

TOWN OF ORFORD

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2026

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Armand Girouard, Road Agent Ted Nutter, Health Officer Joanna Bligh, Trustee of Trust Funds Chris Crowley

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, Jr., seconded by Taylor to accept the minutes of 9/9/2026 (as amended). Motion Passed

Reports

A. Highway Department – Road Agent Nutter

The following was reported by Mr. Nutter: Have been working on grading roads and ditch work, the windows have been installed in the Highway Department building, F550 in at shop for hydraulic system repairs. Hauling gravel this week for dirt roads. There is a culvert off of Lower Stonehouse Road on private property that is plugged, and affecting the road, Follensbee indicated that Road Agent can speak to land owner and have them rectify this. Road Agent stated he will speak to land owner. Archertown Road grinding is scheduled for October 5. Guardrail repairs/replacement scheduled for October 5 or 12 on Archertown Road.

B. Health Officer – Joanna Bligh

The following was reported by Bligh:

A report was provided to the Board with the following information in it: Home Health Inspection performed on 4/18/2026, Health Officer Training attended at DHHS, Boil Water Order received on 6/4/2026, was lifted on 6/12/2026, Nuisance trash and garbage report investigated, dead deer in Brackett Brook reported on 7/3/2026, Health Officer Training attended on 8/27/2026, a detailed report of the training was provided to the Board. Health officer asked some questions to the board for her 2026 NH Health Office Report, Board answered all questions. Bligh asked about frequency of Local Board of Health meetings, Follensbee indicated twice a year.

C. Recap of Selectboard attended Committee Meetings

Taylor – None

Follensbee – None

Smith, Jr. – 9/15/2026 Planning Board meeting attended. Topics included a draft review of Town of Orford Personal Wireless Service Facility Ordinance, to be sent to attorney for legal review. Review Waiver Request draft review, to be voted on at a future meeting. Update on Floodplain Ordinance, 2024 ordinance to be put back on Town website. Edits to new ordinance to be reviewed at next months meeting. Lot line adjustment info shared by Kelley M.

Old Business

A. Update of Outstanding Projects

a) Archertown Bridge at Jacobs Brook

Follensbee provided the following information: East side abutment has been poured, cement has been tested, and looks good. On Friday, East side will be backfilled. Backfill material has passed testing specs. Rebar in on left side approaches. Steel is being delivered this week to installer, to be set next week. Back wall on East side to be poured after this.

B. Historical Barn Site Visits Scheduled for 10/3/2026

Letters were sent to barn owners on 9/14/2026 indicating site visits will be on October 3, between 9am and noon by Selectboard members.

C. Highway Department used equipment bids

No bids were received for the used trailer and bucket, road agent does know someone that may be interested in purchasing the trailer for \$750, Board agreed to do so, Board asked Road Agent to contact person to complete the sale. Board voted to sell this trailer for stated amount, moved by Follensbee, second by Smith, Jr. All Board members voted yes.

D. Update on old Fire Department Utility vehicle sale

Buyer that was interested has not moved forward, but Fire Department has other inquiries for purchase. Updates at next meeting.

E. Other

Follensbee reported that Gray Electric will be at the Town Office building on Thursday to repair and install some outside lights, as there are currently none to light up the end of the walkway or parking area.

New Business

A. Trustees of Trust Funds – Chris Crowley

Crowley presented a report to the board regarding management of the Town's trust accounts. As these accounts now total approximately 4 million dollars, Crowley is asking that the Board considers having these funds professionally managed, to receive the maximum return on the investments. All management is currently being performed by Crowley (hundreds of hours annually). Crowley indicated an approximate annual cost of \$20,000 to professionally manage these funds, with a higher return on investment, earning the town more income even after paying the professional for the services that what we are currently doing. Fee for services can be

taken from the returns, so the Town budget would not be affected at all. Board agreed that this is a wise decision, and should go as a warrant article at the next town meeting for consideration. Crowley also asked if the Town of Orford receives an annual report from the Village District, so it can be put into the Town Annual Report. Board/Admin asst. to inquire on this subject.

B. Lower Stonehouse Mountain Road-Erosion Issues

Addressed by Road Agent Nutter during his report.

C. Highway Department Hiring Committee formation

Follensbee requested the formation of a hiring committee, to proceed with the hiring process for the current opening at the Highway Department. Follensbee asked Smith Jr. and Road Agent Nutter to be on this committee, along with one other community member to be chosen by Board member Smith Jr. Smith Jr. to create this committee, and move forward to interview applicants, then make a recommendation to the Board.

D. Review of received "Notice of Intent to Cut Wood"

None received

E. Action Folder

Board reviewed and approved a request by the Conservation Commission for trimming brush, limbs, and trees in the travelled way on various class VI roads in Orford, so they can be open for hikers, skiers, walkers, etc.

F. Complaint Folder

None

G. Signature Folder

None

H. Correspondence Folder

Information from Governors Office regarding a new Go-North program, NHDES comment information reporting links for the 2026 CWA documents, water test results for E-Coli from 9/14/2026, a thank you card from Tom Thomson to the Board regarding work on Quinttown Road, the 2027 Education Tax Warrant provided from NHDRA, letter from Assessor, explaining his role in the MS-1 process, a Flood Plain Application received, applicant asked to be put on October 14th Selectboard meeting to review and present.

I. Other

None

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, Jr., to adjourn the meeting. Motion Passed 3/0

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Armand Girouard