

# TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

January 28, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Road Agent Nutter, Chase & Susan Kling, David Carr

## Call Meeting to Order

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

**Public Comments:** none

## Approval of Minutes

- *Motion made by Smith, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 01/14/2026 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Taylor, seconded by Smith to accept the minutes of 01/20/2026 Public Hearing. Motion Passed 3/0*

## Reports

A. **Assessor Report** – Brendon submitted his report – he worked on cleaning up items that aren't processed until after the December tax bills are issue – lot line adjustments, current use applications and/or changes and subdivisions. He responded to the list of questions sent from the NHDRA regarding sales as part of the calculation of sales ratios. To date, one abatement has been filed – property owners have until March 1, 2026 to file their abatement with the Selectboard.

B. **Highway Department** – Road Agent Nutter reported the department has been doing a lot of snow plowing and sanding. A new Highway employee, Brandon Perkins, started work on January 19<sup>th</sup>. Currently the crew is working to push the snow banks back on the Town roads.

The Explorer needs repairs to the exhaust system – because of truck originally being built as a police interceptor, after-market parts can't be used. The current estimate is \$1,500. Follensbee said he's reluctant to spend more money on a vehicle with over 120,000 miles on it, but if the Highway budget can handle the cost, it's up to the Road Agent to make the decision. Nutter said the Explorer is used to check roads and culverts, and saves using the larger trucks.

Road salt is being used sparingly as currently there is a shortage. He has an order pending and is hopefully it will be delivered soon.

C. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**

- Parks & Playgrounds – Taylor attended the 1/21 meeting – the group discussed the work to be done on the Community Field, and other work plans for 2026
- Conservation Commission – Follensbee attended the 1/15 meeting – the group discussed the warrant article for the High Bridge road bridge project, upcoming events for 2026, and the PFAS levels at the closed landfill.

- UV Ambulance – Follensbee attended their monthly meeting – the group discussed the 2026 budget and the challenge in finding full-time employees.
- Budget Advisory Committee – Follensbee attended their meeting – the group worked on their annual report and recommendations to the Selectboard.

### Old Business

- A. Lyme-Orford Perambulation Report** – Chase Kling reviewed the perambulation process that takes place every 7 years. For this boundary, the perambulators (Chase Kling and Sue Kling-Orford, Matt Stevens-Lyme, and Doug Campbell-Wentworth) walked the town line between Lyme and Orford. Flagging and painting is refreshed as needed so the boundary line is clearly marked. This process took place over five days between October 5, 2025 – November 8, 2025. King suggested the Orford and Lyme Selectboard members work to add Route 10 crossing markers and replace missing markers. Following both Orford and Lyme Selectboard members signing off on the report, it is filed with the NH Secretary of State’s office, and also filed at the Town Offices. The Orford-Wentworth perambulation is scheduled for 2028.
- B. Class VI Road Liability/Construction Permit** – David Carr discussed the permit to construct on property off a Class VI road. He’s concerned about his liability if he’s responsible to maintain the road, while it can still be used by others. The Town still has a Right of Way and the property owners own to the center of the road, so adding a gate would require both parties to agree, and the gate would need to be left unlocked. Follensbee explained there is no liability exposure to him for maintaining the road, unless he does something to cause an injured another party. The permit protects the Town from liability as it’s is an agreement stating the town doesn’t provide certain services. Follensbee also told Carr that as of 7/1/2026, insurance companies must provide approval of coverage for a building on this type of property.
- C. 2026 Proposed Budget Public Hearing follow-up**
- **2026 Proposed Operating Budget** – the Selectboard made no changes to the proposed 2026 budget
  - **2026 Proposed warrant Articles** – the Selectboard made no changes to the proposed 2026 warrant articles, with the exception of a possible change of language for the High Bridge road bridge project.

### New Business

- A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- B. Signature Folder**
- UV LS Regional Planning Commission House hold Hazardous Waste contract for 2026 – the Board reviewed and Follensbee signed the contract
- C. Correspondence**
- Estimate from Tom Toner – in the event the Town approves the removal of the small garage on Route 25A, (at the annual meeting), Toner provided an estimate of \$12,500 to dismantle and remove lead paint before disposing of the garage.
  - 2024 Auditors Letter

**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 7:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh