



Town of Orange, Connecticut

TOWN HALL
617 ORANGE CENTER ROAD
ORANGE, CONNECTICUT 06477-2499

PHONE: (203) 891-4730
FAX: (203) 891-2185
www.orange-ct.gov

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2023
TOWN HALL
LOWER- LEVEL MEETING ROOM
7:00 P.M.**

APPROVED MINUTES

Present:

First Selectman James Zeoli
Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt
Selectman Judy Williams
Selectman Ralph Okenquist
Selectman PJ Shanley

Vincent Marino, Town Counsel
Ann Denny, Secretary
Bob Brinton, Town Engineer

ORANGE, CONNECTICUT
TOWN ENGINEER'S OFFICE
BOB BRINTON
2023 NOV - 9 AM 8:35

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 P.M. by First Selectman Zeoli. The fire exits were noted, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, followed by the roll call.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(2 minutes per person)

Melissa Johnston, 451 Herbert Street had a question regarding the safety of the Orange Community Nursery School playground and wanted to know if input from groups that use it will be considered when the equipment is replaced.

Tom Pisano, 523 Fairway Road asked if anyone has called the lessee and does BL know that 568 people have signed a petition for the cornfield.

DeeDee Lebov, 660 Broadview Road asked why the new playground at FWP says for ages 5 to 12, is there anything for children under 5?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Selectman Goldblatt thanked people on behalf of the Recycling Committee who participated in the shredding day that was held on Saturday October 7th. Even though the weather was rainy, 8,900 lbs. of shredding was collected, and the Orange Community Women collected household items. The next shredding day is scheduled for April 27, 2024. It will have the shredding truck, HazWaste collection, mattress collection, Orange Community Women, Buy Nothing Orange Facebook Group, and maybe an electronics collection. Selectman Goldblatt investigated the Food Scrap collection program and this past Monday green totes were placed at the top area at the transfer station for food scrap

waste. This will be a voluntary pilot program for people to bring their food waste either in a plastic bag (it is ok to throw the bag in) or a bucket to empty into the bin. Country Disposal is going to come and collect the food scraps to be composted at a farm. The Town will pay Country Disposal \$50 per ton for what is collected, this is a savings to the Town because we currently pay \$100 per ton for MSW emptied from the hopper. The barrels are secured with a bungee cord to keep animals out. It is a voluntary program so it will be determined if it continues based on demand.

Selectman Williams thanked Matthew Girdzis and Kenny Ciola for donating their time and equipment to improve the parking lot at Wright's Pond. The funds for the material came from the Richard Wright fund.

First Selectman Zeoli made the following announcements:

In Memorium: Dorothy Lane and Chief Joseph Rowley

First Selectman Zeoli condemned the horrible attacks on Israel and that his thoughts are with all the families of the innocent people that lost their lives. He thanked Jason Ornstein at Framer's Edge for framing a painting of town hall done by Marty Gnidula. It will be displayed when the town hall painting is finished. FunTober at the Fairgrounds is Saturday October 21st, with a rain date of Sunday, October 22nd 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. HPCC Fairgrounds. Daylight Savings ends Sunday November 5th, remember to set your clocks back 1 hour before you go to bed Saturday night. Election Day is Tuesday November 7th. All voting is at High Plains Community Center. Absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office. The exterior painting of the Town Hall that was approved last month has been completed and they will be beginning the interior painting soon. There will be First Selectman's debates on Wednesday October 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the gym at HPCC, Sunday October 29th at 7:00 p.m. at Congregation Or Shalom 205 Old Grassy Hill Road, and students at Amity will be hosting one on Thursday November 2nd at HPCC.

MINUTES

- Selectman Goldblatt asked that his Pension report that was emailed to the board be attached to the minutes when they are filed. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Shanley, ***the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the September 6, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen.***

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Request to approve bid for 2023 – 2024 Town Tree Removal** Town Engineer Bob Brinton presented the 6 bids received and recommends the low bidder Paulo Landscaping and Tree Removal for the 2023 tree list. He recommends awarding emergency tree work to the three Orange contractors that bid. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, ***the board approved awarding Paulo Landscaping and Tree Removal the bid for the 2023 tree list in the amount of \$37,999, and emergency tree work awarded to the three Orange contractors at the hourly rates bid to Rana Tree***

Removal \$265/hr, Denny Tree Service \$275/hr, and Paulo Landscaping & Tree Removal \$310/hr.

2. **Request to approve Bid for 2023-2024 Snowplowing Services** Town Engineer Bob Brinton presented the bids received for snowplowing services and recommends awarding trucks to the Orange contractors that bid and 1 truck each to the out of town contractors. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Williams, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved awarding Mike’s Auto Repair 1 truck at \$350/hr and 1 mason dump truck at \$275/hr, Hine Landscape Construction 1 truck at \$350/hr, Paulo Landscaping 2 trucks at \$350/hr, T-Dev Inc of Milford 1 truck at \$350/hr and J & J Landscaping of East Haven 1 truck at \$350/hr for snowplowing services.***
3. **Request to approve accepting an approximate 700-foot extension of Old Coach Road** Town Engineer Bob Brinton stated the developer finished the last house and paved the road and they have met the requirements. They have monument work that needs to be done before their bond can be released by zoning. He recommends accepting the extension of Old Coach Road. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Goldblatt, and unanimously carried, ***the board approved accepting the 700-foot extension of Old Coach Road.***
4. **Waving the Right of First Refusal for 359 Sybil Street** – First Selectman Zeoli explained the residents at 359 Sybil Street would like to sell their home. All taxes and land lease payments need to be paid. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Williams, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved the request to wave the Right of First Refusal for 359 Sybil Street, provided the land lease and all taxes are paid prior to the sale.***
5. **Request to Authorize the First Selectman to Execute the Tower Lease Agreement at 525 Orange Center Road between the Orange Volunteer Fire Association and the Town of Orange** First Selectman Zeoli stated the lease needed to be revised and it was agreed to reserve a co-location space for public safety and emergency services telecommunication equipment to be installed at the 165’ height. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved authorizing the First Selectman on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to execute the Tower Lease Agreement to co-locate equipment at the 165’ height at 525 Orange Center Road between the Orange Volunteer Fire Association and the Town of Orange.***
6. **Request to Authorize the First Selectman to Execute the FFY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement:** ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved the request to authorize First Selectman Zeoli, on behalf of the Board of Selectmen, to execute the FFY 2023 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 2 Memorandum of Agreement.***
7. **Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting Schedule for 2024** - The calendar was reviewed. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman

Okenquist, and unanimously carried, *the Board approved the 2024 Selectmen Meeting schedule as presented.*

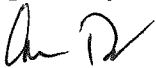
8. **Tax Refunds for the Month of October:** *On a motion* made by Selectman Williams, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, *the Board approved the tax refunds in the amount of \$12,692.25 for the month of October.*

COMMITTEES

1. **Pension Board** – Selectman Goldblatt had no report.
2. **FWP AD HOC Committee** – Selectmen Shanley stated the committee met last week. BL Companies did a drone flight of the whole park and presented the draft of temporary measures to the committee. The committee asked that the recommendations be shared with the Police Department and Public Works for their feedback.
3. **Capital Planning** – Selectman Okenquist reported that letters have been sent out and they are waiting on input from departments.

At 8:08 P.M., Selectman Okenquist made *a motion to adjourn the meeting.* Selectman Williams seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Ann Denny
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen