

Orange Selectboard Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2026
Orange Town Complex

Present: Steve Simpson, Kristin Paya, Kevin Wilson, Diane Hallenbeck, Eric Holmgren, Sheila Stone, Tim Stone

5:15 PM – Executive Session

Location: Town Clerk's Office

Purpose: Personnel (pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3))

Kevin Wilson made a motion to enter Executive Session at 5:18 PM. Seconded by Kristin Paya.

All in favor.

Kevin Wilson made a motion to exit Executive Session at 5:49 PM. Seconded by Kristin Paya.

No action taken.

6:00 PM – Resume Regular Meeting

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM.

Approval of Agenda – 6:05 PM

Kevin Wilson requested the addition of:

- Bridge and Road Standards form
- Estimate for garage lighting

Motion to approve amended agenda.

All in favor.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **January 26, 2026:** Motion to approve by Kevin Wilson, second by Steve Simpson.
All in favor.
 - **February 5, 2026:** Motion to approve by Kevin Wilson, second by Kristin Paya.
All in favor.
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Warrants

Large warrant presented due to winter sand purchases. Kevin Wilson reviewed yet excused himself from voting as he is included in the warrant.

Discussion included:

- Salt usage (1–2 loads remaining)
- Road crew requesting to discontinue Cintas uniforms
- Town reimbursed crew for new coats due to Cintas coats retaining water

Motion to approve warrants by Kristin Paya, second by Steve Simpson.

All in favor.

Payroll

Motion to approve payroll for:

- 01/12–01/21
- 02/09

Noted overtime due to Saturday work.

Motion by Kevin Wilson, second by Steve Simpson.

All in favor.

Budget Discussion

Budget was finalized at the previous meeting. Eric Holmgren raised concerns regarding discrepancies between current budget numbers and prior town reports. Other concerns discussed.

Steve Simpson requested Eric highlight specific areas of concern for review.

Town Report

Town Report has been sent to the printer.

Echo School Discussion

Echo School is owned by the Supervisory Union and serves as the town's designated emergency shelter. Discussion held regarding contingency planning if the school ever closes. It was noted the building might potentially be sold back to the town in that case.

Road Commissioner Report

- Garage sealing work underway
- Green Mountain Pumps preparing estimate to relocate water and install new tank
- Steve Simpson to sign Bridge and Road Standards form.

Motion by Kevin Wilson, second by Steve Simpson.

All signed. All in favor.

Lords Road Bridge

Extension filing required. Estimated repair cost approximately \$300,000.

Discussion included:

- Whether a pedestrian bridge is necessary (3 residences on road)
 - Possibility of reopening Class 4 road during repairs
 - Dam owned by Barre City
 - Eric mentioned that the Parks Department is leasing bridges for logging (waterway protection concerns). We would need necessary abutments and insurance
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Garage Improvements

New lighting and exhaust fan needed due to inadequate lighting.

- Diane Hallenbeck to check with Efficiency Vermont and a PACIF Grant.
- Martineau Electric provided estimate
- Request for additional estimate for exhaust fan and rewiring
- Water hookup included

Motion to accept quote not to exceed \$1,600, including water hookup, by Kevin Wilson.

Second by Steve Simpson.

All in favor.

Treasurer / Town Clerk Report

Meeting scheduled with David Childs and Justice of the Peace to plan for upcoming Town Meeting.

Holding interviews for open Town Clerk position.

Public Comment

Eric Holmgren requested development of a new budget.

Discussion regarding audits:

- Audit funding has been budgeted annually
- Last audited year: 2020–2021
- 2022 and 2023 reconciled but not ready for audit
- Board accepted 2024 audit bid
- Recommendation from auditor to begin with 2024, then complete 2022 and 2023
- Suggestion made to consider using \$30,000 to audit prior years instead of moving forward

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Steve Simpson, second by Kevin Wilson.

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diane Hallenbeck
Town Clerk