

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 14th, 2025

The **Special** Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person at 6:37pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Wayne Symonds. Other Town staff present was Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire. Members of the Public in attendance were Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, and Ernie Wilson.

Approve Selectboard Minutes

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for December 23rd. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for December 31st. SB Member Symonds seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for January 2nd, 8th, and 9th. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded. After a note from a member of the public that SB Member Symonds was not in attendance at the January 8th meeting, Symonds amended his motion to approve the January 2nd and 9th Selectboard Minutes.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for January 8th, SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Approve Agenda

* SB Vice-Chair Wilson asked that the approval of the Selectboard Minutes for January 9th, 2025 be added.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the agenda with the proposed addition. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Review Appointment of Admin Officer & Development Review Board for Inundation Hazard Area Regulations

- A. SB Chair Simpson shared that the Town is supposed to have had an Administrative Officer of the Development Review Board, which is the Planning Commission. He stated that the Development Review Board recommends a candidate for Administrative Officer and then presents this to the Selectboard.
 - a. Sheila Stone asked if this was considered a couple of years ago.
 - i. SB Chair Simpson clarified that this was brought to his attention recently by the Planning Commission.
 - ii. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that it was, but that previous administrations wished to instate zoning regulations, which aren't the State's intentions with this requirement.
 - b. Mrs. Stone inquired as to whether this would go to the listers or someone already involved in assessing the property.

- i. SB Member Symonds stated that the listers are involved after-the-fact.
 - ii. SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared that the Town already has someone reviewing Dooryard Permits, and that perhaps this information would be shared with the property owner at that point.
- B. SB Chair Simpson stated that, to his knowledge, the Town floodplain maps were last updated in the 1950s, and this is to bring the Town to compliance with the law.
 - a. SB Vice-Chair Wilson added that this instruction is coming down from the Federal government.
 - b. SB Chair Simpson stated that without this in place, the Town may not be eligible for FEMA funding.
- C. SB Member Symonds shared concerns for this creating a “blueprint” for zoning in the future.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson stated that between the Selectboard and Planning Commission, the Town is not intending to create Zoning regulations at this time.

Road Commissioner’s Report

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that there were some minor issues with the roads because of thawing and freezing again, but that he has discussed ways to mitigate this with the Road Crew.
- B. SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared that he had spoken with the person who will complete the needed tree cutting, and he quoted approximately \$600 for Bennett’s Mill and approximately \$100 for Reservoir Road. These will be completed on the “next warm day”.
 - a. Wilson added that there is another tree that needs to be cut on Bennett’s Mill, but that the Town will be able to do that in the spring.
- C. Wilson stated that the Town’s grizzly bar had broken, and that the Road Crew was welding it back together.
- D. SB Chair Simpson inquired about if there had been any further comments on sanding the roads.
- E. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that parking on George Street continues to be an issue, and that there have been further complaints. He would like to consider placing No Parking signs on one side of the road.
 - a. SB Member Symonds inquired if the Town has an ordinance against parking on the street.
 - i. Wilson clarified that the Town does, and that a copy of it has been delivered to the owner of the vehicles most frequently in the road.
 - 1. SB Chair Simpson recommended mailing a copy of the ordinance.
 - a. Wilson stated that he placed a copy on the windshield, and it was removed, so the owner has received it.
 - b. SB Member Symonds inquired about the logistics surrounding towing vehicles left in Town roads. General discussion took place.

Selectboard Sign open Grants

* SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that the Board had signed a grant they thought was for Tucker Road but it was for Lords Road on December 9th. This would require Selectboard approval, retroactively.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to allow the SB Chair to sign the grant for Lords Road bridge redecking. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

* SB Chair Simpson inquired about the specifications of the redecking, leading to general discussion among the Board.

Warrants/Payroll

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the Payroll warrants. SB Member Symonds seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Accounts Payable warrants for January 13th. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Rec Committee Policy, SB sign

* SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that the Recreation Committee member who was going to present has resigned from the Committee.

* SB Chair Simpson stated that he will move this item to the next agenda.

Establish Facilities Use Policy, discussion

- A. SB Member Symonds shared that he likes the provision for the town to waive the fees for nonprofits that benefit the Town and inquired about changing this to add language to give the Selectboard final approval on fee waivers.
 - a. Town Clerk Magwire stated that historically, Town Clerks have waived fees at their discretion.
 - i. Symonds clarified that he trusts the Clerk's office to make the decision, but if an issue arises, for the Clerk to be able to defer to the Selectboard.
- B. SB Member Symonds stated his desire for all events on Town property to be family friendly, treating alcohol the same as tobacco, marijuana, or other substances.
- C. Symonds prompted general discussion regarding removing furniture or equipment from the Town Hall and when it is and is not appropriate.
- D. General Discussion took place among the Board regarding cleaning, trash removal, and the potential for a deposit on the Town Hall.
- E. SB Chair Simpson stated that the proposed policy will be brought back at the next regular Selectboard meeting with revisions for further discussion.

Public Comment

* SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared that the Recreation Committee Meeting scheduled for January 15th would be held in the Town Clerk's office.

* Tim Stone shared that there has been great improvement with the roads, but had

recommendations for prioritizing roads during the last gradings of the season.
* General discussion occurred among the Board regarding the roads and sand stores.

Adjournment

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:48pm by motion of SB Vice-Chair Wilson,
seconded by SB Member Symonds.**

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk