

Town of Orange, Vermont
Selectboard Meeting Minutes
March 23, 2026
Orange Town Hall

Present: Steve Simpson, Carmella Tucker, John McNeil, Ginny Raboin, Kevin Wilson, Philo Raboin, Michelle Boyer, Michael Raboin Jr., Diane Hallenbeck, Eric Holmgren, Ernest Wilson

1. Call to Order

Steve called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

2. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

Carmella requested to move Animal Control to 6:15 p.m. and to add Batchelder audit discussion to the budget discussion.

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **March 9, 2026 Minutes:** Correction noted – Janis Blais’ name misspelled.

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

- **March 17, 2026 Minutes:** Correction noted – Lord’s Bridge extended to 2027

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

4. Public Comment

Steve read a summary of Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) public comment guidelines outlining time limits, decorum, and process.

Michael Raboin Jr. asked if the Selectboard was aware of a financial policy adopted by the Town in 2023 and shared portions of the policy with the board.

5. Animal Control Officer Contract

Michelle Boyer read and signed the Animal Control Officer contract in person with Steve.

6. Town Clerk Update

The Selectboard has identified a candidate for the Town Clerk position. Background checks were positive, and negotiations are ongoing. If successful, the appointment will be brought before the board.

7. Appointment of Tree Warden

No response has been received from George Wilde following outreach.
Item tabled. Carmella will follow up.

8. Road Commissioner Discussion

The board discussed the Road Commissioner position and noted that a formal job description was never approved. Kevin Wilson, Eric Holmgren, and Ben Shaw have expressed interest. Discussion tabled until Kristin is present.

9. Payroll and Warrants

- Payroll (3/14 and 3/21) approved
- Warrants approved

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

10. Budget Discussion

Brook & Field Service Contracts (Generators):

- Town Clerk’s Office generator service contract approved not to exceed \$800
- Town Garage generator service contract approved not to exceed \$800

Motion: Carmella / Steve

Second: Steve / Carmella

Vote: All in favor

Batchelder Audit Engagement:

Audit costs are higher than budgeted. Batchelder estimates up to \$35,000 per year for audits (2022–2025), with work beginning April 2026. Total potential cost not to exceed \$140,000.

Motion: Authorize Selectboard Chair to sign engagement letters for audits (2022–2025) not to exceed \$140,000, with expectation of completion in FY2025

Motion: Carmella

Second: Steve

Vote: All in favor

Budget Revote Planning:

- David Childs available May 1 for revote
- Budget forum scheduled for April 20 at 6:00 p.m.
- Tax packets expected April 15

Discussion included concerns about increasing the salt budget and potential adjustments to warning figures after meeting with Darlene.

Proposed Warning Amounts:

- **General Fund:** \$598,238
 - \$446,618 raised by taxes
 - \$151,620 raised by non-tax revenue
- **Highway Fund:** \$666,344
 - \$590,999 raised by taxes
 - \$75,345 raised by non-tax revenue

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

11. Executive Session (Legal and Personnel Matters – 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) and § 313(a)(3))
Entered executive session at 7:11 p.m.

12. Exit Executive Session

Exited executive session at 7:44 p.m.

No action taken.

Motion: Steve

Second: Carmella

Vote: All in favor

Adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (Steve motion, Carmella second, all in favor).