

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

October 29, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kevin Follensbee, Charles Smith, Jr., Larry Taylor

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Bonnie McCouch

Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

2026 Budget Review

- Salaries - each department were increased by the 2026 COLA of 2.8%. In addition, there are 53 weeks of payroll in 2026, and the salary line items reflect that as well.
- Benefits – Medical increased 11.3% and Dental 4.4% - the percentage paid by the employees remained at 11% (Town's percentage remained at 89%)
- Town Administration – a part-time position was added for 2026 as the current Admin Assistant will transition out of her position in late July. The part-time position is for training hours from late July to the end of 2026
- Town Clerk – increased salary due to 2 elections in 2026 plus the annual meeting. Salary is reflected for a deputy town clerk, and an increase for training for this new hire.
- Tax Collector – starting in 2026, the Tax Collector will be paid a stipend (vs a percentage of taxes). The salary plus FICA expense to the Town is slightly less than the percentage being paid in 2025

McCouch asked the Selectboard the process to determine what each library receives in funding. (the Free Library salary and appropriation requested equals the funding to the Social Library). McCouch said the Social Library is open more hours and offers more programs and serve more patrons. However, the Selectboard said because the Free Library is the Town Library, they determine the funding each year.

Bids for mowing the Community Field and other Town Properties are not due until November 12th and will be incorporated into the budget at that time. The Household Hazardous Waste fee for 2026 is also outstanding at this time.

2026 Warrant Articled

- The Road Agent is still working to obtain estimates to use for the reclaiming and paving warrant articles, and the Board is waiting to hear back from the NH DES regarding the removal of the small garage on Router 25A

Other: Smith shared photos of repairs done to the Heritage Center, and of the painting. Both came out great. Smith then left the meeting at 6:36 pm

Public Comments: none

Correspondence:

- Letter received from the Orleans Law Group regarding a foreclosure at 78 Brook Road set for December 10, 2025
- NH DES approval for an individual septic system at 19 Dame Hill Road
- Letter from P. Chase Kling regarding a significant clear-cut in the area between Archertown Dan Doan Trail and the Smith Mountain/Lyme Pinnacle snowmobile trail. Follensbee said he will take a local logger to review the site, then compare to the Intent to Cuts received in 2023 and 2024, then will address with the forester of the Intent.

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(c) for Legal matters at 6:40 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 6:42 pm. A motion was made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved 2/0.

Manifests, Payroll and Accounts Payable folders

The manifest, payroll and accounts payable folders were reviewed and signed where necessary

Adjourn

Motion made by Taylor, seconded by Follensbee to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 2/0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh