

Town of Orange, Vermont
Selectboard Special Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2026
Orange Town Complex

Present: Steve Simpson, Carmella Tucker, Kristin Paya, Gary Eggleston, Lisa Allard, Scott Edwards, Kevin Wilson, Diane Hallenbeck

1. Call to Order and Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Steve Simpson.

Motion by Kristin Paya, second by Carmella Tucker, to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) at 5:31 p.m.

Vote: All in favor.

The Board exited Executive Session at 6:01 p.m.

Motion by Steve Simpson, second by Carmella Tucker.

Vote: All in favor.

No action taken.

2. Call to Order (Special Meeting)

The special meeting was called to order at 6:13 p.m. by Steve Simpson.

3. Agenda Adjustments and Approval

The Chair requested to add Better Back Roads (updated culvert inventory and grant application) following public comment and to add an additional executive session.

Motion by Kristin Paya, second by Carmella Tucker, to approve the agenda as amended.

Vote: All in favor.

4. Public Comment

The Chair read a summary of Vermont League of Cities & Towns (VLCT) public comment guidelines, including time limits and procedures.

Gary Eggleston asked whether towns are required to balance their budgets annually. Kristin Paya stated that the Town requires professional audits due to the absence of internal auditors and that the Town is proceeding accordingly.

5. Budget Packet and Discussion

Carmella Tucker presented updated fund balances and revised budget materials. The figures are accurate as of December 31 and were prepared with assistance from multiple individuals, including Darlene from NEMRC. The revised budget reflects an estimated 3.6% tax increase. Narrative explanations were developed to assist public understanding.

Lisa Allard noted that the total budget has decreased by over \$100,000.

The Chair requested identification of expenses that do not impact the tax rate.

Kevin Wilson inquired whether fund balances reconcile with bank accounts. Carmella Tucker confirmed they do.

It was noted that the Town Moderator will read the warning and that the Selectboard will present amended motions at the May 1 Town Meeting.

Motion by Carmella Tucker, second by Steve Simpson, to approve Budget Packet #2 and authorize posting to the Town website.

Vote: All in favor.

6. Road Erosion / Culvert Inventory Grant (Better Back Roads)

Discussion was held regarding a culvert and bridge inventory project. The last inventory was completed in 2018. The proposed project will create an electronic inventory, including mapping and labeling, accessible via tablet.

Motion by Carmella Tucker, second by Kristin Paya, to authorize execution of the Better Back Roads Agreement.

Vote: All in favor.

7. Additional Discussion

Gary Eggleston suggested that the State assume responsibility for Tucker Road.

The Chair stated that traffic counts do not meet applicable thresholds and that the process is complex.

8. Executive Session

Motion by Kristin Paya, second by Carmella Tucker, to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) at 6:55 p.m.

Vote: All in favor.

The Board exited Executive Session at 7:32 p.m.

Motion by Steve Simpson, second by Kristin Paya.

Vote: All in favor.

No action taken.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Steve Simpson, second by Carmella Tucker, to adjourn.

Vote: All in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.