

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

July 8, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Esther Dobbins-Marsh, Chief Sanborn, Chief Bachus, Heidi Wilson

Call Meeting to Order

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

Public Comments: Heidi Wilson, on behalf of the Friends of the Orford Cemeteries, discussed the need for minor repairs to the Dame Hill and East Cemeteries, and more extensive repairs to the West Cemetery. The Friends will work to raise funds from donations, but will also be looking to request funding from the 2027 budget or warrant article.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Follensbee, seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 06/24/2026 (as amended) Motion Passed 3/0

Reports

- A. **Fire Department** – Chief Sanborn reported on the June activity. The department responded to a total of 19 calls (7 medical, 3 motor vehicle collisions, 5 down wires, 2 service calls and 2 mutual aid calls). YTD calls for 2026 are 111, compared to last year at 80 calls – an increase of 37%. The new utility vehicle has been lettered, but still needs to have the repeater tuned. The leak in Engine 3 has been repaired. Hose and ladder testing are complete. 3 length of hose was lost due to failure – the replacement hose is on order. Follensbee offered thanks to the Hanover Fire Department for a donation of hose to the department. The old rescue truck has been posted on 2 sites. There have been some inquiries; however, no offers have been made. Members trained with Fairlee and Piermont on vehicle rescue.
- B. **Police Department** – Chief Bachus reported on the June activity. The department responded to 106 calls (including 3 for criminal mischief, 2 domestic disturbance, 1 each for shots fired, juvenile matter, suicide and a theft, 4 alarm responses, 3 animal complaints and welfare checks). There was a total of 43 motor vehicle stops, with 4 summonses issued. As a result of previous ongoing investigations, there was one arrest made for animal cruelty/neglect, and three additional arrested parties in June for criminal threatening, domestic violence/simple assault and conduct after an accident. The above 106 calls for service represent 93 by the Orford PD, 1 by the animal control officer, and 12 by the NHSP.
Bachus completed the 8-hour national component refresher for his EMR certification, and he's actively working on the 4-hour state portion and 4-hour individual portion of the certification.

The Fire and Police Departments are both scheduled to work the Prouty on July 11th, with Bachus at the intersection of Route 10 and Bridge Street, and the Fire Department on medical standby out east.

C. Selectboard attended meeting recap

- Smith attended the Conservation Meeting on July 2nd. The members discussed upcoming hikes and the special event to celebrate the AT trail. They discussed their concern on not having notice of the roadside mowing, as section of knotweed was mowed down. Members are concerned with potential damage to a trail near Norris Road, as someone is using their ATV on the trail. Members are also working with beaver deceivers for a section of Orfordville Road.

Old Business

- A. Update on the Archertown Road over Jacobs Brook bridge project** – Follensbee reported the NW wing wall was poured on July 3rd, and machinery will be moved to the other side on Friday July 10th. Contractors will start constructing the coffer dam, then begin the deconstruction of the buttresses. On Monday, July 13th they will start the eradication of the knotweed near the bridge. The NHDOT approved change order #3 to add additional signage (\$3,800) to better identify access to the campground on Archertown Road.
- B. Other** – Follensbee met with Clean Harbor – they tested the oil in the barrel at the recycling center, and should have results in a few days.

New Business

A. Review of received “Notice of Intent to Cut Wood”

- Owner: Clyde Timber Management, Map & Lot #008-091-053, logger: Guy Sanborn

B. Budget vs Actual Review – as of July 8th there is 54.92% of the budget remaining

C. Signature Folder

- Follensbee signed the Highway Safety Grant reimbursement request for the 2nd quarter of 2026

D. Correspondence

- July 6th e-coli testing results were received from the Conservation Commission – the results were posted on the website and listserv.
- Email received from the Tracey’s offering to mow the East Cemetery, however, this is a decision for the Cemetery Trustees.
- A request was received from Tex Whiting to purchase the Town property where the small garage was located. Should the Selectboard feel this should be allowed, it would need a warrant article to vote on at the 2027 annual meeting.
- JP Pest report on insect activity around the Town Office
- The Health Officer sent an email on her conversation with Fish & Game regarding the removal of a deer from Bracket Brook
- Town Council sent an email he’d received a request from Nick Castel’s attorney to discuss the Flood Plain ordinance and application.

E. Other

- On July 7th Brandon Perkins returned to the Highway Department as a Highway Crew Member.
- On July 20th the new Administrative Assistant, Armand Girouard will begin training with Dobbins-Marsh.
- A property owner on Brook Road was concerned about water being directed onto her property by her neighbor. Unfortunately, this is a neighbor conflict and parties involved will need to contact their attorney for further action.
- The Selectboard briefly discussed moving their meetings into the Niles Room, using the Selectboard office as an office for the Admin Asst, Assessor and Treasurer. This will be on the agenda for further discussion.

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 7:13 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Esther Dobbins-Marsh