

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 23rd, 2025

The Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by SB Chair Steve Simpson at 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, Ernest Wilson, Sr., and Rod Coronado.

- Due to lack of audio, minutes for the first portion of this meeting are unavailable. The following minutes are beginning at 7:22pm when the Board exited Executive Session, where no action was taken.

A. Wilson stated that he would like to speak as Road Commissioner and shared that he had submitted a Public Records Request and has received the records requested from two of the recipients.

a. SB Chair Simpson stated that when he received the request, there was not indication that he was to forward it on to any other recipient.

b. Wilson read an email he had received as part of the Records Request, indicating the other members of the Board were aware of an issue recorded on video between a resident and Wilson, and he inquired as to why it was not brought to the Board as a whole, as well as if there was a complaint filed and if a video can be produced.

i. Sheila Stone inquired as to which date this was, and if there was a report filed for such an accusation. She also inquired if SB Member Paya had the video and if SB Chair Simpson had taken any action on the matter.

1. SB Member Paya stated that she was very new on the Board when she received the video. SB Chair Simpson stated that he was unaware of such a video, but that his recommendation if someone did have such a complaint would be for them to follow the appropriate channels to file officially with the Town.

a. Mrs. Stone stated that the resident did bring the complaint to the awareness of the Board.

b. SB Member Paya stated that the resident had requested this to be an anonymous complaint.

c. Wilson requested a copy of the video of the incident in question.

c. Wilson stated that he received additional screenshots of texts from another employee and read them aloud. He also stated that accusations made in these texts are false and recanted the events of the evening of the texts as he experienced them.

i. SB Member Paya stated that Wilson had not received the entire conversation, and that said employee had first texted her.

d. SB Chair Simpson inquired of Wilson what his intentions were with these statements. Wilson responded that he intended for all Board members to proceed with honesty.

e. Tim Stone stated that on the evening of the cancelled special meeting mentioned previously, Wilson should have been informed of the meeting.

i. SB Chair Simpson stated that Wilson was informed via email. Wilson disagreed.

f. Wilson inquired of SB Chair Simpson what the Board will do about accusations made. He listed events that support his feelings on the matter.

i. SB Member Paya shared events that support her position on the discussion, including additional complaints she had received against Wilson on the topic of sexism.

1. Wilson refuted these claims by sharing that he had received the same personally.

SB Member Paya moved to adjourn the meeting.

2. Wilson inquired of SB Chair Simpson what the Board intended to do about the accusations made against him.

g. Tim Stone shared that he feels the Road Commissioner had been overstepped by SB Member Paya since she was elected to the Board.

i. SB Member Paya stated the circumstances of which she was on the roads with the Road Foreman to view a culvert.

1. Mr. Stone expressed frustration with the fact that the Road Foreman was driving in his personal truck while the road was icy.

a. SB Member Paya stated that SB Vice Chair Wilson had requested that the Road Crew no longer sand the roads for the season prior to this event.

i. SB Vice Chair Wilson stated that was untrue.

ii. Mr. Stone shared that rumors may be the basis of many issues the Board is currently having.

h. SB Chair Simpson inquired of Wilson how he would like to proceed, and if a moderator between him and SB Member Paya would be helpful in the course of Town business.

i. Wilson stated that he would prefer legal counsel via mediator in any Executive Session to this proposal.

1. The pros and cons of professional mediation were discussed among SB Chair Simpson and Wilson.

SB Member Paya moved to adjourn the meeting. SB Chair Simpson seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04pm.

Respectfully submitted, Chelsea E. Magwire, Town Clerk