

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

February 25, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Road Agent Nutter

Call Meeting to Order

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

Public Comments none received

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 02/11/2026

Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Assessor Report** – Brendon McGahan submitted his monthly report. He has completed all subdivisions approved by the planning board. Many required updated Current Use information, so those requests were completed at the same time with letters sent to those property owners. To date, 2 abatement application have been received. The deadline to file an abatement for 2025 is March 1st, however, because that falls on a Sunday, application can be accepted on March 2nd.

The state of NH released 7 additional sales for the assessors to verify. The state likes a total of 20 qualified sales when calculating the sales ratios. Orford had 28 sales but several were for properties in current use, so the state looked at 2024 sales.

- B. **Highway Department** – Road Agent Nutter reported on the Highway Department's activity, which mostly consists of snow plowing and sanding. The department's new employee, Brandon Perkins, is doing great. He's learned the road locations quickly and is doing well plowing with a wing. Nutter said the roads are in rough condition, which makes the plow trucks move slower resulting in more time to complete plowing. Nutter said he took the mileage from all three trucks before and after plowing and light sanding. The 10-wheeler (66 miles), the 6-wheeler (50 miles) and the F550 (44 miles). This totals 160 miles of travel to plow all the town roads. While the Town only has approximately 33 miles of town roads, the trucks still have to travel to each road to plow, and each road has to be plowed both ways.

The 10-wheeler is at the garage to repair a power steering pump (under warranty), and repairs to the backhoe are completed. The top pin of the loader is moving around a lot – to fix will be a major repair and may not be worth the money if the loader is to be replaced in 2027. Nutter will get an estimate for this repair. Should the loader stop working, the backhoe can be used in its' place. Before spring, the grader will also need maintenance.

The UNH T2 Learn for Life will be holding a Grader Operation Safety & Maintenance class in Loudon on April 9, 2026 which Nutter & Perkins will attend. Following that class, hands on training will take place with an instructor at the Town garage.

C. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**

- 2/14 Cemetery Commission – Follensbee attended this meeting where the group discussed changing their group from Commission to Trustees.
- 2/19 Conservation Commission - no one was able to attend this meeting

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge – Follensbee and Dobbins-Marsh attended a pre-construction meeting with the Construction Engineers, the Construction Company, DuBois & King and representatives from NHDOT. The meeting was to make sure all parties are on the same page, review the plans, environmental commitments, safety measures, and the work schedule. Future meeting needs, and the funding and reimbursement process were also discussed. The project should be substantially completed in 200 days, and 100% completed in 240 days.

New Business

- A. Health Officer Position** – the Selectboard interviewed Joanna Bligh for the position. Following a background check, the application for State approval and appointment will be completed.
- B. Set up for the Annual Meeting** – the Selectboard will meet at the Town Office on March 10th at 2:00 pm to load the voting booths, handicap voting machine then take to Rivendell to set up in the gymnasium.
- C. Preparation for the Annual Meeting** – The Selectboard members reviewed the warrant articles and discussed who would take the lead at the annual meeting for each one, as needed.
- D. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- E. Contracts – Mowing Contracts** – the Selectboard reviewed and made a few changes to the contracts (mostly dates of service). Updated contracts will be left on the Selectboard table for members to sign, and a draft copy will be sent to the Contractor for review. He will be asked to come to the Town office to sign the original contract, along with the Chair of Parks & Playgrounds.
- F. Signature Folder**
 - 2025 Data Certificate – prepared by the auditor, signed by the Selectboard
- G. Correspondence**
 - Mascoma Bank confirmed the interest rate for the Line of Credit is still 4.75%

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 7:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh