

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 8, 2024

Present: Selectboard members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Wayne Symonds
Diane Waters, Interim Town Clerk

Guests: Lister John McNeil, Dustin Comstock, Ginny Raboin, Michael Raboin Jr., Kristin Paya, Aaron Blaisdell

1. 6:00 - Call Meeting to Order: Chairperson Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
2. 6:01 - Approve Selectboard minutes of June 24, 2024 and July 3, 2024: On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the June 24, 2024 minutes as drafted. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the July 3, 2024 minutes as drafted.
3. 6:05 - Approve Town Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2024: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the March 5, 2024 Town Meeting minutes.
4. 6:10 - Road Commissioner's Report:
 - RFP for Reservoir Road. Wilson reported he received a proposal from Green Mountain Paving for repairs to Reservoir Road (\$19,960) and Tucker Road (\$17,750). Comstock explained his proposal to fill the holes and pave sections on both roads. He is not requiring a down payment, and can begin work this week. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to accept the bid from Green Mountain Paving to repair Reservoir Road and Tucker Road. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to authorize Chairperson Simpson to sign the contract with Green Mountain Paving.

Wilson said a piece of steel was found imbedded in the surface of George Street which he removed.

He reported there was a party with a bonfire held in the Town pit over July 4; the gate was removed and trash was left behind. He reported it to VSP.

A load of material was left on Smith Road and will be taken care of tomorrow.

There was discussion about the squash culvert for the Riddel Pond Road bridge.

5. 6:25 - Grants Update: Simpson gave a brief update on the status of the Town grants. He is getting invoices together to receive reimbursement on the 2023 PACIF grant.

6. 6:30 - Public Comments: Ginny Raboin stated she knows of an artist who is willing to paint the Town of Orange signs. Wilson has some pieces of pressure-treated plywood that can be used for them.

Simpson reported he has requested three estimates for an updated security system for the Town Clerk's building and the Town Garage.

7. 6:40 - Warrants/Payroll: On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the payroll warrants of July 6 and June 29, 2024. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable warrant of July 8.

The board discussed a complaint received concerning a fireworks permit that was recently issued. Symonds felt the permits need to be submitted in the proper time frame, i.e. 21 days before the date of the display. That way the names can be put on the Town website in case a resident wished to appeal the application. Wilson felt a more reasonable deadline would be for the application to be submitted by the last Selectboard meeting prior to the display day. The applicants' names can then be put on the agenda which is posted for the public to see. It was agreed that the issue will be put on next meeting's agenda.

8. 6:50 - Lister, Tax Information:

- Tax Letter. McNeil stated the town received a letter from the State Tax Department ordering a reappraisal. He will put together an RFP to send out, but is leaning towards NEMRC who will be doing the reappraisal for the town of Topsham in 2028-2029. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to authorize Simpson to sign the acknowledgement letter to the State Tax Department.
- Tax Rate. McNeil presented his tax rate report showing the municipal tax rate has dropped 1.19%. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to approve the municipal tax rate schedule as presented by John McNeil. Symonds feels an insert should be included with the tax bills explaining why the school tax has decreased from what was first reported on the news. He suggested contacting State Rep. Carl Demrow for permission to use excerpts from the explanation he put on Front Porch Forum. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to include the insert. Symonds will draft one and forward it to McNeil. Tax bills will be sent out by the 15th of July.
- McNeil requested the board approve an Errors & Omissions to last year's Grand List. Two property owners are owed a credit from the Town. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Symonds, the board voted unanimously to confirm the changes and approve the Errors & Omissions.

