

TOWN OF ORANGE

SELECTBOARD MINUTES

July 28, 2025

Present: Selectboard members Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, and Kristin Paya.

Others Present: Lister John McNeil, Interim Town Clerk Diane Waters, residents Ernest Wilson, Carmella Tucker, Susan Childs, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone, and State Representative Michael Tagliavia

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chair Simpson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. Approve SB Minutes: This item will be moved to the next meeting.

Approve Town Meeting Minutes: This item will be moved to the next meeting.

3. Approve Agenda: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the agenda as printed.

4. Town Clerk Update: Paya has been reviewing applications as they come in. Interviews will be scheduled for Monday, August 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Road Crew Update: Applications are being received and will be reviewed by Wilson and Road Foreman Matt Woodworth. The board commended Woodworth on his work so far as Foreman.

5. Road Commissioner Report: Wilson reported some road culvert issues on Fish Pond and Notch Rd. Tucker Road culverts will be replaced beginning July 29 and be closed all week during the day. Wilson has handed out flyers to Tucker Road residents, and Simpson will have it posted on the Orange web site.

6. Town Clerk Report: Waters advised that property tax money has been coming in steadily.

Resident Tim Stone inquired about the body repair on the dump truck. Wilson stated E & G Repair feels the problem appears to be an over-extending piston and will cost approximately \$10,000 to repair. Stone feels the truck should be repaired as soon as possible. Wilson and Woodworth will speak further with E & G.

7. Warrants/Payroll: On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the Payroll warrants for 7/19 and 7/26. On a motion by Wilson, seconded by Simpson, the board voted unanimously to approve the Accounts Payable warrant.

8. Public Comments:

Representative Tagliavia stated he read an article in Vermont Digger about federal money becoming available for flood mitigation, and he wanted to be sure Orange was aware of it. Simpson discussed the town's progress with FEMA negotiations. Also discussed was Barre City's watershed property and the City's plan to install a debris fence.

Stone questioned if the town has gotten an update from the State about Reservoir Road. Both Wilson and Simpson stated they have tried but have had trouble reaching anyone or getting someone to call back.

Resident Carmella Tucker inquired about the Tucker Road paving project. Simpson said the town received a 3rd bid that was not received at the bid opening on 7/25 but had been put in the USPS mailbox instead of the dropbox and was not found until 7/28. Simpson will be contacting the Town Attorney. He said the grant procedures needed to be followed. Pike and Green Mt. Paving were the two bids received on 7/25.

9. Executive Session re: Personnel (VSA 313(a)(1)(A)): On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to go into executive session at 6:48 p.m.
At 7:35 p.m. on a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to come out of executive session.
At 7:36 p.m. on a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to have Simpson email John Barnes regarding WC insurance for his mowing business.
At 7:37 p.m. on a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to have Simpson contact the Town Attorney regarding the paving bids.
10. Adjournment: On a motion by Simpson, seconded by Wilson, the board voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Waters, Interim Town Clerk