

Town of Orange
Town Meeting 2026

The annual meeting of the Town of Orange was called to order by Moderator David Childs at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, in the Orange Town Hall.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, a moment of silence, and introductions, the meeting proceeded to Article 1 to elect a Moderator. David Childs was nominated for the ensuing year and, there being no further nominations, was elected. The rules for the meeting were announced.

Article 2:

John McNeil noted corrections to the Annual Town Report. Scott Edwards and Lisa Allard had been inadvertently included on the delinquent tax list on page 21. The Highway Fund totals on page 35 were inaccurate for Total Actual Expenditures 2024 and 2025. Cheryl Farnum also corrected the spelling of her name in the minutes of the 2025 Town Meeting. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Town Report as corrected. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 3:

Susan Childs nominated Carmella Tucker for a three-year Selectboard term. Gary Eggleston nominated Kevin Wilson for a three-year Selectboard term. Ballots were cast with 105 votes counted. Carmella Tucker received 62 votes and Kevin Wilson received 43 votes. Carmella Tucker was elected.

John McNeil nominated Ed Bedard for a three-year term as Lister. There being no other nominations, the Town Clerk was directed to cast one ballot to elect Ed Bedard.

Emily Ruff nominated Nick Livingston for a three-year term as Cemetery Commissioner. Kevin Wilson nominated Mike Raboin Jr. Ballots were cast with 91 votes counted. Nick Livingston received 58 votes, Mike Raboin Jr. received 31 votes, and there were two spoiled ballots. Nick Livingston was elected.

During ballot counting, Representative Mike Tagliavia addressed the assembly with legislative updates and answered questions. Janis Blais provided a Recreation Committee update, including information on community events and plans for improvements to the recreation field. Siobhan Perricone also provided an update on community fiber expansion.

Article 4:

Motion was made and seconded to set compensation for elected Town Officers as printed in the Warning: Selectboard Members at \$2,000 per year, Lister at \$20 per hour, and Cemetery Commissioners at \$25 per hour. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 5:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize General Fund expenditures for operating expenses in the amount of \$457,938.00, of which \$313,818.00 would be raised by taxes and \$144,120.00 by non-tax revenues. After extensive discussion regarding the accuracy of certain figures in the Town

Report and questions regarding prior audits and budget preparation, a vote was taken. Article 5 was defeated.

Article 6:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize Highway Fund expenditures in the amount of \$740,544.00, of which \$665,199 would be raised by taxes and \$75,345 by non-tax revenues. After discussion, the article was voted down.

Article 7:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize the Town to provide notice of availability of the annual report in lieu of mailing the report pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1682(a)(2). An amendment was proposed to allow citizens to opt out of receiving the printed report. The amendment failed on a voice vote. The article was then voted on and failed by a voice vote.

Article 8:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize the Town to provide the Town newsletter electronically by posting it on the Town website in lieu of mailing a paper copy. After discussion, the article failed by division of the house, with 33 opposed and 29 in favor.

Article 9:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Selectboard, to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, grants, and funds allocated by the State and Federal Government. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Articles 10–20:

Without objection, the Moderator combined Articles 10–20. Motion was made and seconded to raise \$8,275 to support the requests contained in these articles. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 21:

Motion was made and seconded to authorize payment of property taxes in two installments with due dates of August 17, 2026, and November 17, 2026. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 22:

Motion was made and seconded to set the date and time of Town Meeting 2027 for Tuesday, March 2, 2027 at 6:00 p.m. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Article 23:

Under other business, Lee Cattaneo encouraged residents to participate in the upcoming update of the Town Plan. Janis Blais reminded residents about Green Up Day and opportunities to volunteer. Discussion also included a suggestion to consider reinstating a Board of Auditors.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hallenbeck

Town Clerk