

Town of Orange
Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes
July 8th, 2025

The Special Meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order in person by SB Chair Steve Simpson 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, Carmella Tucker, Ginny Raboin, Mike Raboin, and Ernest Wilson, Sr.

Approve Agenda

- SB Chair Simpson stated that an update to the Fire Warden position is to be completed before the Payable Warrant, and that there will be changes to the Update on Town Clerk and Town Treasurer to include Road Foreman.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the agenda with the additions mentioned. SB Member Paya seconded.

Fireworks Permit

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the Fireworks Permit as presented. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Payable Warrant

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the Warrant as presented. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

Update on Town Clerk and Town Treasurer

A. SB Chair Simpson shared that the Board had narrowed Town Clerk candidates down to one, who has since declined an offer from the Board. He also shared that they have identified a candidate and extended an offer for Town Treasurer, which has been accepted.

a. Tim Stone inquired as to if all members of the Board agreed on the hiring of this candidate. SB Chair Simpson clarified that was correct.

b. Sheila Stone inquired as to if this was the same individual that was hired previously. SB Chair Simpson stated that he is not.

B. SB Chair Simpson stated that the Road Foreman has submitted his resignation as of Sunday, July 6th. He shared that there was a job description from 2022 that would be put online.

- a. Tim Stone inquired as to if the Town should do something to thank John for his years of service to the Town.
- b. Sheila Stone inquired as to if the Board had considered asking Matt Wadsworth if he would be interested in the position. General discussion occurred regarding the possibility and logistics of this.
- c. Ginny Raboin inquired as to if the resignation was effective immediately or if there was a time period. SB Chair Simpson stated that it was effective immediately.

Washington Electric Permit

- SB Vice Chair Wilson shared that the Town has received a permit application from Washington Electric to place a pole on Riddel Pond Road to allow electric access to a property on the road.

SB Vice Chair Wilson moved to approve the Washington Electric permit for 129 Riddel Pond Road. SB Chair Simpson seconded.

John McNeil – Set Tax Rate

A. Lister John McNeil presented supporting evidence for the Tax Rate, including Town Meeting Minutes, the Grand List, and State Statute.

a. SB Chair Simpson inquired as to what the next step is. Mr. McNeil clarified that the Board is to approve the Tax Rate by the end of the week.

SB Member Paya moved to approve the Municipal Tax Rate for this year at 0.8421, and the Veterans Rate at 0.0069. SB Vice Chair Wilson seconded.

Public Comment

- Mike Raboin addressed SB Member Paya, and stated that someone had requested on Facebook the number for the Town Highway Department, and that she had responded with the Town Garage phone number and named the Road Crew employees, as well as suggesting the resident contact her directly. He inquired as to why she did not give the Road Commissioner's name as a first point of contact. SB Member Paya responded that she does not have the phone number of the Road Commissioner. Mr. Raboin expressed the feeling that the Selectboard should be able to work well together regardless of personal opinions.
- Carmella Tucker expressed the feeling that in recent meetings, fingers have been pointed at one specific Board member, and that the Town elected the Board

members that they wanted on the Board, as well as the feeling that the current Board allows excessive public participation.

- Ginny Raboin inquired as to if any thought had been given by a Board member to stepping down, in regard to the meeting to discuss the Ethics Complaint, and if any steps have been taken toward resolution.
- Sheila Stone stated that she can attend any meeting of the Town that she wishes.
- Tim Stone stated that he has been attending Selectboard meetings, and that he felt insulted by statements that the public should not participate in meetings. He also shared that he has not personally attacked any Selectboard member, but that he would like residents to feel pride in the Town, and that he has concerns for a lack of transparency.

SB Member Paya moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by SB Chair Simpson.

Respectfully submitted, Chelsea E. Magwire Town Clerk