently under consideration. Holmgren made a motion for the Town Clerk and Road Commissioner to apply for Highway grants, Stone seconded, the board voted unanimously to have the Town Clerk and Road Commissioner apply for highway grants.
7. Discuss 2022 and 2023 Audit: Holmgren reports 2022/2023 is not reconciled the town has contracted with NEMRC to assist in completing audits. Once reconciled, the audits will be completed.
8. Discuss/consider gazebo contract: Gazebo contract was not printed for review. Holmgren stated the board will review it at the next meeting.
9. Discuss road complaints and measures to correct: Wilson stated the road crew is working on E. Orange Road. The Fish Pond complaint has been reported to police and the State Department of Environmental Conservation. General discussion regarding sourcing road material, Holmgren advised the road crew will watch temperatures and grade the roads as they freeze.
10. Discuss/Consider public records request: Holmgren stated he has received Public Records requests from Emily Ruff. To ensure requests are completed in a timely manner and recorded Holmgren asked Town Clerk to create a filing system for requests. Holmgren stated Emily Ruff has made four different requests. The first request concerns the beavers and trapping in August and September Ruff is asking for legal guidance received for 8/14 & 9/11 meetings. Second, Legal guidance received and purchasing clause for Provencher Rd. Holmgren reports the was

impassable due to flooding, it was emergent. The board completed the RFP, requested bids and moved forward with the reasonable bid. Stone shared the board received guidance from VLCT during this process. Third, regarding the Hydraulic Study on Provencher Rd. The board was at the location communicating with the State during the study. Ruff insists it was in violation of the Open Meeting Law. Holmgren received guidance from the lawyers. Fourth, Ruff requested documentation regarding when the board met to draft a response to the Times Argus. Holmgren reports he was interviewed solely and drafted the response independently. Holmgren then shared the draft during the next board meeting. Holmgren advised he will draft a formal response to Emily Ruff's request within the 48-hour guidelines for public record requests.

11. Review Budget: Completed during the budget forum.
12. Discuss/Consider approving payroll and accounts payable warrants: After review, Holmgren made a motion to approve as modified, Stone seconded, the board voted unanimously to approve the warrants as modified.
13. Other Business: Tech Group contract for IT services. After review, Holmgren advised Town Clerk can proceed with contract for services.
14. Adjournment: Holmgren made a motion to adjourn, Stone seconded, the board voted unanimously adjourn at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raboin
Town Clerk