

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
January 21, 2026
Orange Town Complex

The special meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order at 6:41 PM.

In Attendance: Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Kristin Paya, Diane Hallenbeck, David Childs, and Bill Crowther

Agenda

Steve Simpson moved to approve the agenda with the addition of an executive session following the current meeting, the signing of an MPG Grant, and the addition of payroll.

Kevin Wilson made the motion to approve; Kristin Paya seconded.

All were in favor.

Town Meeting Warning & Budget Discussion

- David Childs reviewed the upcoming Town Meeting warning.
 - David explained that appropriations would be combined, with the two differing articles placed at the end of the warning so the remaining articles could be consolidated separately.
 - Discussion included the importance of having someone available at Town Meeting to explain all budget line items, possibly Kristin Paya, as anticipated tax increases may generate significant discussion.
 - Steve Simpson noted the Town is still owed over \$200,000 from FEMA, with weekly meetings ongoing. These funds are reserved for the Town.
 - It was noted that last year's budget should have been approximately \$100,000 higher, and that grant funds cannot be counted as operating budget revenue. Additional discussion followed regarding grants.
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Additional Budget Discussion

- Discussion included listing delinquent tax names and amounts in the Town Report. Town Report discussion included: Delinquent taxes – list and graph
 - Bill Crowther will correct the budget worksheet based on the discussion. An informational meeting one week prior to Town Meeting was discussed.
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Executive Session

Motion: Kevin Wilson moved to enter Executive Session for personnel matters pursuant to **1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3)**.

Second: Steve Simpson.

Vote: All in favor.

The Board entered Executive Session at **8:02 PM**.

Motion: Kevin Wilson moved to exit Executive Session.

Second: Steve Simpson.

Vote: All in favor.

The Board exited Executive Session at **8:18 PM**.

No action was taken.