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

Selectboard Meeting
August 10, 2026

1. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at **6:00 P.M.**
Present: Steve Simpson (SS), Carmella Tucker (CT), John McNeil (JM), Matt Wadsworth (MW), Dustin Comstock, Kevin Wilson
Present via telephone: Kristin Paya (KP)

2. Public Comments
SS opened the floor for public comment, though none were offered.
No action was taken.

3. Approval: July 27, 2026 and August 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes
Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve meeting minutes dated July 27.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve meeting minutes dated August 3.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval: Agenda Adjustments
JM put forth an agenda adjustment request to discuss delinquent tax collection, with the suggestion that, if approved, it be placed alongside another agenda item for which he was identified as the primary speaker.
Motion was adoption without a second.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

5. Discussion: Reservoir Road (ft. Dustin Comstock)
Mr. Comstock discussed variability in price points and the overall scope of work. He offered predictions for the overall lifespan of the road, and different ways to apply aggregate materials. CT mentioned financing difficulties for projects like these due to the Town's lack of audits going back several years – which presents difficulty in receiving loans and grants. MW asked clarifying questions about priorities of work. SS stressed the importance of having up-to-date audits for financial purposes. CT recalled previous efforts to address road conditions. Mr. Comstock reiterated the significance of this work, and his desire to improve road conditions in the Town.
Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to pave and repair 6,100 feet of the Plainfield side of Reservoir Road using Green Mountain Paving, and not to exceed the $50,000 limit established for the project.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

6. Road Foreman Report
MW discussed recent road maintenance efforts and culvert installations. He explained how weather developments can cause complications. He also mentioned possible grants for additional equipment, which could improve workflow efficiency. Mr. Comstock explored different potential

equipment configurations and the utility they could offer. MW, the Selectboard, and Mr. Comstock considered the merits of different materials and weather mitigation techniques.
No action was taken.

7. Approval: Warrants & Payroll
Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the payroll dated 8/14 and 8/7.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to approve the accounts payable warrant.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

8. Signature: Financial Resolution with M&T Bank for Motor Grader
SS and CT recounted efforts to explore financing options for a motor grader purchase. Options were limited due to the Town's multiple years of delinquency with audits.
Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to authorize the purchase of a grader through M&T Bank at a cost of $265,344.00.
Motion passed unanimously; document signed by SS and CT.

9. Approval & Signature: Annual Financial Plan – Town Highways
Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to approve and sign the financial plan as presented.
Motion passed unanimously; document signed by SS and CT.

10. Approval: RFP/Sand and Salt Shed MPM
SS explained that the Town had to pick from a limited list of pre-approved vendors provided by the state. He worked with the Treasurer to compare costs and merits of each firm.
Motion by CT to approve the RFP. No second was provided.
Motion passed unanimously.

11. Discussion: RFP Property Mapping (ft. John McNeil)
JM explained an invitation to bid for an updated mapping project to better match with the Grand List. He further explained that there is a small list of pre-approved vendors from which to choose. He reiterated that he didn't need a decision immediately, but wanted to keep the Selectboard informed as the Town gets closer to its next reappraisal.

JM also briefly mentioned two parcels which were ready to be put up for tax sale at the time of the meeting on account of delinquent payments. He advised the Selectboard that they must grant him permission to proceed with the tax sale process. CT thanked him for his explanation, and told JM that it would be beneficial to add further developments to the agenda in the next Selectboard meeting.
No action was taken.

12: Recreation Finance Report
CT explained steps she took to examine the Recreation Committee's fund balance, due to confusion between negative values, fund balances, and line items in the budget. She identified an accounting error spanning several years which, if adjusted, would more accurately reflect the Recreation Committee's available resources.

Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to move $3780.54 from the general fund into recreation committee's fund balance to zero it out.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
(Note: KP had lost connection for this vote. SS and CT, still constituting a quorum, voted unanimously in her absence)

<u>13. Discussion: Town Forest</u>
SS briefly described obstacles and the relative willingness of logging companies to work within the Town Forest.
No action was taken.

<u>14. Approval & Signature: Procurement Policy</u>
Motion by CT, seconded by SS, to accept the updated Procurement Policy.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

<u>15. Town Clerk Report</u>
The Town Clerk was offsite making final preparations for the August 11 Primary Elections at the time of the meeting.
No action was taken.

<u>16. Adjourn</u>
Motion by SS, seconded by CT, to adjourn.
Vote: Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting adjourned 7:27 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Danchik
Town Clerk