

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of February 27, 2019*

Present: Select Board: Dorothy Heinrichs, Chair; Tamara Fairbank, and Sandi Pierson (clerical). Bob Ells was absent.

Others: Aaron Allen, Skip Smith, and Kathy Stacy

Meeting opened at 6:00 PM. Attendance taken by the secretary.

Minutes: Dorothy tabled approval of the minutes of February 13, 2009 until Bob is present because she did not attend the meeting.

Public Hearings: The Board was in receipt of the minutes of the Budget Public Hearing and the Repaving Bond Public Hearing as submitted by the secretary.

Equalization rate: The Board was in receipt of the 2018 equalization rates as set by the Department of Revenue Administration resulting from their sales-assessment ratio study using market sales. The median ratio for assessment purposes is set at 94.4%. The sales ratio is 92.9%

Treasurer reports: The Board reviewed the October, November, and December 2018 treasurer's reports with Select Board reconciliations. All reconciliations were on target and the Chair signed the reports.

Other:

- A municipal bridge report was received from the NH DOT. No action is required by the town.
- A letter was received from Adele Fulton (law office of Drummond Woodsum) that outlined the expansion of their available legal services, including counsel on bonds, lease agreements, and cash flow borrowing.

Secretary's report:

- Sandi stated that upon further research, including DRA records, it was discovered that the Select Board was named as agents to expend for the Revaluation and Town House capital reserve funds at town meetings subsequent to their creation. (Agents to expend for these reserves, among others, are on the 2019 warrant.) Dorothy requested that Sandi forward the information to the Moderator.
- Bills currently before the House: one may allow towns to adopt an education tax credit for individuals over 55 that have no children in public school. Another would allow towns to increase the elderly exemption residency requirement from 3 to 10 years.

Reports from other Boards and Committees:

- Tam stated that the Orange Historical Commission will meet on April 1, 2019 at 7 PM.

Public comment:

- Kathy Stacy spoke about two culverts located on Razor Hill Road in Grafton that have been adversely affecting the road in Orange, especially the one by the former Sargent residence. She said that recently the town spent \$16,000 of FEMA revenue on road improvements and repaving in that area, but feels the damage will continue if Grafton does not remedy their water drainage from the culverts. Kathy said she had brought this issue to the attention of the Board three years ago and expected the Board to contact Grafton in regards. After discussion, Dorothy said she will speak to Road Agent Scott Sanborn about the situation and follow up with correspondence to Grafton.
- Skip Smith recapped the issue with the standby generator, which did not function during a recent power failure. He said that the flashing code indicates it is “under-voltage.” He will see if the battery needs to be replace, but that it may need a service call. Dorothy stated that Skip should proceed with the service call if it is necessary.
- Regarding a wiring job for the original section of the Town House, Skip asked if the Board was looking for bids or an estimate at this time. Dorothy said they would like to have an inspection and approximate cost of the work that needs to be done.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM.

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Tamara Fairbank