

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of August 22, 2017*

Present: Dorothy Heinrichs, Robert Ells, Skip Smith, and Sandi Pierson (clerical).

Others present: Bev Ells

Meeting opened at 6 PM. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: The minutes of August 22, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Trash pick-up:

- Dorothy said that a resident's complaint about trash not being picked up at their home appears to have been resolved.
- Large trash pick-up is scheduled for Friday.
- Casella notified the Board that a renewal of their contract with Orange is scheduled for 2018 and that it will include increased rates. Casella is proposing to change to a cycle of picking up trash one week, and recyclables the next. Skip suggested that trash pick-up be put out to bid. After discussion, the Board agreed that Skip will prepare an informational bid package. The Board was not in favor of seeing if the town could go back to bringing their trash to the Canaan transfer station.

"Owner unknown" properties: The Board reviewed Attorney Bernie Waugh's response as to how the Board should address two properties in town designated as "owner unknown", one 2.9 acres and the other 3.9 acres. Bernie recommended that the Board send out letters to all abutters of the properties to see if anyone comes forward with proof of ownership. If no documentation of ownership is presented, the town may start taxing the lots under the name "Owner Unknown." In three years the town may take the parcels by tax deed. The Board asked Sandi to draft letters to the abutters for the Board to sign at the next meeting. (This matter was initiated when an abutter inquired as to purchasing one of the lots from the town.)

ATV usage: The Board received a request to access the Class VI New Colony Road with an ATV from a bear hunter who was issued a bait permit. The Board concurred that the public way the hunter wants to access is within Mount Cardigan State Forest thus is the jurisdiction of the Forestry Department and NH Fish and Game. Sandi will relay this information to the hunter.

Census: Bob and Skip said they both read through the large packet of information from the US Census Bureau requesting that the town participate in the Local Update of Census Address Operations. The Census Bureau noted it would take the municipality approximately 21 hours of labor to complete. Both Skip and Bob felt that participation in the task is an attempt by the Census Bureau's to shift their own responsibilities onto the town. Since participation in the survey is voluntary, the Board unanimously concurred to opt not to participate.

MS-535: Dorothy asked Sandi to follow up with Auditor Matt Angell and Stephanie Derosier (DRA) on the status of the MS-535 (Financial Report of the Town). It appears that Matt and Stephanie are in disagreement with how some of the spending categories are classified. Sandi has already clarified to Stephanie two key items: \$16,000 was voted into capital reserves, that is what the Board authorized, and that is what the treasurer transferred to the Trustees. (The DRA was under the impression that \$16,500 was authorized by the Board.) Secondly, a \$6000 revenue item was from the State was for the updating of the Hazardous Mitigation Plan.

Office invoices: The Board reviewed and took action on the following invoices :

- FairPoint: It was unclear why the telephone and Internet phone bill from FairPoint jumped from the usual \$200 to \$461.41. The only new internet work has been in regards to the pending online registration for the town clerk's office. Sandi said she gave Sophie Seace a copy of the invoice to see if she could make sense of the ten-page invoice. The Board agreed to hold off paying the bill until it can be clarified.
- Young's Propane: Skip reviewed the \$678.56 voucher in detail and questioned why the town is paying \$4.81 a gallon for propane considering the area rates are in the vicinity of \$2.00 per gallon. Bob said he would like to contact Young's Propane and request a more reasonable per gallon charge. The Board concurred to table the payment and have Bob contact the company.

Other:

- Dorothy noted that online registration is not yet available due to computer tech issues. She said that since the year is three quarters over, they are asking the company that is providing the software to consider a partial refund to the town of the overall cost.
- In accordance with a the deed accompanying a recent land sale, the Board concurred that the parcel of land is considered a single lot and not two separate ones. The Board asked Sandi to draft a letter for them to sign to be sent to the property owners. They will ask Avitar to revert it back to one lot.
- The Board received correspondence from the NH DOT re: clarifications on the uses and process of receiving and expending the SB 38 highway funds allotted to Orange (\$18,920.02). Sandi said she sent a copy of the correspondence to Road Agent Scott Sanborn. The Board will hold a public hearing at the September 12 meeting to formally accept the funds.

Secretary's report:

- The town's attorney has not yet responded to the Board's request for an opinion on the pole licensing update in regards to the new utility assessing protocol.
- Judith Lindahl has declined to continue as the town's representative to the Upper Valley – Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission. The Board asked Sandi to post the opening on the email listserv to see if anyone is interested in serving.
- The Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) has formally changed their name to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). Sandi will make the change on the state forest assessment cards.
- An updated "Workman's Comp Notice of Compliance" was received and will be posted.

- The DRA has requested a revised MS-9 (Report of the Trust Funds). The Trustees have filed a new MS-9 to the satisfaction of the DRA and Sandi will upload it to the web portal.

Reports from other Boards and Committees: n/a

Public comment:

- Bev Ells noted that descendants of the Peterson family, one of the earliest families in Orange, recently visited the two homesteads of their ancestors. They are the homes of Barbara and Matt Guaraldi and Judith Lindahl in the area known as the East Neighborhood.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Lyell Smith