9. 7:00 - Road Commissioner and Road Foreman Job Descriptions, Adopt: Symonds explained that he changed the signature block on the Road Foreman description to 3 lines. On the Road Commissioner he removed the signature block and added 3 lines. On a motion by Symonds, seconded by Simpson, the board voted to approve the Road Commissioner and Road Foreman job descriptions. Wilson abstained.
10. 7:20 - Town Clerk/Town Treasurer Job Posting. Diane said the job vacancies have been posted on the VLCT web site, on Front Porch Forum, and will appear in this week's WORLD.
11. 7:30 - Discuss Town Meeting 2025 Language for Road Commissioner Article for Changing From Appointed to Elected: Symonds and Simpson will create an article for the 2025 Town Meeting to change the position from appointed to elected. Language for the article will be adopted when it gets closer to Town Meeting.
12. 7:45 - ARPA Funds Left & Use: Simpson said he is getting estimates for roofing the Town Clerk's Office building and the gazebo. Michael Raboin recommended matching the colors for the two structures for possible historical designation in the future. Symonds said he feels the most important use of ARPA funds is the purchase of the large culvert for the Riddel Pond Road bridge, even if we have to pre-pay and stockpile the material.
13. 7:55 - Gazebo Completion: Simpson said the wood on the structure needs to be stained. He is waiting to hear back from NEMRC for the exact amount of reimbursement we are receiving from FEMA. It was suggested the new gazebo be insured right away.
14. 8:00 - Adjourn: The next Selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Waters, Interim Town Clerk

Town of Orange, Vermont

Tax Rate 2024

Form 411 values

Municipal Listed Value	116,731,000
Current Use	-11,834,400
Veterans	-680,000
Partial Statutory Exempt.	-974,900
Municipal Grand List	1,032,417

Voted budget (from town meeting minutes)

Municipal (Article 6)		
raised in taxes	170,122.22	170,122
other sources	228,275.36	
Total	398,397.58	
Highway (Article 7)		
raised in taxes	541,791.09	541,791
other sources	12,950.00	
Total	554,741.09	
Tucker Paving (Article 8)		0
Reservoir Rd Reclaim. (Article 9)		20,000
Cemeteries (Article 10)		0
Rec Field (Article 11)		1,500
Non-Profits (Art. 12-23)		8,125
Total raised in taxes		741,538

Tax Year	2023	2024	
Municipal Rate (raised in taxes/gl)	0.7269	0.7183	-1.19%
Edu Rates (from state)			
Homestead	1.3094	1.2769	-2.48%
Non-Homestead	1.5438	1.6787	8.74%
Veterans	0.0063	0.0063	
Total Homestead	2.0426	2.0015	-2.01%
Total Non-Homestead	2.2770	2.4033	5.55%

Veterans Exemption worksheet	Exemption	Vet GL	Edu Rate
# of Veterans	17		
10k	150,000		
10k Non-Homestead	20,000		
Local Agreement			
> 10k Homestead	510,000	5100	1.2769
>10k Non-Homestead	0	0	1.6787
			Edu make-up
			GL
Total Veterans	680,000.00		1,032,417
			Veterans Rate 0.0063

Selectboard Approval:

Steve Simpson JULY 8, 2024
Steve Simpson Date

Wayne Symonds July 8, 2024
Wayne Symonds Date

Kevin Wilson JULY 8, 2024
Kevin Wilson Date

APPROVED

7/8/2024

TOWN OF ORANGE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE TOWN HALL
March 5, 2024

The 2024 Orange Town Meeting was called to order by David Childs, Moderator at 6:35p.m. Childs lead the Pledge of Allegiance before reading the warning.

Article One: To elect the moderator for the coming year as the law directs. Francis Kidder nominated David Childs as Town Moderator seconded by Steve Pratt. Nominations ceased, the Clerk was instructed to cast one ballot for David Childs, so voted.

Article 2: To receive and act upon the Town Officers as printed in the current Town Report. Moved and seconded Sue Perrault moved the article as written. Eric Holmgren advised corrections to the Vital records in the Town Clerk report. Jessie Foster moved the article as amended and seconded. The article passed as amended by voice vote.

Article 3: Shall the voters authorize to change the Town Clerk and Treasurer positions from appointed to elected for a one-year term? During much discussion amongst the residents Moderator David Childs reported if this Article passed, he would then elect from the floor. Eric Holmgren stated if the position was elected from the floor, Ginny Raboin is a town official and would remain in the position as Town Clerk unless removed by cause until 2025. David Childs stated at the VLCT Training for moderators he sought advice that indicated he could elect from the floor. With more discussion regarding appointment and term, Shelia Stone confirmed each appointment was a one-year term. The article was moved as written, after a voice vote, division was called. Sam Frank called for a paper ballot, supported by the necessary 7 voters. 143 ballots cast, 66 in favor of the motion, 77 opposed, the motion failed.

