

**TOWN OF ORANGE
SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2025
Orange Town Complex**

In Attendance: Selectboard members **Steve Simpson (Chair)**, Kevin Wilson, and Kristin Paya were present. Also in attendance were **Diane Hallenbeck, John McNeil, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone, William Crowther, and Michael Raboin, Jr.**

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 PM** by Chair **Steve Simpson**.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda

- Kevin requested an executive session for a personnel matter. Statutory Authority: 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) – *Personnel Matters*
- Add salt pricing (per Kevin).

Motion to approve the agenda with additions: Kevin; **Second:** Steve. *All in favor.*

6:05 PM – Executive Session (Personnel)

- **Motion** to enter Executive Session: Kevin; **Second:** Steve. *All in favor.*
 - Entered at **6:05 PM**.
 - Returned to open session at **6:28 PM**. No action taken.
 - Kristin left the meeting due to a family matter.
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6:05 PM – Approve Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Motion** to approve minutes with corrections: *All in favor.*

SB Rules

- All comments are to be directed to the Chair.
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6:10 PM – MERP Signed Contract

- Contract has not yet been returned. Item rescheduled.
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6:15 PM – Town Hall Use Discussion

- Review Milton agreement for format.
 - Consider lock box/photo credit card option instead of a deposit.
 - Proposed full-day price: **\$150**.
 - Add “trash removal” to the agreement.
 - Lighting motion sensors and WiFi thermostat were discussed.
 - Send draft to Sheila Stone for input.
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6:20 PM – Warrants

- Road crew currently using personal vehicles; still waiting for town vehicle repairs.

Payroll Warrants:

- **Motion** to approve payroll warrants for **12/6** and **11/29**: Kevin; **Second:** Steve. *All in favor.*

Accounts Payable:

- **Motion** to approve AP warrant: Kevin; **Second:** Steve. *All in favor.*
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6:35 PM – Road Crew Report

- **Mowing RFP** will be issued this week.

- Discussion regarding road crew purchasing their own uniforms and receive a stipend; current uniforms are flammable.
- Garage water issue last week—Green Mountain Pump serviced it; system working now. Tank lifespan ~15–20 years.
- Tank location near vehicle entrance is unsafe; Kevin recommends relocating it.
- Maintenance scheduled for the garage Wednesday per Kevin.
- Broken window panel needs replacement.
- **Tim Stone:** Strong Road may need a new plowing procedure for big storms; Kevin will address. Roads are in good condition. Road crew is doing a good job.
- **Mike:** Rumors circulating that the Town is running out of sand—Steve clarified we are not and have adequate supply.
 - Equipment safety rumors addressed: Kevin confirmed trucks are DOT safe; independent inspections are scheduled.

Sand & Salt Discussion

- Tim thanked the Board for shutting down the pit, noting significant cost savings.
- Remaining sand is being used only on blacktop roads; granite sand reserved for back roads.
- Mixing sand and salt for paved roads has been effective.
- Mike thanked Kevin for improved road conditions under his leadership.

Salt Pricing

- Quote for **150 tons at \$101.75/ton.**
- **Motion** to authorize Chair to sign salt contract: Steve; **Second:** Kevin. *All in favor.*

6:45 PM – Town Clerk Report

- Obtained three printing quotes for the Town Report. Board to decide at the next meeting.
- Survey discussion regarding whether to print and mail town reports.
- Clerk to update rental agreement to begin January 1st.

Public Comment

Mike:

- Raised concerns regarding social media posts made by Selectboard member Kristin on the “Orange Resident Chat” Facebook page, including deleted comments.
- Believes this behavior may constitute an ethics issue and undermines the Board.
- Reiterated he is not seeking out Facebook posts; others informed him.
- He was accused of stalking and harassment for requesting public documents.

Sheila:

- Recommended contacting Town Attorney regarding deleted public documents if applicable.

Discussion:

- Kevin showed Steve a printed copy of December 4, 2025, post in question.
- Steve reiterated that individual posts do not represent the Selectboard.
- Access to the FB page is limited.
- Mike emphasized need for mutual respect and professionalism among Board members.
- Tim noted Selectboard members should treat residents respectfully.

Action:

- Steve will speak with the Town Attorney.

Treasurer Report

- Positive progress made with Cemetery Commission (“olive branch”).

- Rec Committee request to roll over **\$5,000** of unspent money into FY26, along with fundraising funds.

Mowing & Insurance

- **Motion:** Mowing and insurance to come from the general fund for FY25 & FY26.
 - *Both motions approved unanimously.*

Auditor

- Auditor requires additional information, and Bill is seeking guidance from Darlene.
- Wants to review records prior to 2022.
- Needs depreciation schedule for vehicles; previous auditor stated none exists.

Cemetery Budget

- **Motion** to carry over **\$7,165.47** from FY25 into FY26 as fund balance.
- **Motion** to move **\$5,845.00** in lot sales to FY26 instead of moving to Perpetual Care Fund to avoid transaction fees.
 - *All motions approved unanimously.*

Next Budget Meeting: **Friday, 8:30 AM at Town Hall.**

- Anticipating that Matt will attend to discuss highway budget.

8:10 PM – Adjourn

Motion to adjourn: Kevin; **Second:** Steve. *All in favor.*