

*Kimberly Newman*  
ORLEANS TOWN CLERK

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
Wednesday, January 31, 2024  
Nauset Room, Town Hall

A meeting of the Town of Orleans Select Board was held in the Nauset Room at Town Hall and via Zoom and Channel 8 at 4:00 pm on January 31, 2024.

In attendance in the Nauset Room were Chair Michael Herman, Mr. Meff Runyon, Ms. Andrea Reed, and Mr. Kevin Galligan. Mr. Mark Mathison was absent. The Town Manager Ms. Kimberly Newman and Assistant Manager Mr. Mark Reil also attended.

4:00pm Call to Order. The Chair called the meeting to order.

Executive Session. Meet in Executive Session for the purpose to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located on Main Street, Eldredge Park Way, Bay Ridge Lane, and Wildflower Lane.

**Ms. Reed moved the Board go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located on Main Street, Eldredge Park Way, Bay Ridge Lane, and Wildflower Lane. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. Vote by roll call: Ms. Reed, Mr. Galligan, Mr. Runyon, and Mr. Herman voted Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.**

The Select Board returned from Executive Session with nothing to report.

Public Comment

Mr. Devon Palya spoke about the overuse of Kent's Point. Ms. Counihan spoke about the environmental issues at Kent's Point. Ms. McAndrews spoke about a dramatic increase in traffic and trash on Tobias Lane leading toward Kent's Point and recommended limiting use to Orlean's sticker holders and develop an enforcement process. Ms. Herne spoke about safety issues at Kent's Point. Mr. Pulya summarized the issues and suggested working collaboratively toward a solution.

Mr. Hafner from the Orleans Pond Coalition described erosion at Kent's Point. He also spoke about the Celebrate Our Waters event.

Mr. Serensky from Lobster Lane spoke about Kent's Point and suggested the issue not be about dogs.

Mr. Oakes spoke about the Kent's Point issue and time restrictions for dog walking.

Mr. Herman said the Kent's Point matter belonged with the Conservation Commission which was confirmed by the Town Manager.

Ms. Gabeau confirmed that the Conservation Commission allowed Public Speaking/Public Comment to hear about Kent's Point.

Vote to approve the Celebrate Our Waters event the weekend of September 13, 2024.

**Ms. Reed moved to approve the request of the Orleans Pond Coalition to hold the 2024 Celebrate Our Waters event the weekend of September 13 – September 13, 2024. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.**

5:01pm Continuation of Verizon/Eversource Pole Hearing – Portanimitcut Road

The Chair read the hearing notice to open the Public Hearing.

Mr. Voner spoke on behalf of Verizon remotely. He said he had not heard back from Eversource about the design. He asked for a continuance for another two weeks. Mr. Galligan suggested replacing pole 13/1 with a higher classification pole. Mr. Voner will follow up with engineers.

**Mr. Galligan moved to continue the Quanset Road pole hearing until February 14, 2024 at 4:45pm. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All vote Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.**

Vote to consider request from Seaside Joint Ventures for addition of shareholder. Mr. McNamara, legal counsel for Seaside Joint Ventures, spoke about the addition of a shareholder, Mr. Spencer Knowles.

**Mr. Galligan moved, pursuant to the letter request date January 16, 2024 from Seaside, the Board consent to the transfer of a non-controlling interest in the form of corporate shares to Spencer Knowles, chief operating officer of the company. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.**

Quarterly Update with Police Chief Scott McDonald. The Police Chief provided an update and answered questions. He provided a staffing update. He spoke about the Safer Communities Task Force, the Navigator Program, and the resourcing around mental health. Lt. McLaughlin spoke about scams and fraud.

Quarterly with Fire Chief Geof Deering. Chief Deering spoke about retirements and new hires to the department. A new ladder truck has been ordered. The Chief answered questions regarding the competitive environment for hiring, particularly in hiring paramedics.

Meet with Members of the Long Range Capital Planning Committee to review policy changes. Mr. Counihan, Chair of the Long Range Capital Planning Committee asked for a delay of two weeks to present. The Board agreed.

Review Select Board policy – Part A. Mr. Herman discussed some of the changes and updates to the Select Board policy. Mr. Reil spoke briefly about statutory requirements and reframing the order and presentation of the policies. Feedback should be given over the next two weeks.

Discussion of the 2040 Campus. The Town Manager spoke about the initial meetings with partners regarding needs for the future. She briefly outlined what might be needed to prepare for the upcoming Town Meeting.

#### Town Manager Reports

- a. FY25 Budget overview- The Town Manager discussed the old budget process and the new method which will be based more closely on actual figures. She spoke about the goal of the Town to be less reliant on overrides. She said there will be multiple conversations about the budget. Her presentation showed a deficit of approximately \$800K in the Town's operating budget for next year. She reviewed some of the budget drivers. The Town Manager is gathering more estimates and will be looking for different ways to fund things. She also discussed a Financial Committee reserve line to be built into the budget.
- b. FY26-FY30 CIP overview – The Town Manager noted some items that need to be moved to the Operating Budget. She walked through a presentation for CIP with the promise of more involvement by the Board in the future. There was discussion of the timing of Public Hearings for the budget.
- c. Warrant Process Revision update – Mr. Reil and Ms. Bruneau are analyzing area warrants to find best methods of communication for the public.
- d. May ATM Warrant article first pass – Mr. Reil is collecting warrant articles at the moment.
- e. Staffing update – The Town Manager reviewed staffing briefly.
- f. Communications update – The communication team has looked into archiving. Things are moving forward.

#### Items for Future Agendas.

Possibly a Finance focused meeting.

Draft a letter in support of working together regarding the issues raised about Kent's Point.

Final Public Comment

No one presented for Public Comment.

Adjourn.

7pm

**Mr. Runyon moved to adjourn at approximately 7:00pm. Ms. Reed seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 4-0-0.**

*Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Fountain*