Article 4: To elect all necessary town officers for the coming term:
Selectboard member for a term of one year. Shelia Stone, Wayne Symonds and Angela Eastman were nominated and seconded. Each nominee gave a brief statement, with 150 votes cast, Wayne Symonds with 91 votes, Shelia Stone with 35 votes and Angela Eastman with 23 votes and one blank, Wayne Symonds was elected to Selectboard for a term of one year.

Selectboard member for a three-year term. Eric Holmgren, Angela Eastman, Kristin Paya and Steve Simpson were nominated and seconded. With 141 ballots cast, Steve Simpson won the seat with 79 votes.

Lister one year term. Art McNeil was nominated and seconded. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Art McNeil, so voted.

Lister two-year term. Edmund Bedard was nominated and seconded. John McNeil was nominated and withdrew his nomination. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Edmund Bedard, so voted.

Lister three-year term. John McNeil was nominated, with no other nominations. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for John McNeil, so voted.

Two-year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Michael Raboin Jr. was nominated by Ginny Raboin. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Michael Raboin Jr, so voted.

Three-year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Clark Agnew was nominated. Nominations were ceased and the Clerk was directed to cast one ballot for Clark Agnew, so voted.

Article 5 Will the town set the compensation for elected Town Officers? Sue Perrault made a motion to set the compensation as indicated and seconded. Resident noted the Cemetery Commission did not have a compensation rate. This article passed by voice vote.

Article 6 Shall the voters authorize the General Funds Expenditures for operating expenses \$362,152.80 which \$162,097.30 shall be raised by taxes and \$200,055.50 by non-tax revenues? With discussion and clarification Lee Youngman made a motion to amend the Article to read Shall the voters authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses of \$398,397.66 of which \$170,122.22 shall be raised by taxes and \$228,275.36 by non-tax revenue. The amendment passed with a voice vote, Moderator Childs declared the amendment as the original motion, so voted.

Article 7 Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$495,680.67 of which \$482,730.67 shall be raised by taxes and \$12,950.00 by non-tax revenues? With much discussion a motion was made to amend the article as written by Sean Brown to read "Shall the voters authorize Highway Fund expenditures of \$554,741.09 of which \$541,791.09 to be raised by taxes and \$12,950.00 by non-tax revenues. The amendment passed and as the main motion passed by a voice vote.

Article 8 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$300,000.00 for reclaiming and repaving of 3600 feet of Tucker Road? The motion was made and seconded, the article was voted down.

Article 9 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$25,000.00 for 3210 feet of reclaiming Reservoir Road? A motion was made to amend the motion as written by Wayne Symonds to state "Shall the voters raise the sum of \$20,000.00 for the purpose of filling pot holes on Reservoir Road with hot mix by contractors" The motion passed and as the main motion passed by voice vote.

Article 10 Shall the voters raise the sum of \$11,176.00 to support the town cemeteries? Clark Agnew reported the Perpetual Care Investments had earned enough to cover the operating costs. Clark Agnew made a motion to spend \$0 to support the town cemeteries. The motion passed by voice vote.

Article 11 Shall the voters raise \$1500 to support the upkeep of the town recreation field? The motion was made, and the article passed by voice vote.

Article 12 Shall the voters authorize Hunting, Fishing and Trapping on Town Land? The motion was made to authorize Hunting, Fishing and Trapping on Town Land, so voted.

Article 13-23 On a motion by Sue Perrault and seconded the voters authorized \$8125 to support the non-profits listed in the combined articles by voice vote.

Article 24 Will the Town authorize the Town Treasurer with the approval of the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants and money allocated by the State and Federal Government? With a motion by Lee Youngman and seconded this article passed as written.

Article 25 Shall the voters authorize payment of property taxes in 2 installments with the due dates being August 15, 2024 and November 15, 2024 delivery to the Town Clerk's Office postmarked on or before the due date? With a motion by Sue Perrault and seconded, this Article passes as written.

Article 26 Shall the Town vote to set the date and time of Town Meeting 2025 to be held Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.? with a motion by Lee Youngman and seconded, this motion passed as written.

Article 27 Other Business Jim Wild proposed the Town employees and elected officials be given cell phones.

With a motion and seconded the 2024 Orange Town Meeting was adjourned at 10:25pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ginny Raboin
Town Clerk