TOWN OF ORANGE SELECTBOARD
Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 8, 2026 – 6:00 P.M.
Orange Town Office Complex

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at **6:05 p.m.**
Present: Carmella Tucker, Kristin Paya, Steve Simpson, Diane Hallenbeck, AJ , John McNeil, Davis McCarthy, Bryce Limlaw, Brent Kidder, Jim Burt, Janis Blais, AJ Follensbee, Michael Tagliavia

2. Public Comment
Public comment included discussion regarding abandoned tires and park and ride criteria. Kevin Wilson addressed the Board regarding a public records request and expressed concerns regarding fees associated with gathering records.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the May 26, 2026, meeting minutes.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

4. Agenda Adjustments/Approval
Agenda adjustments included adding Errors & Omissions from the Listers Report following the UST update. Reservoir Road discussion was moved to the Road Foreman Report.
Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to approve the agenda as amended.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

5. Town Forest Discussion / Proposal
AJ presented an updated Town Forest harvest plan and provided maps outlining proposed harvest areas, including marked stands, ash management, and proposed roadwork improvements. Discussion included:

- Forest stand regeneration and ash tree management
- Addition of Stand 4 to increase timber volume and revenue
- Roadwork, stream crossings, ditching, and landing site improvements
- Potential use of town materials and road crew assistance
- Timing of summer versus winter logging
- Public engagement opportunities and informational walks

The Board discussed collaboration between AJ and the Road Foreman regarding roadwork needs and culvert options. AJ will prepare an RFP and return to the Board with additional information.
No action was taken.

6. Road Foreman Report / Reservoir Road
Discussion focused on the deteriorating condition of Reservoir Road. Matt recommended tearing up and rebuilding portions of the road rather than continuing temporary patching efforts. Discussion included:

- Potential use of grinders or drag boxes
- Seeking estimates and contractor options
- Grinding and keeping dirt with chloride until grants come through

- Michelle Redman from the State of Vermont to view road next week.
- Board trust Matt to explore – they trust his judgement

7. Warrants & Payroll Approval
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve warrants dated 06/08/2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
Discussion occurred regarding Merrimack invoices and allocation of costs between buildings. Diane will follow up regarding appropriate percentage allocation.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve payroll dated 05/30/2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to approve payroll dated 06/06/2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

8. MERP Discussion
The Grants Committee recommended **Millbrook** as the preferred contractor for the MERP project. Discussion included negotiations to refine project scope and ensure costs remain within budget.
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to authorize Greg Colling to negotiate with Millbrook regarding project scope and costs for the MERP project.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
Final scope and contract terms will return to the Selectboard for approval.

9. Executive Session
Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) Personnel Matter and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1) Legal Matter.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
The Board entered Executive Session at approximately **7:34 p.m.**
The Board exited Executive Session at approximately **7:59 p.m.**
No action was taken.

10. Town Clerk Discussion and Appointment
The Board reviewed Diane Hallenbeck's letter of resignation as Town Clerk.
Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to accept Diane Hallenbeck's resignation as Town Clerk effective June 15, 2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to appoint Diane Hallenbeck as Treasurer effective June 15, 2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to appoint Jonathan Danchik as Town Clerk effective June 15, 2026.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

11. Cutler Corner Culvert RFP

The Board opened and reviewed bids for engineering services for the Cutler Corner Culvert project: Bidders were Patrick Ross, PE, PLLC, Bowman Consulting Group Ltd, NE Consulting Engineers, LLC, and Otter Creek Engineering, Inc.
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to authorize Steve Simpson to review bids with Emergency Management and return a recommendation to the Selectboard.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
Bidders will be notified that proposals are under review.

12. Grader Contract
Discussion occurred regarding grader proposals
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to authorize the Chair to sign the grader purchase agreement with John Deere, with financing to be voted on at a later date.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

13. Purchasing Policy
Discussion postponed to the next meeting.

14. Junk Yard Discussion
The Board reviewed the Tom Stacy junkyard renewal.
Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the junkyard renewal.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.
Renewal will expire in **2031**.

16. Underground Storage Update
An update was provided regarding removal of two underground storage tanks. One tank was found to be leaking. Wheeler Engineering coordinated with the State throughout the process.
Excavation and backfilling were completed by town staff.
Contaminated material remains stored pending future state funding for disposal.

17. Listers Report / Errors & Omissions
John McNeil reviewed preliminary Grand List changes, including two fire losses, updates to the Lonestar Barn, and a new mobile home on Richardson Road.
Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve changes to the preliminary Grand List.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

18. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP)
Discussion occurred regarding training requirements and certification.
Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to authorize Steve Simpson to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan.
Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

19. Adjourn
Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to adjourn.
Meeting adjourned at **8:48 p.m.** Motion carried unanimously.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hallenbeck
Town Clerk