

TOWN OF ORANGE SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES April 28th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by SB Chair Steve Simpson at 6:03pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Kristin Paya. Also in attendance were Town Clerk Chelsea Magwire, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, John McNeil, Ginny Raboin, Mike Raboin, Gary Eggleston, Siobhan Perricone, Jim Wild, and Tony Lajeunesse.

Approve Agenda

SB Member Paya moved to approve the agenda, SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Approve Minutes

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the special Selectboard meeting minutes from April 14th, 2025. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from April 14th, 2025. SB Member Paya seconded.

* Sheila Stone noted that the website was missing the meeting minutes from April 11th, 2025 and requested that the minutes reflect the violation of Open Meeting Law.

NEKCV Appointment

* Siobhan Perricone shared that NEKCV requests that Selectboards reappoint their delegate annually, and it requires a motion and a signed form. SB Chair Simpson read the resolution aloud.

SB Member Paya moved to appoint Siobhan Perricone as the Town delegate to NEKCV. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Policy Review

A. Selectboard Rules & Procedures

- a. SB Chair Simpson noted the corrections mentioned at the previous meeting had been made.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the Selectboard Rules and Procedures, seconded by SB Member Paya.

B. Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Policy

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Policy. SB Member Paya seconded.

- a. Tony Lajeunesse inquired as to if the policy includes Selectboard members, referencing Section 3, Part D.
 - i. SB Member Paya clarified that yes, they are listed as members of the legislative body.
- b. SB Chair Simpson read the steps to follow for implementation.
 - i. As a Point of Clarification, Town Clerk Magwire inquired as to if the Board intended for this to be a policy or an ordinance, sharing that if it is a policy, the Board will not be required to follow the steps of an ordinance.
 1. SB Member Paya noted that the word “ordinance” must be replaced with the word “policy” throughout the document.

SB Chair Simpson withdrew his motion.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to amend the document to change the word “ordinance” to “policy”. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to adopt the Town of Orange Code of Ethics Investigation and Enforcement Policy as amended. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Lawn Mowing RFP

* Mike Raboin noted that the Cemetery Commission will request mowing jointly with the Town, as done previously.

- A. SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that the Board must decide which dates to send out the RFP and amend the 2022 RFP with the 2025 dates.
 - a. Mrs. Stone explained the bid process that has been followed previously.
 - b. SB Member Paya stated that according to State processes, 15 days is acceptable, and the bids should be opened at the May 26th, 2025 meeting.
 - i. General discussion occurred between the Board and the public regarding the Town Purchasing Policy
 - c. Jim Wild suggested adding a clause to the contract for an option to extend for up to one year.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the RFP for mowing. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

OC Sheriff Contract

* SB Chair Simpson shared that there were Sheriff’s Deputies present at the most recent meeting and that they explained their coverage and hours. Discussion occurred between the Board and the Public as to how the Town would benefit from the terms of the contract.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to decline renewal of the contract with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department. SB Member Paya seconded.

Audit Discussion

* SB Member Paya shared that 24 V.S.A. § 5706 requires the Town to have all years audited. She reiterated the price packages offered by the accountant the Town had received a quote from.

* Mr. Raboin inquired as to if the Town contacted bidders or had requested bids by a sealed bid process, stating that Town policy requires certain expenses to be put out to bid. SB Chair Simpson stated that the Town will put out an RFP. General discussion occurred regarding costs.

SB Chair Simpson moved to get an RFP put out to bid for the 2022-2024 audits. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Road Commissioner's Report

* SB Vice Chair Wilson shared that the Road crew had been grading the last couple of weeks. He also shared that on Easter Sunday trees had come down on Reservoir Road and in East Orange, and that Sunday night he had found trees down on Reservoir Road and others. He stated that he had called in the Road Foreman and that they ensured the trees and fallen wires were removed safely. In addition, the Road Crew would be working on Green Up Day to assist.

* Mr. Wild inquired as to if Green Up Day information had been posted on the website.

* Discussion occurred regarding tire removal.

Warrants / Payroll

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve payroll for April 19th through April 26th. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the Accounts Payable warrant. SB Member Paya seconded.

Public Comment

* Mrs. Stone inquired as to when the sign painted by a resident would be put up.

* SB Vice Chair Wilson shared that he had ordered grabbers and sharps containers for the Town trucks and for the office for safe disposal of needles left on Town property.

* Mr. Lajeunesse shared that there were previous petitions on file for the Town to take over Clement Road, and that he wished for the Board to revisit this at the next meeting.

* Mr. Wild shared that there was a tree in danger of falling in the road on George Street. He also stated that there was a rumor that the budget passed at Town Meeting contained an error that created a shortfall in the budget. Discussion regarding a potential error and how to find it and remedy it took place between the public and the Board. SB Chair Simpson stated that the Board was to meet with NEMRC the following Wednesday at 8am, and it was clarified that this was going to be in an open meeting.

* Mrs. Raboin inquired about the meeting links not yet on the website.

Adjournment

SB Member Paya moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:41pm, seconded by SB Chair Simpson.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk