



Town of Orange, Connecticut

TOWN HALL
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**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2026
TOWN HALL
LOWER- LEVEL MEETING ROOM
7:00 P.M.**

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Present:

First Selectman James Zeoli
Selectman Mitchell Goldblatt
Selectman Judy Smith
Selectman PJ Shanley
Selectman John Carangelo
Selectman William Kraut

Owen Weaver, Town Council
Ann Denny, Secretary
John Cifarelli, Finance Director
Bob Brinton, Town Engineer
Dominick Celtruda, BL Companies
Derek Kohl, BL Companies
Members of Pack 922

ORANGE CONN
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED FOR RECORDS
2026 JAN 14 PM 9:03
TOWN CLERK

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by First Selectman Zeoli. The fire exits were noted, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by members of Pack 922, followed by the roll call.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

(2 minutes per person)

Frank Esposito, 29 Andrew Lane spoke about traffic devices and fines, and the potential problems misuse of information could cause.

Jody Dietch, 601 Harborview Road spoke about the election, the capital plan and Selectman Goldblatt not being reappointed to the Pension Board.

Aaron Smith, 220 Wilson Road spoke about expanding property tax exemptions for veterans.

Garrity Karr, 555 Dogwood Road asked about expanding property tax exemptions for veterans.

Sean Michael Green, 466 Yellow Brick Road thanked all those that volunteer for public service and spoke about the nonappointment of Mitch Goldblatt to the Pension Board.

Selectman Goldblatt had some announcements from the recycling committee, there will be another workshop on Decluttering on March 19th, and the next shredding day is April 4th. Batteries and fluorescent bulbs can now be recycled at the transfer station. He reminded residents to be careful what they are putting in the recycling bins, please no plastic bags or styrofoam because some loads have been rejected when they were dumped.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Selectman Zeoli made the following announcements:

In Memorium: Fran Mantiglia, Dr. Norman Marieb, Jimmy Hatrick

First Selectman Zeoli also reminded residents about what shouldn't go in the glass recycling bin.

Town offices will be closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 19th; the transfer station will be open.

MINUTES

- *On a motion* made by Selectman Goldblatt, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, *the Board approved the minutes of the December 10, 2025 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen 5-0-1, Selectman Shanley abstained.*

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request from the Orange Lions Club to use the field at High Plains Community Center for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 28, 2026, with a rain date of Saturday April 4, 2026, and if the gym is needed on the rain date to waive the customary rental fees for use of the gym at HPCC – Lawrence Messina of the Orange Lions Club requested the use of the field on Saturday March 28, 2026 with a rain date of Saturday April 4, 2026, and a waiver of the fees for the use of the gym if needed on the rain date of the annual Easter Egg Hunt. *On a motion* made by Selectman Carangelo, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, *the Board approved the request to use the field at High Plains Community Center for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday March 28, 2026, with a rain date of Saturday April 4, 2026, and if the gym is needed on the rain date to waive the customary rental fees for use of the gym at HPCC.*
2. Request from Cub Scout Pack 922 to waive the customary rental fee for HPCC for Pinewood Derby Event – Members of The Arrow of Light Den Pack 922 presented the request before the Board of Selectmen. They would like to use the High Plains gym for the Pinewood Derby on Friday, February 6th, and request to waive the customary fees. *On a motion* made by Selectman Carangelo, seconded by Selectman Smith, and unanimously carried, *the board approved the request by Cub Scout Pack 922 to use the High Plains gym and to waive the customary rental fees for HPCC on February 6, 2026.*
3. 5-Year Capital Plan – Finance Director John Cifarelli presented the 5-year capital plan and explained that to use LoCIP money it must appear on the capital plan. *On a motion* made by Selectman Carangelo, seconded by Selectman Shanley, and unanimously carried, *the Board approved the 5-Year Capital Plan as presented.*
4. Consider and act on the request to accept an approximate 700-foot extension of Skyview Road - Town Engineer Bob Brinton recommends accepting the approximate 700-foot extension of Skyview Road. *On a motion* made by Selectman Smith, seconded by Selectman Kraut, and unanimously carried, *the board approved accepting the 700-foot extension of Skyview Road.*
5. Tax Refunds for the Month of January- *On a motion* made by Selectman Carangelo, seconded by Selectman Kraut, and unanimously carried, *the Board approved the tax refunds in the amount of \$13,775.93 for the month of January.*

6. **Fred Wolfe Park Presentation** Selectmen Carangelo and Shanley gave an overview of the Fred Wolfe Park Committee which began in January of 2023. The first task was a traffic and safety study, and BL Companies were hired and gave recommendations for temporary safety measures that were implemented. The next task was developing a master plan and the plan developed by BL Companies was shared with the public in October of 2025. The Fred Wolfe Park Committee approved sending the plan to the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Shanley encouraged people to stay engaged. Dominick Celtruda and Derek Kohl of BL Companies presented the final plan which would be developed in five phases with an approximate cost of twenty million dollars. Mr. Kohl stated that the plan is a road map for developing the park, and adoption of the plan is where we are now. The next step is to send it to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 approval. ***On a motion*** made by Selectman Carangelo, seconded by Selectman Smith, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved sending the Fred Wolfe Park Master Plan to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 approval.***

Selectman Kraut ***made a motion*** to close the Regular meeting and convene into Executive Session at 8:17 p.m. and invite Attorney Weaver, and Finance Director John Cifarelli into the Executive Session. Selectman Shanley ***seconded the motion.*** All voted in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

2025-2028 Proposed Labor Agreement between the Town of Orange and Communication Workers of America AFL-CIO

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 8:56 p.m.

VOTE

On a motion made by Selectman Kraut, seconded by Selectman Carangelo, and unanimously carried, ***the Board approved the 2025-2028 Proposed Labor Agreement between the Town of Orange and Communication Workers of America AFL-CIO as presented.***

At 8:59 P.M., Selectman Carangelo made ***a motion to adjourn the meeting.*** Selectman Kraut seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Denny
Secretary to the Board of Selectmen