

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

April 22, 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

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 04/08/2026 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Highway Department** – Road Agent Nutter provided the estimates received for the paving projects per Warrant Articles 9 & 10. Due to rising costs of oil, the price for paving is approximately \$55,000 higher than estimated in November 2025. After a lengthy discussion on various options, the Selectboard instructed the Road Agent to obtain a price for the contractor to only reclaim the section outlined on Warrant Article 10. The Warrant Articles are for 3-years, so the Board is hopeful the costs for paving will decrease in the future and paving can be completed. If not, they may need to request additional funds to complete the project.

Nutter obtained an estimate of \$22,000 to repair the guardrails on Mousley Brook bridge. Because the cost is high, the Board agreed to write a warrant article using the Road Improvement CRF for 2027.

The highway crew will begin working 4 10-hour days starting May 4th. Nutter plans to rent an excavator for 2 weeks to work on replacing culverts.

B. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**

- Cemetery Trustees – Follensbee attended their 4/11 meeting. The Trustees reviewed the Cemetery Assoc meeting they attended, and updating documents for the webpage. The new summer employee will begin work soon, and the new trailer should be arriving soon.
- Planning Board – Smith attended their 4/14 meeting where they approved a lot-line merger and minor subdivision, the cell tower ordinance subcommittee and amending the Zoom connection to listen mode only.
- Parks & Playgrounds – Taylor attended their 4/15 meeting where the group reviewed upcoming summer work, the beach monitor position, and reviewed the Community Field work budget to find possible areas to reduce the costs.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

- Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge – Follensbee reported the highway crew removed the jersey barriers and town signs; Austin Construction will be placing their detour signs and their equipment should be mobilized soon. There is a pending change order regarding the removal of invasive species near the bridge that wasn't included in the original engineering plan. The construction engineering firm estimated a cost of \$3,500. NHDOT is reviewing the change order. Follensbee removed the day lilies by the Paxton's driveway, and replanted them.
- B. **Other** – update on Illegal Junkyards – Smith provided a copy of RSA 236 “Control of Junk Yards and Automotive Recycling Yards” with the Selectboard. Under RSA 236:92 the Commissioner of Transportation is authorized to issue reasonable rules and regulations to provide for effective control of junk yards and automobile recycling centers. Smith will further research this topic for future discussion. Trashy lawns (trash and waste) would be an issue for the Health Officer – Follensbee will discuss with her.

New Business

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

B. Action Folder

- The Selectboard completed the timber tax rating work sheets for William Nichols and Rendall Tullar
- *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to appoint Kelley Monahan as the Planning Board member to the Zoning Board of Adjustments for Flood Plains. Motion passed 3/0*

C. Complaints – The Selectboard reviewed the complaint filed against the Planning Board. Upon Town Council advice, the complaint was found to be unfounded. The filer will be notified.

D. Signatures – the Selectboard signed a clean copy of the Community Field mowing contract

E. Correspondence

- The Supervisors of the Check List appointed Mark Tecca as the Town Moderator. Once the Town Clerk swears him in, the Secretary of State will be notified.
- Chase Kling left a letter for the Selectboard regarding the lack of review by the assessor for a property on River Road
- NH Electric Coop submitted the list of areas in Orford where herbicides will be selectively applied to undesired vegetation within the power line right of way corridors. The report will be available at the Town Office for anyone to review.

Non-Public Session

A motion was made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3, II(a) for personnel matters at 7:00 pm. A roll call vote of member's present was taken with a decision in the affirmative

The Board resumed the regular meeting at 7:20 pm. A motion was made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session. Motion Approved 3/0

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 Smith to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh