

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
DRAFT MINUTES

A hybrid meeting of the Town of Orleans Select Board was held in the Nauset Room at Town Hall and via Zoom and Channel 18 at 4:45pm on February 15, 2023.

In attendance were Select Board Chair Reed, Vice Chair Herman, Clerk Runyon with Mr. Galligan, and Mr. Mathison. Interim Town Administrator Sumner attended the meeting via Zoom. Finance Director Doane joined the meeting at approximately 5:15pm.

4:45pm Call to Order - Ms. Reed called the meeting to order at 4:45pm.

Meet in Executive Session to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property located.

Mr. Herman moved the Select Board go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property and that the Chair declare that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body, and to reconvene in Open Session. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion passed.

The chair declared that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body.

5:00pm The Select Board meeting reconvened with nothing to report from Executive Session.

Public Comment:

Ginni Farber spoke on behalf of the Town Administrator Search Committee and discussed an Open Forum on March 13, 2023 from 6 to 8pm in the Nauset Room at Town Hall (and via zoom) for the public to have input regarding the vacancy.

Mr. McClennen, chair of Water and Sewer Commissioners, said today there was a vote of "substantial completion" of the wastewater treatment system. This will initiate the process to move from Title 5 to the downtown sewer system under the current bylaw.

Ms. Bruneau from the Finance Committee clarified a printed newspaper error regarding budgeting for Orleans Elementary School.

Ms. Kelly spoke about the lack of communication around the issue of lights on Eldredge Road and she is uncertain how to proceed to get action.

Mr. Jensen, Chair of the Agriculture Committee, spoke about Innovative, Alternative and Ancient in septage and the effective use of ancient systems.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Herman moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 7, 2022. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Minutes were approved: 5-0-0.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 14, 2022. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Minutes were approved: 5-0-0.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 21, 2022. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Minutes were approved: 5-0-0.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the minutes of Sept. 28, 2022 with a minor edit to spelling. Mr. Mathison seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Minutes were approved: 5-0-0.

5:10pm Finlay Road Pole Hearing- The hearing was officially opened at 5:10pm. Marissa Jackson from Eversource Rights & Projects Department explained the request for conduit to be installed at 7 Finlay Road.

(Finance Director C. Doane joined the meeting).

Mr. Runyon moved to close the public hearing at 5:17pm. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. The motion passed: 5-0-0.

Mr. Galligan moved to authorize the request from Eversource for the installation of conduits pursuant to Plan No. 11069899 dated January 10, 2023 for the installation of 50' +/- of 2-6" conduit from existing pole # 148/19 to 7 Finlay Road incorporating the conditions from the Town of Orleans Department of Public Works and the Highway Department. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion by saying AYE. Motion passed: 5-0-0.

FY24 Budget Review – Department of Public Works and Natural Resources

Discussion of changes to 2023 Sticker Mail-in Process – Mr. Daley discussed the need to improve the efficiency of the sticker process. He suggested retaining the online program and the drop-in program but not the mail-in program. The new sticker process will open May 1, 2023 but participants will be encouraged to use online or in-person registration for stickers.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the guidance of the Department of Public Works for the FY24 Beach Sticker Program (for summer 2023) as detailed in the Select Board packet. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed: 5-0-0.

Dept of Public Works/Natural Resources – Mr. Daley noted the new budget stayed within a 2.9% increase overall. He reviewed increases and decreases for each department and necessary projects or expenses.

Enterprise Fund Budgets –

Beaches – The budget has stayed within guidance. There is no change to the fee schedule.

Moorings – There is a reduction of the budgeting surplus. No change in fees.

Rock Harbor Boat Basin – There is a reduction in expenses and a modification of the budgeting surplus. There was some discussion of decreasing the percentage of subsidy by the town which would mean an increase in fees. The desire to keep fees lower for commercial users was discussed. The need for the Rock Harbor Economic Value Study was noted. There was a reminder that the taxpayers opposed a parking fee system and that has resulted in the town subsidizing some of the costs of the harbor.

Sewer – The budget is based on the anticipation of ramping up the new system. The town does not subsidize this fund.

Transfer Station – There will be no rate increases to fees. The town still subsidizes the Transfer Station by 37% from the tax rate in FY24. There was some discussion of reducing the solid waste for both financial and environmental benefits.

2.46.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the policy for Enterprise Funds as submitted on page 45 of the meeting packet and amended by Ms. Doane. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

The motion passed: 5-0-0.

Ms. Doane reviewed the scorecard noting a change to levy capacity. There was some discussion about using "free cash" for traffic calming measures in FY24 or budgeting for it in the Highway Department. A decision was not made.

3.08.16

Update on Resident Access to Nauset Spit – Nate Sears reviewed some options for access although there were

drawbacks or limitations due to the Wetlands Protections Act, ownership of the land, or erosion.

Review of Buildings & Facilities Budget Revision – Ron Collins, Facilities Manager, spoke about the FY24 budget, changes to upcoming expenses, and security costs.

Mr. Galligan moved to vote the updates as presented in the packet for the Buildings & Facilities Stabilization Fund for the proposed projects. Mr. Herman seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed: 5-0-0.

Possible vote to transmit the FY24 Budget to the Finance Committee –

Mr. Herman moved to send the FY24 Budget to the Finance Committee. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion passed: 5-0-0.

Conservation Commission request for financial replenishment of the Conservation Fund for the management of open space resources – Ms. Farber asked for support of a warrant article for \$75,000 to replenish the Conservation Fund. This fund was last replenished in 2001. Mr. Sumner will add this to the index of warrant articles for future consideration.

3.46.28

Old Firehouse Building (44 Main St) – Mr. Sumner noted that the CPC decided against funding the restoration of the Old Firehouse Building. A discussion is needed about whether to ask for a debt exclusion to fund the project. The town also needs to arrange for the daily operations and administration of the building. The board members discussed a variety of options and timing for modifications to the building and ways to manage it. Mr. Sumner will investigate further especially in relation to the restructure of the Recreation Department and a space for the Rec. Dept. to operate.

4:09.30

Town Administrator's Report – Mr. Sumner reported on several items occurring currently or planned for the near future.

Mr. Herman moved to approve the Orleans Police Department Block Party for August 16, 2023. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Herman moved to approve payment to IKON architecture for the additional charges for the plans for CPC/OHC for the Old Firehouse at 44 Main Street. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Herman moved to confirm the reclassification of the Director of Planning and Community Development. Mr. Galligan seconded the motion. All voted Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Mr. Galligan moved to approve the Wetland Protection Fund spending request for attendance at the Conservation Commission Annual Conference. Mr. Herman seconded the motion. All vote Aye. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

Liaison Reports – Board members updated about several committees and meetings.

The Planning Board is finalizing zoning articles for the Town Meeting.

The CPC has voted on the allocations for FY24.

Human Services Committee finalized their responses.

The AHC and AHTB have held robust discussions about serving those above 100% AMI.

Items for Future Agendas

The role of the Tree Warden in Orleans vis a vis the Highway Department.
Lights on Eldredge Parkway

Adjourn -

Mr. Runyon moved to adjourn. Mr. Runyon seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion carried: 5-0-0.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Fountain*