

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 12th, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by SB Chair Steve Simpson at 6:04pm in the Town Hall at Orange, Vermont. In attendance were Selectboard Members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Kristin Paya. Also in attendance were Chelsea Magwire, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, Ernest Wilson, Michael Raboin Jr., Ginny Raboin, Tony Lajeunesse, Paul Thayer, and Steve Risberl.

Approve Minutes

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the April 11th, 2025 minutes. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the April 25th, 2025 minutes. SB Member Paya seconded.

SB Member Paya moved to approve the April 28th, 2025 minutes. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the minutes of the AM meeting of April 30th, 2025. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the minutes of the PM meeting of April 30th, 2025. SB Member Paya seconded.

Approve Agenda

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

Policy Review

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to accept the Ethics Compliance Policy as written, SB Member Paya seconded. Upon discovery that further edits were required, Wilson withdrew his motion.

Audit Discussion

- A. SB Member Paya shared that the Town's Purchasing Policy excludes audits from requiring an RFP, and that the only accountant being considered to complete the audits is Batchelder Associates, PC, as another firm has rescinded their offer. Paya recommended the audit be completed very soon.
- B. SB Vice Chair Wilson inquired as to the cost of the audits.
 - a. SB Member Paya shared the costs provided by Batchelder Associates, with

the first year being \$25,000.00.

- i. Mr. Wilson inquired where the Board would find the funding for this in the current budget.
 - 1. SB Chair Simpson stated that the money would be moved from another line item, explaining that the money allocated for police services was available. General discussion occurred regarding the current budget and funding the audit.
- C. Michael Raboin, Jr. inquired as to what was paid for the most recent audit.
 - a. SB Vice Chair Wilson shared that it was approximately \$20,000.00. General discussion occurred regarding the budgeting process and allocation of funds.

SB Chair Simpson moved to approve the contract for Batchelder Associates to start on the audit for 2022, looking at doing subsequent years when that comes back. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Road Commissioner Report

- A. SB Vice Chair Wilson shared that one Town truck needs repair. The other truck needed different parts put on before it would pass inspection.
- B. Ginny Raboin inquired about grading on Cutler Corner Road.
 - a. Tim Stone shared that some residents have begun repairing the road on their own.
 - b. Mr. Wilson stated that the grader had required repairs, and that had been completed. With one member of the Road Crew on vacation, Wilson shared that they would prioritize higher traffic and higher problem areas.
 - c. Sheila Stone inquired about hiring a part time grading person.
 - i. SB Chair Simpson stated that it is not in the budget. Mrs. Stone pointed out that there had been \$5,000.00 budgeted for a part-time employee.
 - ii. General discussion took place among the Board regarding the logistics of hiring a part-time grader operator.
 - d. Discussion occurred regarding the Road Crew's daily operations.
- C. Mr. Wilson shared that he had cleaned up the yard and curbing at the Town Office Complex so that mowing could be started.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson inquired as to the status of the Mowing RFP discussed at a previous meeting.
 - i. Chelsea Magwire shared that she had updated the previous Mowing RFP.
- D. Mr. Wilson stated that there had been needles found on East Orange Road, but that they were in the Town of Topsham, so Orange did not need to remove them. He also shared that he is working on the RFP for culverts on Tucker Road.

Town Clerk's Report

* Chelsea Magwire shared that the County had sent a letter requesting taxes in advance, and that she recommends the Town does not pay until they are due.

Clement Road Discussion

- A. Tony Lajeunesse asked if the Town would take over Clement Road, sharing that the majority of residents had indicated interest in that.
 - a. SB Chair Simpson stated that there was nothing budgeted for the process of upgrading the class of a road.
 - i. Mr. Lajeunesse shared that it would bring up property value, and therefore taxes for the Town. He also stated that a petition had been accepted by a previous Board but that it was not pursued by the subsequent Board.
 - ii. SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that there is a culvert on Clement Road that needs to be repaired by the Town.
- B. Paul Thayer shared that Town help on road maintenance would be helpful, and that he would appreciate anything the Town could do to help with that.
- C. Ginny Raboin inquired of Mr. Lajeunesse if there was something specific he would like the Board to act on, and asked the Board what the next steps would be and if this could be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion.
 - a. Sheila Stone inquired of Mr. Simpson what steps could be taken to move forward.
 - i. Mr. Simpson stated that the process would be expensive and lengthy, using the example of having a survey of the road completed. Discussion occurred regarding whether the road would need a survey completed in order to be upgraded in class.
 - ii. Michael Raboin stated that the Town Road Policy indicates that the Town can designate classification of a road at any time, so long as State law is followed.
- D. Tim Stone inquired as to if ground concrete from the project on US 302 be used on Clement Road.
- E. Mr. Thayer inquired as to whether the matter may be worth visiting with an attorney in order to obtain a clear answer on how to proceed. Discussion occurred regarding the history of surveys and road classification in Orange.
- F. Mr. Lajeunesse shared examples of some of the work that he has personally completed on Clement Road.

Warrants/Payroll

* The Board discussed a discrepancy on a time card and the feasibility of filing for comp time when overtime is not allowed but an employee has necessary work to complete.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the payroll warrants presented. SB Member Paya seconded.

* Discussion occurred regarding an invoice for a Town truck where some items may be covered under warranty.

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

Public Comment

* Sheila Stone stated that the current budget the Town is working from is not the budget that had been approved at Town Meeting and shared examples of numbers that have been adjusted.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:29pm by motion of SB Vice Chair Wilson, and seconded by SB Member Paya.

Respectfully submitted,
Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk