

TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2025
Orange Town Hall

The regular meeting of the Town of Orange Selectboard was called to order at **6:03 PM** by Chair **Steve Simpson** at the **Orange Town Hall. In Attendance** Steve Simpson, Kevin Wilson, Kristin Paya, Diane Hallenbeck, Ernest Wilson Sr., Ray Rossi, John McNeil, Tim Stone, Sheila Stone, William Crowther, Lee Cattaneo.

Approve Agenda

Motion: Kevin Wilson

Second: Steve Simpson

Vote: All in favor

Review Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) Grant

All funds are covered by the grant with **no cost to the Town**. The project qualifies under hardship provisions, so no upfront payment is required. RFPs will soon be prepared for the upcoming building season.

6:20 PM – Warrants / Payroll

Payroll:

- Weeks of **12/13/25** and **12/20/25**
- **Motion:** Kevin Wilson
- **Second:** Steve Simpson
- **Vote:** All in favor

Warrants:

- **Motion:** Kevin Wilson
- **Second:** Steve Simpson
- **Vote:** All in favor

MVP Renewal:

- **Motion:** Kevin Wilson
 - **Second:** Steve Simpson
 - **Vote:** All in favor
 - **Action:** Steve Simpson signed the renewal.
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FEMA Correspondence

Steve Simpson asked Lee Cattaneo about a FEMA letter he received. Lee reported that he signed up for the program and forwarded information to Central Vermont Regional Planning Commission. Lee said that the flood maps have not yet been released online; posting is expected **January 9, 2026**. The last map update was in **1985**. John McNeil noted mapping was done for the lower basin but not the upper basin. Steve recommended posting the maps on the Town website once released.

6:35 PM – Road Commissioner (RC) Report

Keith, Kevin, Lee, and Matt inspected several areas in town. A **\$50,000 safety grant** is being pursued; quotes will be obtained. Keith will prepare maps and photos. This is a **state grant with federal funds** and **no cost to the Town**, including no matching requirement. Labor performed by the Town will be covered.

Additional updates: Ideas for equipment rental to remove ledge on Riddel Pond Road.

- Road crew purchased new rainproof coats, working well.
 - The smaller truck is back in service and on the road.
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Town Clerk (TC) Report

Annual Town Report

- Printing contract for the Town Report – 3 bids were reviewed. L. Brown was voted on as printing this year.
- **Motion:** Steve Simpson, **Second:** Kevin Wilson, **Vote:** All in favor

Town Hall Climate Monitoring

- Installation of a temperature and humidity sensor in the Town Hall.
- New thermostat was installed after AC was left on. The new thermostat doesn't have that option.

Town Hall Rental:

- New policy discussed and agreed upon. Diane H to update the website
- **Formal Motion:** Kevin Wilson, **Second:** Steve Simpson, **Vote:** All in favor

6:50 PM – Public Comment

Ernest Wilson Sr. briefly mentioned a motor vehicle accident on Reservoir Road. A Barre Town Police officer made positive comments regarding the Orange Road Crew. General discussion touched on challenges related to alcohol-related behavior.

7:05 PM – Treasurer's Report

Definitions discussed:

- **Allocate:** To set aside money for a specific purpose.
- **Transfer:** To move funds from one budget line to another.

Bill Crowther presented a worksheet and a cleaned-up budget maintenance report. Sheila Stone mentioned that some line items may be duplicated as she had noticed in the past. Bill will look for those.

7:10 PM – Budget Discussion

The Planning Commission has been allocated **\$1,000 annually** but was unaware of the funding. The balance will be carried forward, and another \$1,000 will be allocated for the coming year.

Additional budget discussions were held. A meeting with the **Road Foreman** is needed.

The **Recreation Committee** was thanked for the lit tree in the gazebo. It's well admired by the town staff and residents.

Adjournment

Motion: Steve Simpson

Second: Kevin Wilson

Vote: All in favor

Time: 7:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hallenbeck, Town Clerk