

# **TOWN OF ORANGE**

## **SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES**

### **May 27th, 2025**

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by SB Chair Steve Simpson 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 John McNeil, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, Ernie Wilson, and Jim Wild.

#### **Approve Selectboard Minutes**

**SB Member Paya moved to approve the minutes of May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.**

**SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the minutes of May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 with amendment. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.**

#### **Approve Agenda**

**SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve the agenda as written. SB Member Paya seconded.**

#### **Selectboard to Review/Sign**

- A. Highway Financial Plan for 2026 Highway Grant
  - a. The Board did not sign this document.
- B. Certificate of Compliance for Town Road and Bridge Standards
  - a. The Board did not sign this document, as the Standards have not been reviewed by the Road Crew.
- C. Better Back Roads Grant

**SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to sign the Better Back Roads grant. SB Chair Simpson seconded.**

**SB Vice-Chair Wilson amended his motion to approve Steve Simpson to sign as Selectboard Chair. SB Chair Simpson seconded.**

#### **Policy Review**

- A. Ethics Compliance Policy, with revisions

**SB Member Paya moved to approve the Ethics Compliance Policy. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.**

- B. Selectboard Rules of Procedure
  - a. SB Vice-Chair Wilson requested the Board review this policy. He would like

for all Selectboard Members to be notified by phone or email when a special meeting is called.

- i. SB Simpson inquired if he was proposing an amendment under Agendas in the Rules of Procedure.
- ii. SB Member Paya read from the policy that all members of the Body must be notified within 24 hours of the meeting, and that it does not specify how that notice is to be received.
- iii. SB Vice-Chair Wilson stated that he discussed a lack of notification from a previous special meeting with the Town's attorney and that the attorney recommended adding this to the Policy. Wilson recommended that notice of meetings be sent by email, but for the member calling the meeting to follow up with a phone call if a response is not received.
- iv. Tim Stone stated that if the Board is making decisions such as hiring employees, all members should be present.
- v. Discussion occurred between the Board and the Public regarding the events of a scheduled special meeting that was cancelled.

### **Road Commissioner's Report**

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared that John Barnes is on vacation this week, and that they received a call to repair a culvert on Clement Road.
- B. Wilson also shared that the RFP for paving is to be completed.
- C. Wilson stated that the trail to the Town Forest is locked, and that he will be attempting to obtain a key for the Town.
  - a. Discussion occurred between the Board and the Public regarding why the trail may be locked and the efficacy of the lock.

**SB Member Wilson moved to remove the lock from Beard Road. Seconded by SB Chair Simpson.**

\* Tim and Sheila Stone expressed gratitude for the grading of Cutler Corner Road.

### **Re-appointment of John Barnes by Forest and Parks as Town Fire Warden**

- A. SB Chair Simpson stated that he had received an email from Forest and Parks that it was time to reappoint a Fire Warden, and that John Barnes has filled that role previously. Simpson inquired of Sheila Stone if this has historically been a 5-year term. Discussion occurred regarding the term length and at which level Ben Shaw should be involved.

**SB Chair Simpson moved to approve John Barnes as the Fire Warden for a 5-year term, and to appoint Ben Shaw as Deputy Fire Warden for the same term. SB Vice-Chair Wilson seconded.**

## **Road Foreman Appointment**

- A. SB Vice-Chair Wilson shared that he had not provided the training required at a previous meeting.

**SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to appoint John Barnes as Road Foreman temporarily until the next meeting.**

## **Warrants/Payroll**

**SB Vice-Chair Wilson moved to approve Payroll for May 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025. SB Chair Simpson seconded.**

## **Public Comment**

- \* Sheila Stone provided an update on behalf of the Recreation Committee on the Spaghetti Dinner, sharing that they raised \$125.00 and that some had asked them to host another Spaghetti Dinner.
- \* Jim Wild shared that ¾" mix placed in ditches after the flooding last July is washing into the roads, and that it should be replaced with ditch stone.
- \* Mr. Wild also requested an update on the budget, specifically pertaining to bringing it into balance and if there will be a deficit.
- \* Tim Stone inquired as to if the Board had been in touch with the State regarding paving a particular section of road.
- \* Mr. Stone also inquired about the status of the town truck that is needing repairs.

## **Adjournment**

**The meeting was adjourned at 7:09pm by motion of SB Chair Simpson and seconded by SB Vice-Chair Wilson.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk