



Town of Orange
392 US Route 302
Orange, Vermont 05641
orangevt.org

Selectboard Meeting July 13, 2026

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 P.M.**

Present: Steve Simpson (SS), Carmella Tucker (CT), Kristin Paya (KP), John McNeil (JM), Diane Hallenbeck (DH), Tim Stone, Kevin Wilson

2. Public Comment

Concerns about the purchase of a new grader were relayed to the Selectboard. Additional discussion covered the use of Town roads by larger trucks. CT clarified that anyone appointed to a position by the Selectboard will be covered by worker's compensation in the course of their official duties. Further comment discussed progress in audits, hiring, and other high-priority projects.

No action was taken.

3. Approval: Prior Meeting Minutes

SS presented the minutes from the Town's May 1 special meeting, and clarified that they required approval as a point of parliamentary procedure.

Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to approve the May 1 special meeting minutes.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The Selectboard then examined the draft minutes which had been published for their last regular meeting on June 22.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the June 22 meeting minutes.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by KP, seconded by CT, to approve the minutes for the first of two special meetings which took place on June 26.

CT posed the question of whether meeting minutes should capture if a member of the public body is in attendance via phone.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the minutes for the first special meeting on June 26, while also directing the Town Clerk to indicate KP's attendance via phone.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The Selectboard then considered the meeting minutes for the second of two special meetings which took place on June 26.

Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to approve the minutes for the second special meeting on June 26.

Vote:

Aye: SS, CT

Nay: none

Abstention: KP, on the grounds that she was not present for the meeting

Motion carries.

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4. Approval: Agenda Adjustments

SS indicated that he would like to add approval for warrants and payroll to the agenda after the item concerning the tax rate. He also specified that he wanted to add consideration of the draft park & ride policy, which would be added to the agenda in the space following consideration of the draft purchasing policy.

Adjustments passed through unanimous consent in lieu of a traditional motion and second.

5. Approval: Tax Rate

JM delivered a heavily anticipated update on the tax rate for the coming year.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to accept and subsequently approve the tax rate as presented by the Board of Listers and their collective interpretation of State requirements.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval: Warrants & Payroll

The Selectboard considered warrants and three weeks of payroll due to training among the Town staff and the standard cadence of regular meetings. As they reviewed the documents, discussion shifted to recent weather events.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the three previous weeks of payroll.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The Selectboard further examined warrants and other forms of payment. Discussion also included health insurance, road conditions, and lawn mowing efforts within the Town.

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the warrants as discussed.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously

7. Approval: Updated Fee Schedule

The Selectboard reviewed proposed updates to the current fee schedule. CT indicated that the presented copies being marked “draft” posed complications for approval. SS said that the board was still able to approve the contents of the schedule, with Town staff producing versions not marked as a draft for signature at a later time. CT discussed a few examples of updated prices, and briefly covered new services for which the Town had proposed fees, such as electronic records requests being provided on physical media. SS voiced concerns about complications to the Town’s network security posture with the introduction of removable media, and said that he would seek clarification with the Town’s contracted IT support.

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the updated fee schedule as presented.

SS clarified that the document will need to be signed without being marked as a draft, but that otherwise the Selectboard would vote to approve its contents that day.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Approval: Public Records Request Policy

CT talked through proposed changes in the Town’s policy for processing public records requests.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the contents of the updated policy document, with the requirement that a copy not marked “draft” be presented for final signature.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

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9. Approval: Personnel Policy

CT explained proposed changes to the Town's personnel policy. SS directed the Town Clerk to distribute the policy for review within the next pay period.

Motion by SS, seconded by KP, to approve the proposed updates to the personnel policy.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

10. Approval: Purchasing Policy

CT explained proposed changes to the Town's purchasing policy.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to table the policy for additional updates. A final version of the policy will tentatively be considered for approval during the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on July 20.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

11. Approval: Park & Ride Policy

CT introduced a proposed policy for the park & ride outside of the Town Hall and Town Clerk's Office. The Selectboard agreed that, if approved, the policy should be posted on the Town buildings within the park & ride.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to approve the park & ride policy as presented.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

12. Update: Cutler Corner RFP (FEMA)

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to award the bid to Patrick Ross Engineering.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

13. Approval: Emergency Medical Services Contract

The Selectboard reviewed a proposed EMS contract from the Town of Barre for continued EMS support. The contract is largely the same as the one used previously, but proposed a five-year agreement as opposed to the former contract length of one year. Additionally, the Town of Barre included language limiting their ability to raise prices in a given year.

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the five-year EMS contract with the Town of Barre as presented. Given the formatting of the proposed document, the motion also included delegating authority to the Selectboard Chairman to sign on behalf of the Selectboard as a whole.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

14. Update: Fire Services

SS discussed Act 162 and its effects on processes by which the Town contracts with nearby municipalities for fire services. The Selectboard considered several challenges caused by the passage of Act 162 and identified information gaps for further analysis. SS promised additional updates at the Town and its partner organizations work towards greater understanding of new regulations.

No action was taken.

15. Town Clerk Report

The Town Clerk was not able to be present for the meeting due to continuing education commitments but left his report for SS to read into the record. It contained updates on current lines of effort, and listed notable items received at the office.

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No action was taken.

16. Road Foreman Report

The Selectboard did not receive a formal report from the Road Foreman, but discussed recent maintenance efforts, and reported on the vehicle auction discussed in the previous regular meeting.

No action was taken.

17. Approval: Employment Contract Amendment

The Selectboard discussed a proposed contract amendment for a Town employee to engage in situational telework.

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, that SS sign the amended contract on behalf of the Selectboard.

Further discussion: SS clarified that he had sought additional input from legal professionals, who gave their approval.

Vote: motion passed unanimously.

18. Adjourn

Motion by CT, seconded by KP, to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at **8:05 P.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Danchik
Town Clerk