

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2026
Orange Town Complex

Early Start: Executive Session prior to regular meeting

In Attendance: Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Kristin Paya, Diane Hallenbeck, Eric Holmgren, Lisa Lee, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone, William Crowther, Safeline Representatives

5:30 PM – Executive Session

- Meeting called to order.
- Executive session, Personnel – 1 V.S.A. § 313 (Executive Sessions), Vermont Legislature

5:55 PM – Return to Regular Meeting

- Meeting reconvened at 6:02 PM
 - **Approve Agenda**
 - Motion: Steve Simpson
 - Second: Kevin Wilson
 - Vote: All in favor with additions: Certificate of Highway Miles, Mowing RFP, Dam Safety / Lease discussion (new 5-year lease replacing 2008 lease)
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Certificate of Highway Miles

- Motion to approve as printed
- Motion: Kevin Wilson
- Second: Steve Simpson
- Vote: All in favor

Mowing RFP

- Draft prepared; Will be posted for 30 days; bids to open at the following Selectboard meeting
- Workers' compensation required per state law for any employees

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- December 8, 22 & 31 minutes approved with notation regarding underspending of highway fund.
- December 12 and 16 minutes to be presented at the next meeting

Selectboard Announcements

Bill Crowther has submitted his notice; last day is January 23, 2026. He cited personal reasons and shared the role has been more demanding than anticipated. Diane Hallenbeck will serve as Interim Treasurer and Town Clerk while a search is conducted for a permanent Town Clerk. Diane is transitioning from full-time to part-time due to family changes

Warrants / Payroll

- Payroll (01/12/26, 12/30/25, 01/05/26) approved
 - Motion: Kevin Wilson
 - Second: Steve Simpson
 - Vote: All in favor
- Accounts Payable approved
 - Motion: Steve Simpson
 - Second: Kristin Paya
 - Vote: All in favor (Kevin abstained due to being on the warrant)

- Kevin to call Consolidated for internet billing adjustments

Road Crew Report

- Complaint on Jan 2 regarding roads. It was investigated; fire hydrants were properly cleared after icy conditions resolved.
- Vermont State Police complimented roads; best conditions seen in years
- Tucker Road inspection by Allstate scheduled next week
- Diane Waters requested photos of new truck for newsletter; Kevin to assist
- Discussion on relocating water system in town garage

Town Clerk Report

- Dog licensing, town report, Town Meeting training (Feb), FEMA training updates provided
- Discussion of bouncy house use at Town Hall (6x9 for 3 children); Diane Hallenbeck to check with PACIF regarding insurance advise

Public Comment

- Eric: Discussed chloride vs oil for icy road, for dust control; he will research cost and supply
- Lisa Lee: Orange County Restorative Justice appropriations – exception noted for fewer than required signatures; approved with notation
- Safeline: Local services expanded from 4 to 18 residents; exception noted for signatures; approved
- Eric: Recommended public comment before hiring an appointed Town Clerk for transparency and input.
- Tim: Suggested hiring a non-resident and having town resident involved in the hiring process

Treasurer Report

- Electronic tax filings progressing; W2 code issue may require third-party assistance

Budget Discussion

- Highway info pending to complete spreadsheet; delinquent taxes and grants not included in income projections
 - Planning for 5 upcoming tax sales; discussed upfront costs
 - Equipment and infrastructure needs: trucks, grader, town garage
 - Town report deadline: February 1
 - Warrant approval scheduled for next meeting (Jan 26)
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Adjournment

- Motion: Kevin Wilson
- Second: Kristin Paya
- Vote: All in favor
- Time: 8:11 PM

Next Scheduled Meeting: January 26, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Hallenbeck, Town Clerk