

TOWN OF ORANGE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES February 10th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person at 6:02pm 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 Ernie Wilson, Gary Eggleston, Michael Raboin, Jr, and Eric Holmgren.

Approve Selectboard Minutes

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the minutes for January 27th, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the minutes for January 31st, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Eric Holmgren inquired as to why his comments at the January 31st meeting were not included in the Draft minutes. The Board directed the Town Clerk to add these before publishing the approved copy.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the minutes for January 29th, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Approve Agenda

* SB Member Symonds suggested discussing a date and time for the Budget Forum before Public Comment.

* SB Vice-Chair Wilson requested adding Executive Session before the Road Commissioner's Report.

Executive Session

The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:17pm and exited Executive Session at 6:32pm.

Road Commissioner's Report

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson updated the Board on a truck that is out of service. He shared that he was shown the hinge from the truck that was rusted. He stated that the Town has been able to borrow a truck from VTrans and temporarily add it to our insurance.
 - a. Wilson shared that the other truck had been returned from the mechanic, and that is available for plowing.

- B. Wilson stated that the Town would like to purchase a pair of truck ramps, and will need to find the weight of the truck in order to purchase ramps with the correct capacity.
- C. Wilson explained that there is an Air Compressor in the garage he would like to have a Request for Bids posted on.

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to authorize the Road Commissioner to put the Air Compressor surplus to our needs out to bid and authorize him to accept the highest acceptable offer. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Town Clerk's Report

- A. Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire shared that the Animal Control Officer is requesting an increase in compensation and described what he charged for in January, as well as what he charges each month in another town he serves.
 - a. SB Vice-Chair Wilson asked what his contracted rate is.
 - b. SB Member Symonds stated that he is appointed for one year, so when his appointment comes back up will be the time to negotiate terms.
 - c. SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared an approximation of what the previous Animal Control Officer was compensated annually.

SB Member Symonds moved that the Town continue to pay the Animal Control Officer and the contracted amount for the remainder of the appointment. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

- B. Magwire shared information about a mountain biking event that will be utilizing a portion of Reservoir Road in June.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson asked if we would require proof of insurance and if we should ask VLCT what may be required.
 - i. Eric Holmgren clarified that the group is asking the Town's permission as a courtesy, but it is not a legal requirement.
 - b. SB Member Symonds stated that when organizers ask VTrans about similar events, the only time the State requires anything of them is when they will be riding contra-flow with traffic.

SB Member Symonds moved to reply to the organizers with permission to use the roads and respectfully ask that they put up a sign on each side of the road used to let locals know there's a bike race occurring. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Warrants/Payroll

SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve payroll for the weeks of 2/1/2025 and 2/8/2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Member Symonds moved to approve the AP warrant dated 2/10/2025. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Budget Forum Discussion

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson recommended that the Budget Forum take place at 5:30pm, immediately prior to the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting at 6pm on February 24th.
 - a. Eric Holmgren shared that historically, the Selectboard Meeting prior to Town Meeting has a short agenda. This led to general discussion regarding how the Budget Forum should fit into the timing of the regular Selectboard meeting.

SB Member Symonds moved to have the budget forum at 6pm on February 24th, 2025 with the Selectboard agenda to follow. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.

Public Comment

* Eric Holmgren inquired as to if there are updates on the audit. SB Chair Simpson stated that he will email NEMRC for an update on that. Holmgren asked if the Town had budgeted for multiple audits. Simpson stated that the Town had. Holmgren then recommended asking the auditor to investigate Vacation Pay and Sick Leave use, clarifying that this can be easily overlooked because Office staff has access to adjusting and amending the information with minimal oversight.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11pm by motion of SB Member Symonds and second of SB Vice-Chair Wilson.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk