

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 24th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person at 6:09pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Wayne Symonds. Other Town staff present were Lister/Delinquent Tax Collector John McNeil and Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire. Members of the public present were Lisa Woodworth, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, Eric Holmgren, David Childs, Susan Childs, Michael Raboin, Jr., and Gary Eggleston.

Approve Agenda

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

Budget Forum

* Eric Holmgren inquired as to the budgeted amount for audits, and if the Board is still anticipating to have multiple years audits. SB Chair Simpson stated that the Town will do what the auditor thinks is best.

* Sheila Stone inquired about whether the end of 2022 had been reconciled. SB Chair Simpson clarified that NEMRC completed reconciliation through the end of 2023. Mrs. Stone suggested that 2022 be audited. SB Member Symonds stated that because the Town has been without a Treasurer, the auditor is uncomfortable completing an audit.

* Michael Raboin, Jr. inquired about the Treasurer who had been hired previously. SB Chair Simpson stated that the person decided it was not the right position for them.

* Mr. Raboin stated that in a meeting the Board had with NEMRC in July, she had stated there were discrepancies between what was in NEMRC and the bank account. He requested an update on this. SB Chair Simpson shared that being without a Treasurer made it difficult to discover the cause of the discrepancies. SB Member Symonds clarified that NEMRC was looking into deposits to reconcile this and would bring this back to the Board if it was not found. Lisa Woodworth inquired as to how much research was completed before bringing this to the Board's attention initially. SB Member Symonds explained that the context of the conversation was for the Board to learn more about how NEMRC could best serve the Town and used this as an example of a difficulty they were facing.

* Mr. Holmgren shared thoughts on the importance of an audit, as opposed to reconciliation alone.

* Mr. Raboin inquired as to how many people are making deposits for the town.

* Mr. Holmgren questioned the absence of a Cemetery Budget. SB Chair Simpson stated that the Cemetery Commission is autonomous, and that he did receive confirmation of the total amount requested. General discussion occurred regarding the obligations and deadlines of the Cemetery Commission to submit a budget, and how the Commission and the Board can better work together in the future.

* David Childs inquired about the absence of the Fund Report in the Town Report. Town Clerk Magwire shared that the Fund Report was not available on time to be entered into the Town Report, but that it will be available in the digital version of the Town Report, as well as in printed

copies at Town Meeting.

* Mrs. Stone requested clarification on the budgeted amount for Animal Control, and if the Board intended to budget two separate lines. SB Member Symonds shared that the Board thought it was best suited under Public Safety, and intended to budget \$5,400.

* Mrs. Woodworth inquired about the line item for HeyGov. Mrs. Magwire offered an explanation of the program and what it provides for the town. SB Member Symonds clarified that this would not be the annual cost, as it included an onboarding fee.

* Gary Eggleston requested more information on the legal fees in the budget. Mr. Raboin inquired as to if the Board intended for the cost to continue to be elevated above previous years. The Board clarified that their intention is to budget the funds as risk management.

* Mr. Holmgren noted that grants were not budgeted for. General Discussion regarding ongoing grants occurred. SB Member Symonds clarified that the Board was advised not to budget for grant funding.

* Mrs. Stone inquired as to when roadside mowing will go out to bid again. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that it is a 3-year contract that was likely coming up this year.

* Mrs. Woodworth inquired about budgeting for a rabies clinic.

* Mr. Raboin inquired as to the apparently small amount budgeted for Workers' Compensation. SB Member Symonds clarified that previously, Road Crew Workers' Comp had been charged to the Office budget, and that needed to be budgeted for in the Highway Fund instead.

* Mrs. Stone identified a possible omission of budgeting for the Town Clerk's Office security system.

* Mrs. Woodworth inquired as to the amount of "Misc. Revenue" from 2024, and why there was one proposed for 2025. She also requested information on the amount in Equipment Repair & Maintenance from 2024. SB Member Symonds clarified that the amount listed should have been charged to one of the sub accounts listed under that item. Mrs. Woodworth then inquired as to what was spent in 2024 on culverts, roadside mowing, pothole repair, and sand. SB Vice-Chair Wilson explained where each of those items came from and why the costs were apparently low.

* Mrs. Stone inquired about the Act 60 Reappraisal item. Delinquent Tax Collector McNeil clarified that in anticipation of a reappraisal in 2029, money must be set aside each year.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:13pm by motion of SB Member Symonds, seconded by Sb Vice-Chair Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk