



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

**Selectboard Special Meeting
June 26, 2026**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at **9:35 A.M.**

Present: Carmella Tucker (CT), Steve Simpson (SS), Jonathan Danchik (JD), Eric Holmgren, Kevin Wilson

Present via Phone: Kristin Paya (KP)

2. Discussion: Open Meeting Law Concern Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 312 and 314

The Selectboard acknowledged a concern brought to their attention which alleged a violation of 1 V.S.A. § 312. SS explained that the Selectboard intended to enter Executive Session for the purpose of deliberation.

No action was taken.

3. Executive Session

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to enter Executive Session.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:37 A.M.

The Board exited Executive Session at 9:48 A.M.

No action was taken.

4. Return to Regular Session

SS read the written complaint of the alleged open meeting violation into the record, and requested that the complainant explain the manner in which they felt aggrieved. The complainant explained that:

- They had provided public comment in a previous Selectboard meeting, but felt that the meaning of their comment was not adequately conveyed in the written meeting minutes.
- They were not mentioned by name in the public comment section for said meeting minutes, whereas another person who provided public comment was.
- They had raised these concerns in the public comment section of a later meeting, though the board did not amend the minutes in the manner they requested, approving them as they were initially presented for consideration.
- As the result of the aforementioned claims, they felt that they had suffered damage to their reputation.

The Selectboard responded that public bodies are not required to transcribe the comments and log the names of every individual who speaks during public comment. The Selectboard acknowledged that the complainant and one additional person were not listed as present at the meeting in question due to not signing in on the sign-in sheet provided, and discussed what constitutes a written response to an alleged complaint. It was affirmed that the publication of these written minutes satisfies the written response required per statute.

Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to:

- **State that the alleged violation did not occur.**
- **Amend the attendance record of the June 8 Selectboard meeting to include the names of two individuals who declined to sign in on the provided sheet.**

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Before bringing the matter for a vote, there was additional discussion on agenda items, various procedural points-of-order, and the exact definitions of “public body” and “active participant.” The complainant described additional alleged grievances.

Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to:

- **Amend the motion to state that an open meeting violation did occur.**
- **Limit the scope of the offense to the fact that two people who participated in the meeting but did not sign in were not listed as present. The minutes would therefore be amended to reflect that they were present.**

Further discussion examined the use of a sign-in sheet for meetings, and whether the chair of the Selectboard could refuse to recognize a speaker who did not sign the sign-in sheet. The complainant voiced disagreement with the Selectboard’s points, and walked out of the meeting.

No action was taken.

5. Adjourn

Citing a second meeting on the schedule, the Selectboard moved to adjourn.

Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to adjourn.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at **10:10 AM**

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Danchik
Town Clerk