

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Chief Sanborn, Chief Bachus

## Call Meeting to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Public Comments** - none

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Smith to accept the minutes of 12/10/2025 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Smith to accept the minutes of 12/16/2025 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Smith, seconded by Follensbee to accept the minutes of 12/22/2025 Motion Passed 3/0*

## Reports

- Fire Department** – Chief Sanborn reported on the activity for December. The department had 24 calls (13 medical, 6 mutual aid, 2 motor vehicle crashes, 1 each for odors, fuel spill, structure fire). There was a total of 205 calls in 2025. Critiquing of a structure fire and an extrication from a motor vehicle crash took place as training. The department brought on one new member, and one new cadet. Currently, there is no update on the new rescue truck. Smith asked how many members are certified (4-5 are interior certified)
- Police Department** – Chief Bachus reported on the activity for December. The department responded to 114 calls (1 each for a sex offence, domestic disturbance, alarm, animal complaint, 4 vehicle collisions, 72 motor vehicle stops resulting in 10 summonses). The remaining calls were agency assists or administrative in nature. Currently there is one on-going case involving juveniles and one new theft case. In 2025 there were a total of 1436 calls for service compared to 2024 at 1264. Motor vehicle crashes increased from 17 to 29, and motor vehicle enforcement increased from 720 to 831.  
Bachus wanted to remind vehicle owners that while inspections are a thing of the past as of January 31, 2026 for passenger vehicles, drivers are still responsible for maintaining safe vehicles and can be issued tickets for safety equipment violation (including faulty lights, faulty brakes, tire issues, broken glass, etc.) There will also be an increased focus on enforcement, especially in motor vehicle collision investigations and violation observed during other traffic enforcement activities.

### C. Selectboard attended meeting recap

- Cemetery Commission meeting – Smith reported the group discussed with the lack of a Cemetery sexton position, the Commissioners must post a work session agenda before meeting to review normal sexton work. The Friends of the Cemeteries will be working to coordinate the cemetery records for better access.
- Planning Board – Smith reported the group reviewed several minor subdivision applications. The Planning Board is putting together a committee to work on the Cell Tower ordinance.
- Budget Advisory – Follensbee reported the group discussed the warrant articles and budget

### Old Business

#### A. Public Hearing Planning

- 01/20 Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge project line of credit – Follensbee outlined the process for how the line of credit will work. Mascoma Bank can transfer funds directly into the Town’s checking account to cover large payments for the project. Once the NHDOT has reimbursed the Town, we can then transfer the payment back to the bank. *Motion made by Smith seconded by Taylor to authorize Follensbee and Dobbins-Marsh to request transfers and repayments with the bank. Motion Passed 3/0*

The public Hearing will be held in the Niles Room at 7:00 pm

- 01/27 2026 Budget & Warrant Articles – The meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room at Rivendell at 7:00 pm. The Selectboard reviewed the year end financials with the 2026 operating budget. It was agreed to level fund the Libraries as the Free Library is still looking to hire a librarian, and that rate of pay is currently unknown. The Warrant Article for the construction loan and interest have been combined with the interest being paid using the NHDOT bridge funds received in 2023 and 2024 (both amounts were added to the Road Improvement Capital Reserve fund.

- B. 2026 Mowing Contract** – the Selectboard reviewed Smith’s changes to the mowing contract. A few changes were made, and it will be submitted to Town Council for final review prior to submitting to the contractor that won the mowing bid.

#### C. Other

- Sidewalk plowing – as of January 21<sup>st</sup> we will not have anyone available to plow the Bridge Street sidewalk.

### New Business

#### A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”

Property Owner: Jennifer Whitney, Map & Lot #008-089-06/25, Logger: Donn Downey

Property Owner: Susan Beeson, Map & Lot #008-089-022. Logger: Donn Downey

#### B. Budget vs Actual Review (discussed under the Public Hearing for the 2026 budget)

#### C. Action Folder

- Request from the Orford Bandstand Committee to use the Gazebo and Common for the 2026 Summer Concert series was approved by the Selectboard.

- Ann Green requested adding \$1,000 to the budget to support the Fairlee Fireworks. The Selectboard felt she should put together a petitioned warrant article for this request. She also asked about the 250<sup>th</sup> celebration – the Selectboard would like Green to put together a committee to work on this (possibly with members of the parade committee).

**D. Contract** – Wilderness Services IT Contract for 2026 was signed by Follensbee

**E. Correspondence**

- NHDES sent notice to certify no further action is required regarding a septic system at the residence at 159 Dame Hill Road
- NHDES sent notice of acceptance permit application for 144 Grimes Hill Road
- NHDOT sent approval for a driveway onto Route 25A for Map & Lot #008-031-45
- Orford-Lyme perambulation report was submitted for review by the Selectboard. It will be discussed further at the 1/28 Selectboard meeting.

**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 Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0*

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh