

Town of Orange
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday, November 10, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Orange Town Complex

Present:

Selectboard Members: Steve Simpson (Chair), Kevin Wilson, Kristin Paya

Others Present: Diane Hallenbeck, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone, John McNeil, Bill Crowther, George (Pat) Chamberlain

Call to Order

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

Approve Agenda

Kevin made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

Kevin made a motion to approve the October 27, 2025, meeting minutes. Kristin seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Reminder of Selectboard Rules: All questions and communications should be directed to Chair Steve Simpson.

Agreement with Town of Washington

Discussion regarding shelving that holds land records, currently stored in the Town of Washington. Two sets of Orange's shelves are on loan and will be returned if/when needed. Kevin requested that this arrangement be put in writing for future reference. Diane H. will prepare a written agreement for submission at the next Selectboard meeting. Kristin made a motion to proceed. Kevin seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Warrants / Payroll

Payroll: Kevin made a motion to approve payrolls for 11/01 and 11/08. All in favor. Motion passed.

Accounts Payable:

- Steve is still reviewing the Consolidated Internet bill for the garage.
 - Kevin abstained from one warrant due to conflict of interest.
 - MVP account: Diane H. is now listed as administrator instead of Steve.
 - Aubuchon account to be changed to Diane W.
 - Worksafe account to be updated to Matt Wadsworth instead of John B.
 - Steve made a motion to reimburse Kevin for locks. Kristin seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Kevin made a motion to approve the remaining AP warrants. All in favor. Motion passed.
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Road Commissioner Report

- Highway Update: Maintenance work continues in preparation for winter. Tires have been found throughout town and are being picked up promptly at a cost of \$10 per tire.
- Salt Shed Grant: Diane H. submitted the grant for the proposed salt shed. Estimated cost: \$680,000 for a 45x65 three-bay structure for salt and sand with no runoff. Kevin and Matt completed preparatory work.
- Drainage Issue (East Orange): Water runoff entering a basement near the town line. The phone company (Chris Davis) was supposed to work on this issue and report back to the town. Kevin to follow up. Joe Blodgett may assist; an agreement will be needed. Kevin to explore feasibility and possible easement. John noted a permit may be required due to proximity to septic.

- Pictures of Tucker Road to be uploaded to the shared drive and sent to Steve. Administrative time on grant documentation is billable.
 - Bridge Work: Awaiting estimate for insurance. Bocash may perform cement work on Tucker Road bridge, similar to Spencer Road, with steel posts bolted to bridge sides. Work must be completed this year due to safety concerns. Matt to obtain a guardrail quote from Lafayette.
 - Reservoir Road: Patching not yet done but expected soon.
 - Equipment: Discussion of new salt resources — discussion of rubber guards for wheel sides of 2022 international truck.
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Town Clerk Report

- Final week for accepting tax payments.
 - Demonstrations of HeyGov and Municipay were held; Municipay appears to be the better option.
 - Hall Rentals: Discussed whether to limit private rentals to town residents due to ongoing cleaning issues on Sunday mornings before church services. Diane H. and Diane W. to discuss developing a new agreement requiring a credit card for deposits, refundable after the event.
 - Salt Shed Grant: Submitted by deadline; still awaiting letter of support from Keith at the Regional Planning Commission. Award announcements expected in March.
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Budget Discussion

Bill Crowther presented a budget report for Fiscal Year 2022–23 and plans to use it to compare trends with the current 2025–26 budget. He noted that his current report does not include all the detailed material Kristin has compiled. John will assist in consolidating the information in Excel for easier analysis. Bill mentioned that current tax revenue figures are inconsistent, and he will follow up with Darlene on Friday for clarification.

Public Comment

Tim Stone:

- Discussed lawn mowing budget (\$10,000–\$12,000) and suggested using town staff instead of contractors to save costs.
- Noted that roadside mowing was skipped this year though it was budgeted; Steve confirmed funds remain in the general fund and could be reallocated.
- Recommended alternating roadside mowing every other year to save money.
- Praised recent shimming work on Reservoir Road and requested additional shimming next spring.

George “Pat” Chamberlain:

- Discussed high-speed traffic and accidents in the area of Richardson Road and Route 302. Steve noted that the contract with the Sheriff’s Department was not renewed; their coverage was limited to weekdays during certain hours.
- Scoping study was recently submitted to the State of Vermont. Assistance is being sought for safety strategies, including improved signage and lighting. Residents may need to contact state representatives.

ATV Use on Richardson Road:

- Richardson Road allows crossing via George Street per prior board approval.
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Adjournment

Kevin made a motion to adjourn. Steve seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, November 24, 2025