

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person at 6:04pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Wayne Symonds. Other Town staff present were Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire and Lister/Delinquent Tax Collector John McNeil. Members of the Public in attendance were Gary Eggleston, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, and Michael Raboin, Jr.

Approve Selectboard Minutes

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for both the Special and Regular meetings for January 14th, 2025. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for January 16th, 2025. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the Selectboard Minutes for January 23rd, 2025. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Approve Agenda

* SB Chair Simpson wished to insert the Town Clerk's Report after the 6:20pm timeslot.

Petition/Appropriation Request Discussion

- A. SB Chair Simpson presented a request for appropriation from Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation
 - a. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that the organization did not attempt to attend a meeting or to obtain signatures from voters, and he feels because of this they should not be included on the Town Meeting Warning.

SB Chair Simpson moved to deny the Appropriation Request of Central Vermont Economic Development Corporation. SB Member Symonds seconded.

- B. SB Chair Simpson presented a petition brought by voters of the Town.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson noted that the petition is specifically for a Charter Change, but the Town has no Charter filed with the State of Vermont.
 - b. SB Member Symonds requested that SB Chair Simpson send the language of the petition to VT League of Cities and Towns, as he feels the Board may be able to create a policy regarding qualifications for appointment but is unsure if the same is true for elected positions.
 - i. General Discussion occurred between the Board and the Public regarding the status of the conviction of the current President at the

time the Town voted for him.

- c. SB Chair Simpson asked the Board about the logistics of enforcement of such a policy.
 - i. SB Member Symonds stated that if enacted, there would likely be a required background check through the Sheriff's Department.
- d. Michael Raboin, Jr. stated that he agrees with Symonds regarding the legality, but that the enforcement should be restricting access to Town materials until a background check is completed.

SB Member Symonds moved that the Town include the petition in an article for Town Meeting. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

- e. Sheila Stone inquired as to whether the petition had been reviewed by the Town Attorney.
 - i. SB Member Symonds noted that the Board could obtain a legal opinion to present to the Town at Town Meeting.
 - 1. General Discussion occurred regarding the logistics of presenting the petition as an article at Town Meeting.

Road Commissioner's Report

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that the Road Crew had been out sanding, and that he did not have much by way of updates on the roads.
 - a. Wilson shared that he was working toward obtaining a quote from Pike for Tucker Road.
 - b. Wilson also shared that he had changed the locks on the garage, handed new keys out, and collected a signed key policy from one employee who had not signed previously.
 - c. Wilson stated that there was some issue with the hydraulics in one of the trucks, and that the Road Foreman is working with McLeod's to repair the issue.
 - i. General Discussion occurred among the Board regarding the logistics of replacing trucks, and among the Board and the Public regarding the truck in question.

Brook Field Service Contract/NEMRC Cloud Service

- A. SB Chair Simpson presented the Brook Field Service Renewal Contract for generators at the Town Hall and Town Garage.
 - a. Michael Raboin, Jr. inquired as to if the generator needed a license.
 - i. General discussion occurred between the Board and the Public regarding permitting and the service tiers provided.
 - b. SB Chair Simpson inquired as to if the Board should approve the lesser amount that was budgeted.
 - i. General Discussion occurred among the Board regarding what was included in each service tier offered.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the major service with the inspection add-on, but to have Chelsea call to see if they think our system is permitted. If not, we would just have the major service, but if it is, we would sign up for that inspection. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve payment. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

- C. SB Member Symonds shared that he had suggested SB Chair Simpson put the NEMRC Cloud service on the agenda because when he was in the office assisting with budget preparation, NEMRC told him that currently they are having to remote in to a computer in the office. The ability to access the Cloud would increase efficiency and also add another layer of protection with Cloud back-up.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to accept NEMRC Cloud for \$700 for the year. SB Member Symonds seconded.

Warrants/Payroll

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to separate his receipt from the rest of AP. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to accept payroll for January 18th, 2025 and January 25th, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve AP except for the separated one. SB Member Symonds seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the AP warrant for Wilson. SB Member Symonds seconded.

Recreation Committee Policy, Selectboard Sign

* The Recreation Committee Governance Guide was approved by the Selectboard on January 13th, 2025. The Board agreed to sign it on Wednesday, January 29th.

Establish Facilities Use Policy

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the policy as written. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

* SB Member Symonds noted that the largest change was forbidding the use of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other illicit drugs on any Town property.

Public Comment

- * Gary Eggleston inquired as to the status of rumored litigation.
- * Michael Raboin, Jr. remarked on inappropriate use of snow machines on George Street.
- * General Discussion occurred between the Board and the Public regarding snow machine use on town roads.

Adjournment

SB Member Symonds moved to adjourn at 7:14pm. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk