

TOWN OF ORANGE, VT
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 14, 2025
Orange Town Hall

Selectboard Members Present:

Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Kristin Paya

Others Present:

John McNeil, Diane Hallenbeck, Bill Crowther, Lyla Cook, Wes Faulkner, Dan Sweeney

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 PM** by Steve Simpson.

2. Approval of Agenda

At **6:01 PM**, a motion was made by Kevin Wilson to approve the agenda, seconded by Kristin Paya. **All in favor.**

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Kristin Paya to approve the minutes of **October 9** and **September 22, 2025**, seconded by Kevin Wilson. All in favor.

- Note: Kristin's name was misspelled in the October 9th minutes; correction to be made.

Reminder Meeting Rules: Members of the public wishing to speak must address the Board through the Chair.

4. Sno-Bees Orange Trail Use

Discussion was held regarding Sno-Bees trail use and which roads are affected. Steve will confirm the impacted roads before approving their request.

Kevin stated that residents requested permission to use **Clement Road**, for snowmobile access. Motion by Kevin Wilson to allow snowmobile use as requested; seconded by Steve Simpson. Kevin noted that the State owns the right-of-way under the powerline and that the trail runs from VELCO to the end of the Class 4 road. **All in favor.**

5. Warrants and Payroll

Warrants and payroll were reviewed. The State school payment will be made this week. Motion by Kevin Wilson to approve payroll for the weeks of **October 14, October 6, and September 29, 2025**; seconded by Steve Simpson. **All in favor.**

The Board also reviewed a **quote to repair the grader**. Steve Simpson requested that a second quote be obtained.

Motion by Kevin Wilson to approve accounts payable; seconded by Steve Simpson. **All in favor.**

6. Road Commissioner Report

- **Tucker Road** paving scheduled for tomorrow.
 - **Matt** is on vacation until Monday; **Mike** will handle grading in the meantime.
 - Potholes will be filled once conditions dry out.
 - Steve asked if leftover mix could be used along guardrails; Kevin will look into it.
 - A **culvert on Tucker Road** is being repaired.
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7. Town Clerk Report

The **Town Newsletter** will be completed by the end of October. Anyone wishing to add information should contact Diane Waters. **Diane Hallenbeck** reported she is continuing to process **land recordings** and catching up on filings. A meeting with the **Cemetery Commissioners** was held to streamline operations. The Commissioners are developing an invoice form to help with the process. **Bill** will be out of the office for the next two weeks.

8. Budget Discussion

John McNeil reported he spoke with the District Advisor regarding property appraisals; no significant concerns were noted. Feedback has not yet been received from **NEMRC** regarding a proposal. The **RFP** has been reissued. Kristin Paya will import budget data into Excel for analysis and better clarity.

9. Public Comment

Residents discussed road safety and enforcement concerns:

- **Traffic & Safety:** A resident expressed concern about speeding near the area where a fatal motorbike accident occurred and asked about law enforcement presence. Steve stated that the Town does **not** have a contract with the Sheriff's Department and relies on the **Vermont State Police**. Residents should dial **911** for assistance.
 - The resident offered to share security footage of reckless driving with the State Police.
 - The intersection of **Richardson Road** was noted as dangerous; discussion included potential lighting or road markings to improve safety.

Steve noted that a **scoping study** completed three years ago addressed this intersection and proposed flashing signs. The Town accepted the study, which was sent to the State. The Town would be responsible for approximately **20%** of the project cost, pending State approval.

Residents were encouraged to contact local legislators for support in expediting safety measures.

- **Speed Control on Dirt Roads:** Discussion followed regarding **Emery, Richardson, and Spencer Roads**, and whether the Town could install speed bumps or yield signs. Kevin explained that such changes require **VTrans** approval. Speed bumps are difficult to maintain during winter plowing, and the hill grades make them impractical.
 - **Horse Riders Safety:** A resident noted that horses travel along **Notch Trail, Emery, Spencer, and Cyr Roads** into Washington, and that trail signage is needed. Kevin stated he would order **six trail signs** for installation to improve visibility and safety.
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10. Truck Purchase Update

Steve reported that the Town bid **\$28,700** for a truck and has **five days to respond**. Steve will contact the auction house tomorrow. Bill suggested negotiating to offer a higher amount in exchange for a reduced commission.

11. Budget Carryover Discussion

The Board discussed whether unspent funds should be moved into the **General Fund** or carried over into the next budget. Steve noted that this will be determined as part of the ongoing budget process.

12. Adjournment

At **7:19 PM**, a motion was made by Steve Simpson to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Wilson. **All in favor.**

Next Regular Meeting: October 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hallenbeck, Town Clerk