

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of July 25, 2017*

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

Others present: Bev Ells and Karen McFarlane.

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

Minutes: The minutes of July 11, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Utility taxes: The Board reviewed correspondence from Avitar Associates outlining the revised method of assessing telephone poles and conduits. The new formula is contingent on a municipal pole licensing update which the Board has not done yet on the advice of the town's attorney. (Avitar and the town's attorney have differed in opinion regarding the town updating their pole licensing protocol due to the unresolved Fairpoint v. Acworth, NH.) The Board directed Sandi to forward the Avitar correspondence to Gardner, Fulton, and Waugh for their opinion on the revised assessing formula.

Building permit: The Board reviewed and signed a building permit for a residential home for Donald McFarlane/280 Burnt Hill Road/Map 8, Lot 4-1. The permit was already reviewed and signed by Building Inspector Don Pfaefflin. Karen MaFarlane was given the property owner's copy.

Timber Tax: The Board reviewed and signed a Warrant to Collect Yield Taxes for \$1,747.58 for Aaron and Melissa Dugan/Razor Hill/Map 4, Lot 4-1.

Intent to Cut: The Board reviewed and signed an Intent to Cut Wood for John Morse/Class VI section of New Colony Road/Map 6, Lot 6. This is a 40-acre cut on the Groton town line and the removal of timber will be via Groton.

Financial:

- The Board reviewed the municipal budget spending status through July 31, 2017.
- The Board reviewed and signed the June 2017 Treasurer's report and Select Board reconciliation. The reconciliation figures between the Treasurer and Select Board were consistent.

Other:

- Dorothy had some FEMA-related material which will be forwarded to Emergency Management.
- Karen McFarlane said she is continuing to work on the Orange Christmas Party photo album.

Secretary's report:

- Sandi distributed outlines of two properties in town designated as "owner unknown", one 2.9 acres and the other 3.9 acres. A property owner had inquired as to how they may purchase one of the lots from the town. The Board directed Sandi to forward the property descriptions to the town's attorney and inquire about the procedure of the town taking them with a deed.

Reports from other Boards and Committees:

- *Cemetery:* Skip (who is also the town's cemetery agent) recapped the cemetery department's plan for restoring monuments in the Church Cemetery. He said that even though a number of cemetery trust funds have accumulated substantial interest through the years, they were informed by Charitable Trust Executive Director Terry Knowles (Office of the Attorney General) that interest from prior years cannot be used. Ms. Knowles also said that using individual trust fund revenue for the general betterment of the cemetery can only be done by petitioning the court. Dorothy felt that that was not feasible given the cost of an attorney to act upon it. Skip said he was still unsure of the intent and provisions of the Ernest Kilton Bernard Memorial Fund (a one-time bequest for the cemeteries of \$10,000 which now has about \$2000 interest). Skip said that at this point money for restoring monuments is available from the Cemetery Monument Capital Reserve and from the department's general budget appropriation.

Skip said he and the Cemetery Trustees did a walkabout at the Church Cemetery and discussed maintenance and stone restoration plans. Most of the stones needing restoration are basically just leaning, though there is one stone completely flat on the ground which is presently the priority. He plans on asking Richard Remacle to deliver some crushed stone to firm up the base and some loam to start filling in depressions where burials are clearly marked with monuments.

- *Welfare:* Welfare Agent Karen McFarlane summarized a number of things she learned from her recent attendance at a welfare administration workshop. She said the workshop was very helpful in learning about the overall procedures and the municipal responsibilities. She recommended that the town continue membership in the NH Association of Welfare Administrators at \$50 per year especially given the valuable information and legal advice that would be available at no additional cost to the town. The Board concurred.

The Board offers their condolences to the family of Nathan Harpootlian who unexpectedly died recently. Mr. Harpootlian lived in Orange for 69 years and was very active in the town and surrounding community.

Public comment: n/a

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Lyell Smith