

ORFORD BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES 1/12/2026

Niles room

Members Attending: Bill Paxton, Bob Palifka, Rusty Keith, Vanessa DeSimone

Selectboard representative: Kevin Follensbee

Meeting called to order at 10:04 AM

Review and accept 11/5/2025 minutes: Minutes were accepted by 3 members, the 4th member came a few minutes after the vote.

Discussions: A long discussion took place around the Warrant Article for a \$1,700,000 **credit line** for the replacement of the bridge over Jacob's Brook at the intersection of Archertown and Dublin roads. Austin Construction of North Concord, Vermont has been selected to provide the materials and do the work for approximately \$1,400,000, and a separate firm will provide a construction engineer for approximately \$300,000. The project is expected to take 240 days.

There has been no provision in the draft Warrant Article for interest payment on the portion of the credit line used, and the final interest rate will be determined at the time the credit line is established, after Town Meeting. Currently, credit line annual interest is 4.75%, and repayment by the State of NH is supposed to be 90 days after submission. Prompt submission by Orford and prompt payment by the State will keep the cost of using the credit line low. Some of the bridge construction costs could come from the Road Improvement Capital Reserve, requiring less credit line use.

Capital Reserve additions were discussed, but no agreement was reached on making changes. Notably, all "rolling stock" additions were based on projecting the current costs for each item, as found and provided by Kevin Follensbee. There was also discussion about unexpended funds from 2025 and 2024, and if it was possible to use the information from prior years to develop trends that could be used to reduce the budget line by line. At the end of that discussion it was deemed too difficult a task to implement.

Any other business: Our request to indicate which warrants add no new taxes was done using asterisks (*), but we would rather show it in words like, "**No 2026 taxes will be raised for this Warrant Article**".

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Palifka

Approved at the 1/28/2026 meeting