

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2026

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

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

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 Follensbee to accept the minutes of 5/27/2026

Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Sanborn reported on May's activities for the department which responded to 11 calls (7 medical, 1 each for a motor vehicle crash, fire alarm, chimney fire, mutual aid). Department members completed water supply training, and on June 20th members will attend training on vehicle rescue with Fairlee, Piermont and Lyme fire department members. Hose testing will take place on June 17th on Townshed Road. After the radio was removed, the old rescue truck was placed for sale on two sites. A utility bumper will also be place for sale on Municibid.
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus reported on May's activities, with the department responding to 104 calls for service (3 for criminal mischief, 1 each for noise complaint, domestic disturbance, suspicious activity, 2 each for animal complaints (assisting the animal control officer), and welfare checks, 4 alarms, and 51 motor vehicle stops with 8 summonses issued. The rest were administrative in nature). NHSP responded to 13 of the calls. From prior months activities, an arrest was made for animal cruelty, and two additional arrests for violation of a protection order, and operating with suspended license, misuse of plates, unregistered vehicle and speeding. Bachus continues to investigate subsequent animal abuse case.
Bachus will be working to complete his continuing education for recertification of his Emergency Medical Responder license, which expires in September 2026.
- C. **Selectboard attended meeting recap**
 - Conservation Commission – Smith attended their June 4th meeting where they discussed the bog bridge by Indian Pond, and will work with Upper Valley Trails on this project. Other projects include the mapping invasive species in Orford, and re-surveying the Richmond Property. The High Bridge sub-committee continues their work.
 - Planning Board – Smith attended their June 9th meeting. The members voted to appoint Rick Ullrich as an alternate, approved a lot merger and reviewed the

contract renewal between the Town and UVLSRPC. Members also discussed the work being done for Cell Tower ordinance, and the Floodplain ordinance.

Old Business

- A. Flood Plain Development** – Nick Castel discussed the current Floodplain ordinance, specifically that the Selectboard are the governing body to review and approve applications pertaining to this ordinance. After a lengthy discussion, the Selectboard agreed they are the governing body to review and approve applications. They also agreed the current ordinance, application and permit need updating. Smith has begun research around this topic and agreed to pull application and permit examples from other towns for the Selectboard to review. It was also agreed five (5) members are required for the Zoning Board of Adjustments for Floodplains (currently there are 3). Follensbee has asked a few residents to serve, and will follow-up with them.
- B. Update of Outstanding Projects**
- a) Archertown Bridge over Jacobs Brook Bridge – Follensbee attended a work session with the contractor and construction engineer for the project on June 8th. They discussed a change order regarding using a silt sock vs a silt fence. Next week the contractor will be tying rebar to the wing walls, building the coffer dam, and plans to be on site M-F until July 3rd.
- C. Other** – The Health Officer completed her training and generated a response to the resident that filed a complaint against 709 Route 10, which the Selectboard will send out. Follensbee researched deeds for property abutting the East and West Common. Currently there is personal property owned by residents on Town property and it needs to be removed. Follensbee will work on letters to send to these individuals.

New Business

- A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”** – none received
- B. Budget vs Actual Review** – the Board reviewed with no questions
- C. Action Folder**
- Abatement was processed by the assessor for property at 582 Route 10 with a reduction of value of \$125,000. *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Smith to grant the abatement. Motion Passed 3/0*
 - Administrative Abatement was processed to apply 50% of the Total Disabled Veterans’ credit to the July tax bill (only 50% of the standard Veterans Credit was applied). *Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to grant the administrative abatement. Motion Passed 3/0*
- D. Signature Folder**
- E. Correspondence**
- The Congregational Church requested the Selectboard issue a letter stating the church is used for community service for an emergency shelter, which is already part of the Town’s Emergency Management Plan. The letter was signed by Follensbee.
 - E-coli test results from 6/8/2026 for the three ponds was received

F. Contracts

- Upper Valley Humane Society – the contract for 2026 was reviewed and signed by the Selectboard.
- UVLSRPC Circuit Rider contract for July 2026-June 2027 was reviewed. Smith has concerns with some of the language. Paul Goundrey will reach out to Renee at UVLSRPC to make the change, then the Selectboard will sign the revised contract.

G. Other – Smith attended a Zoom meeting on June 2nd pertaining to the Town Office parking lot. The engineer is looking at changing the layout but with his research discovered the parking lot is 4' into the flood zone. He will meet with a rep from NHDOT for a site visit in early August. He also mentioned that Dig Safe will need to mark the propane line.

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 7:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh