

*Office of the Select Board
Town of Orange, New Hampshire
Minutes of October 10, 2017*

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

Others present: Beverly Ells, Terry McQueeney, Billie Brockum, Mike Sampson, Tamara Fairbank, Trish and Doug Weekes, and Nathaniel Emerson.

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

Appointment with Mike Sampson: The Board met with Canaan Town Administrator Mike Sampson to follow up on his earlier conversation with Skip about the option of the town using the Canaan transfer station if Orange does not continue to contract with Casella. Mike distributed information on how the transfer station operates, including hours of operation, recycling procedures, and items requiring a disposal fee. Recycling at Canaan is a no-sort system; it is sorted by the business that takes it. Mike distributed a spreadsheet showing revenue and expenses for bringing recyclables to Northeast Resource Recovery Association.

Mike stated that the Canaan facility is for residential waste and not for commercial waste. Presently they do not accept construction or demolition (C&D) material (that cannot fit into a trash bag) and that people bring these items to either Hammonds or directly to the Lebanon facility. He is presently exploring the acquisition of a platform scale so they can take C&D at some point in the future.

Mike distributed a financial spreadsheet detailing the present budget of the facility. He said that adding the 121 Orange households would be at a cost of \$14,011.00.

The Board thanked Mike for meeting with them. They will inform him of the town's direction as soon as they make a decision.

Other trash talk: The Board concurred that they will send a letter to all residents encouraging them to attend the November 14, 2017 Select Board meeting at which time they will decide about the disposal of trash for 2018. They will spell out the options and projected costs, entertain public comment, deliberate, and make a decision.

Minutes: The minutes of September 26, 2017 were unanimously approved.

Tax map inquiry: The Board signed a letter to a property owner regarding the question of a seasonal stream shown on the tax map. After consulting with Scott Sanborn, who maintains the tax maps, the Board concurred that no action by the town needs to be taken.

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT): The Board signed a Warrant for the Collection of LUCT Taxes for \$3,200.00 for land taken out of current use by Aaron Allen, et al., on New Colony Road (Map 3, Lot 36A).

Treasurer's reports: The Board reviewed the Treasurer's reports for July and August 2017 and corresponding Select Board records. The Board's and Treasurer's reports were consistent.

2017 Tax Rate: The Board was in receipt of a preliminary tax rate of \$26.02 per thousand dollars of valuation. The breakdown is \$3.98 for the municipal budget (\$128,044), \$1.77 for the County (\$56,790), \$18.07 for Mascoma School District (\$580,985), and \$2.20 for the State Education effort (\$68,806). The total tax effort is \$834,625.00. Variables that may adjust the rate at tax-setting time in early November are revenues yet to be collected by the tax collector and what the Board sets for an overlay.

Other:

- The Board reviewed an email from a resident expressing concern of waste left on Burnt Hill Road.
- The Board reviewed an email from a resident about Casella trash pick-up. Nathaniel Emerson, who sent the email, was present and stated that more than once he has seen Casella throw his recyclables in with the trash on the truck. He felt this was unacceptable given that residents are taking the time to recycle.
- The Board reviewed a copy of a letter from Senator Bob Guida to NH DOT Commissioner Victoria Sheehan expressing his concern and dissatisfaction regarding the lack of maintenance on the upper section of Mount Cardigan Road, a State-maintained road. The action taken by Senator Guida was by request of the Select Board because their own contact with NH District 2 personnel was unsuccessful. The road has since been repaired.
- The Board was in receipt of an Approval for Septic Operation from the NH DES for the McFarlane residence on Burnt Hill Road.
- The Board reviewed correspondence from Tri-County Cap requesting a 2018 contribution from Orange of \$114.00. (This is the same as 2017.) Tri-County Cap reports that during the last fiscal year they provided six households in Orange with fuel assistance at a cost of \$4,800.00. The request will be forwarded to the Budget Committee.
- The Board reviewed correspondence from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) requesting a 2018 contribution from Orange of \$500.00. (This is the same as 2017.) The request will be forwarded to the Budget Committee.
- The Board received an invitation from the Board of Directors of the Grafton County Regional Development Corporation to attend their annual meeting on October 24.
- Trash report: As of September 30 the town has disposed of 60.33 tons of trash and 22.84 tons of recyclables.

Secretary's report:

- Our DRA representative, Stephanie Derosier, has entered the actual revenues from Meals and Rooms and the Highway Block Grant onto the MS-4.
- A person who expressed an interest in pressure washing the Town House has not contacted the office regarding a timeline or cost for the task.

Reports from other Boards and Committees:

- Dorothy stated that the Conservation Commission will meet on October 11 at 6 PM at the Town House.
- Cemetery Commission member Sandi Pierson said that the Commission has identified and prioritized a number of monuments at Church Cemetery that need restoration. One monument is flat down on the ground, one is loose from its base, and the others are leaning. Because there is only about \$200 left in the cemetery budget, the Commission is requesting the Select Board authorize payment for the work to come out of the Cemetery Monument Capital Reserve. The Board concurred.

Public comment:

- Property owners Terry McQueeney and Billie Brockum stated they received correspondence from the Board that had an error regarding the amount of acres of their property. After reviewed, the Board agreed it was a clerical error and initialed a correction on the correspondence stating that the property they own is in fact 132 acres. It was noted that this was purely a clerical error on the letter and that the acreage is accurate in the town's assessing database.

Bills and vouchers were reviewed and signed.

Meeting adjourned 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandi Pierson

Dorothy Behlen Heinrichs

Robert Ells

Lyell Smith