

TOWN OF ORANGE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES March 10th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire at 6:00pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Kristin Paya. Also in attendance were Eric Holmgren, Lisa Woodworth, Josh Woodworth, Tim Stone, Shannon Pelchuck, Michael Raboin, Jr., John McNeil, and Lee Cattaneo.

Selectboard Reorganization

SB Member Simpson nominated himself as Selectboard Chair. SB Member Paya seconded. Mrs. Magwire turned the meeting over to SB Chair Simpson.

* Eric Holmgren provided information on how Selectboards have historically conducted business in regards to reorganization and the selection of a Chair.

SB Chair Simpson nominated SB Member Wilson as Vice Chair. SB Member Paya seconded.

Approve Agenda

SB Chair Simpson moved to add Rules of Procedure for Selectboards prior to the appointments in the agenda. SB Member Paya seconded.

* As a Point of Order, Eric Holmgren noted that Agenda Revisions must be the first item on the agenda. SB Chair Simpson stated that he had verified with legal counsel that the order of the agenda as posted was appropriate.

SB Chair Simpson moved to amend the agenda to include before Adjournment an Executive Session per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E). SB Member Paya seconded.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 24th, 2025. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Meeting Minutes of the regular meeting on February 24th, 2025. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 26th, 2025. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Appointments

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve Chelsea Magwire as Town Clerk. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve Diane Waters as Interim Treasurer until such time as the Board can find a regular Treasurer. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve Kevin Wilson as Road Commissioner. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to appoint John Barnes as Interim Road Foreman, to be reviewed after 60 days. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

* General Discussion occurred among the Board and the Public regarding what training may be required and how the Board hopes to facilitate this training. Suggestions were made on the future of the Road Foreman position after the current Foreman retires. Inquiries regarding compensation for this position were made.

SB Vice Chair Wilsom moved to appoint Eric Holmgren as Emergency Preparedness Officer/Emergency Management Director. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to act on the Animal Control Officer at the next meeting on March 24th, 2025. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to appoint Michelle Boyer as Pound Keeper according to her rate schedule. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve Lee Cattaneo as Regional Planning Commission Representative. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to appoint Don Douglas as Economic Development Representative. SB Member Paya seconded.

* Lee Cattaneo noted that towns do not have a board seat with Economic Development, and that this appointee is typically also the Regional Planning Commission Representative.

SB Chair Simpson moved to undo the motion for appointment number 11 for the reasons as stated. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to appoint Don Douglas as Energy Coordinator. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to appoint Eric Holmgren as Civil Defense Director. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to appoint Lee Cattaneo as Central Vermont

Transportation Advisory Representative.

SB Member Paya moved to appoint John McNeil as Delinquent Tax Collector. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to appoint George Wild as Tree Warden. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to appoint Emily Ruff, Lee Cattaneo, and himself to the Grants Committee. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to appoint all who had previously expressed interest to the Recreation Committee.

* SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that he would like to ask that all new appointees attend the first Recreation Committee meeting, to be held Wednesday, March 19th, 2025 at 6:30pm in the Town Hall.

Road Commissioner's Report

* SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that one of the trucks was sent in to have the body looked at. He shared that he spoke with someone who previously worked for the Town of Corinth and they had a similar issue, but calling the manufacturer helped to resolve the issue.

* Wilson shared that there have been issues with mud on some roads, including Cutler Corner Road and George Street.

* Wilson mentioned that a 5th street light had been placed, and so the street should be well-lit up to the school.

* SB Chair Simpson inquired about the status of the grader, Wilson clarified that it has been fixed.

* Michael Raboin, Jr. commented on the No Parking signs that had been placed on George Street, noting that they read "No Parking Between Signs" but are placed on opposite sides of the road. Wilson clarified his intention with placing the signs.

Town Clerk's Report

* Mrs. Magwire presented two Liquor License Applications that had been received to the Board and explained the applicant and the approval process.

With no objections to suspend the rules, SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Lonestar Acres LLC permits for liquor licenses for one year. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

MPG Grant Approval

* SB Chair Simpson noted that the Grant was not yet available for review, and will move this item to the March 24th, 2025 meeting.

Warrants/Payroll

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve Payroll for March 10th, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve AP Warrants. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Public Comment

* Tim Stone asked if the Board would consider moving the outdoor Community Cupboard to a better location, mentioned the front of the Town Clerk's Office as an alternative location.

* Mr. Stone also inquired as to if a new Selectboard is required to read anything that includes the rules and regulations of Selectboards.

* Mr. Stone mentioned the budget item for Legal Fees. SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that his hope is for the Board to watch the entire budget and attempt to stay below budget on each item.

* Eric Holmgren stated his comments would be multi-faceted: 1) The Board should determine what would be appropriate for elected officials to include in their mileage reimbursement requests. 2) Will the Board promise to stay within the budget, except for emergency situations? 3) Has the Board followed up on the funds that had yet to be reconciled as was mentioned in the video brought up in previous meetings? 4) Before the Board enters Executive Session, it may behoove them to review the Town's Conflicts of Interest and Ethics policy.

* Shannon Pelchuck spoke in support of Rob Lowe for Animal Control Officer, sharing personal experience.

* Lisa Woodworth spoke to reiterate Mr. Holmgren's question on supposedly missing funds. Vice Chair Wilson stated that he had reviewed the video and had located the amount of approximately \$16,400, which had been deposited into an account which is no longer in use by a third party. General discussion occurred regarding who has access to the vault and if there were other funds that have yet to be reconciled.

* Ms. Pelchuck inquired as to if the Treasurer position is posted anywhere other than the Town website.

Executive Session (1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E))

By motion of SB Chair Simpson and second by SB Member Paya, the Board entered Executive Session at 7:43pm.

The Board exited Executive Session, and no action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk