

TOWN OF ORANGE
MERP Grants Meeting Minutes
Friday, June 5, 2026 – 11:00 A.M.
Orange Town Office / Zoom

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **11:00 a.m.**

Present: Lee Cattaneo, Diane Hallenbeck, Sam Lash, Steve Simpson, Lee Youngman, Greg Colling, Carmella Tucker

Absent: Emily Ruff

2. Agenda Adjustments

No agenda adjustments were made.

Motion by Lee C., seconded by Steve S., to approve the agenda as presented.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

3. MERP Discussion and Action

The committee reviewed the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) project scope, contractor bids, and budget considerations. Discussion included prioritizing project elements to align with available grant funding and identifying items that may be removed from the scope to remain within budget. Members discussed the need to move quickly due to the construction season and contractor availability.

Discussion also included prioritizing accessibility improvements, including maintaining ADA funding for front door accessibility and the assisted listening system while considering removal of lower-priority items from the project scope.

Motion by Lee Y., seconded by Lee C., to recommend selection of Millbrook to the Selectboard as the preferred contractor for the MERP project, contingent upon contract negotiations to bring the project within budget and refinement of the project scope.

Discussion included authorizing continued negotiations to reduce project costs while preserving key project priorities and ensuring compliance with grant requirements. It was clarified that contractor selection would be based on qualifications, with final contract terms and pricing to return to the Selectboard for approval.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Underground Storage Tank Update

An update was provided regarding removal of underground fuel tanks at the Town Clerk's Office and Town Hall. Tanks were successfully removed, and contaminated soil from the Town Clerk's Office site was excavated and relocated to the Town Garage for temporary

storage pending state-funded disposal options. Engineering oversight was provided by Wheeler Engineering.

It was reported that costs for tank removal may come in under budget due to town assistance with excavation and hauling. Additional discussion included disposal of sludge material and coordination with state hazardous waste procedures.

Additional Discussion

Discussion occurred regarding preparation of the total project construction budget and upcoming negotiations with the selected contractor to refine project scope and costs. The Grant Committee will recommend Millbrook and request authorization for Greg Colling to work with the contractor to reduce project costs to remain within budget while identifying items that may be covered by the Town. The Selectboard will review the proposal at its meeting on **Monday, June 8, 2026**.

4. Adjourn

Motion by Lee C., seconded by Steve S., to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at **11:58 a.m.**
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Hallenbeck
Town Clerk