

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 11, 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 Taylor to accept the minutes of the 01/27/2026 Budget Pubic Hearing. Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 01/28/2026 (as amended). Motion Passed 3/0*

Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Sanborn reported the department responded to 24 calls in January 2026. (12 for medical, 1 each for a motor vehicle crash, odor investigation, service, 2 each for CO alarm, smoke investigation, and 5 mutual aid calls). Training consisted of preplanning, and one new cadet was added to the roster. The body of the new fire truck has been painted, and is expected to be mounted to the chassis in the next 2 weeks. The light pack has not been delivered yet, but the brush guard arrived on the 11th of February.
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus reported the department responded to 90 calls in January 2026. (1 each for criminal mischief, theft, wanted person, animal complaint, 3 motor vehicle collisions, and 38 motor vehicle stops resulting in 7 summons and 1 arrest. The remaining calls were non-criminal or administrative in nature). The animal complaint consisted of Bachus and the animal control officer conducting an animal neglect investigation resulting in the seizure of a puppy that was malnourished. The owner voluntarily surrendered the animal for adoption. The arrest was a result of a motor vehicle stop and the operator's license having been suspended, and the vehicle being unregistered. Bachus is completing a criminal investigation involving Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images. He also started a new investigation involving Disorderly Conduct, Criminal Trespass and Unlawful Detention, as well as separate investigations for harassment and stolen firearms.
- Regarding the NH Safety Inspections – currently an injunction has been issued by the court suspending the law that removed the NH Safety inspections. The requirement to have inspections in NH continues with a “grace period” through April 10, 2026.
- C. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**
- 2/10 Planning Board – Smith attended the meeting where members approved 2 minor subdivisions and 1 lot-line adjustment. The Chair, Mark Adamczyk

announced his resignation from the Planning Board – the Planning Board will need to appoint someone to fill his position for the next year. Members also held a discussion about process to appoint alternates, and how a non-public session can occur.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- a) Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook Bridge – Follensbee and Dobbins-Marsh will be attending a meeting with the Construction Engineering firm, Contractor rep, DuBois & King rep and the NHDOT project rep. They will be reviewing and discussing the project at the office, then will visit the project site.
- b) Bracket Brook & Baker Pond Bridges (State Project) – The NHDOT rep discussed the project – the plan is to have one lane open at a time so detours won't be necessary. There will be two engineering firms involved for the design of the bridges and possibly two construction firms, one for each bridge. The repairs are to take place in 2027-2028

New Business

A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood” – none received

B. Signature Folder

- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Smith to appoint Lisa Camarra as an Inspector of Elections for the Town of Orford. Motion Passed 3/0*
- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Smith to appoint Vanessa Desimone as an Inspector of Elections for the Town of Orford. Motion Passed 3/0*

C. Correspondence

- Information was received regarding the appointment of alternates for the Planning Board
- Email from NHDES regarding the Health Officer conference on May 6th
- General email received inquiring about regulations for structures with no running water or septic systems

D. Other

- Email from Jim Hansen regarding the impact on the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge project funding should the Federal Government cut off funding for highways due to the new State law removing the car inspection and emission testing. Per our NHDOT rep, the funds are now considered state funds, so there will be no impact on this project. She also indicated the State has not received any official notice regarding the withdrawal of federal funds.
- Replacement Value Property Assessment Act – HB1380 is legislative aimed at reevaluating property tax assessment that would mandate assessments for real property and land be based on replacement or cost-based value rather than fair market value. The reason is to help prevent market fluctuations and provide a more stable and predictable property valuation system. If passed this bill will become effective July 1, 2026
- Land Value Tax - HB1417 aims to enable municipalities, cities and towns in NH to adopt a land value tax system that taxes land at a higher value than improvements, promoting efficient land use and shifting the tax burdens away

from building investments. A full rollout is planned for January 2027 with a comprehensive review scheduled for January 2032

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 6:55 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh