

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING FISCAL YEAR 2026

**TOWN OF ORANGE
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2025 AT 7:00 P.M.**

FRANKLIN, SS:

To either of the Constables of the Town of Orange, in the County of Franklin:

GREETING:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of said Town, qualified to vote on Town affairs, to meet at Ruth B. Smith Auditorium, located at 6 Prospect Street, in said Orange on Monday, the Sixteenth day of June 2025, at seven in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

The amount of available "Free Cash" for the General Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$978,675.00

The amount of "Retained Earnings" for the Water Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$227,267.00

The amount of "Retained Earnings" for the Sewer Enterprise Fund, certified by the Director of Accounts is \$486,867.00

I move that the Town vote to take Articles 1 through 8 and that they be "passed by consent".

- Article 1: Town Report
- Article 2: Spending Limits
- Article 3: Compensating Balance Agreements
- Article 4: Authorize Borrowing
- Article 5: Grant Applications
- Article 6: Sale of Surplus Personal Property and Real Estate
- Article 7: Transfer from Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue
- Article 8: Transfer from Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue

ARTICLE 1: TOWN REPORT

To see if the Town will vote to accept the reports of the Officers and Committees as printed in the Annual Town Report; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: SPENDING LIMITS

To see if the Town will vote to approve annual spending limits for revolving funds established in the Town Bylaws, in accordance with M.G.L. c.44, s.53E1/2, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

Revolving Fund	FY26 Spending Limit
Hazardous Spill	\$ 20,000
Gas Inspector	\$ 15,000
Plumbing Inspector	\$ 25,000
Excavation and Trench Permit	\$ 5,000
Airport Fuel	\$250,000
Sealer of Weights and Measures	\$ 15,000

Board of Health	\$ 30,000
Landfill & Recycling	\$ 30,000
Landfill & Recycling	\$ 30,000
Dog Fund	\$ 50,000
Planning Board	\$ 50,000
Council on Aging	\$ 6,000
Conservation Commission	\$ 10,000
Police Details	\$ 20,000

ARTICLE 3: COMPENSATING BALANCE AGREEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements with the approval of the Board of Selectmen during fiscal 2026 as permitted by M.G.L. c44, §53F; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: AUTHORIZE BORROWING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 in accordance with the M.G.L. c44, §4; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: GRANT APPLICATIONS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept and expend any State and Federal grants that do not require Town appropriation; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: SALE OF SURPLUS PERSONAL PROPERTY AND REAL ESTATE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen or their designee to sell or otherwise dispose of surplus or obsolete personal property and surplus real estate of the Town in accordance with Chapter 76 of the *General Bylaws of the Town of Orange* and the procedures required by M.G.L. c.30B §15 and §16; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: TRANSFER FROM TRANSFER STATION WINDOW STICKER REVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$9,485.00 from the Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue Account to the Landfill Monitoring/Maintenance account in accordance with M.G.L. c.44 §28C (f) to pay for expenditures of the cost of maintenance of inactive landfill or other solid waste facilities; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: TRANSFER FROM TRANSFER STATION WINDOW STICKER REVENUE

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$ 5,500.00 from the Transfer Station Window Sticker Revenue Account to Sanitation part time Wages Account in accordance with M.G.L.c.44 s28C [f] to pay for expenditures of the cost of maintenance of existing inactive Landfill or other solid waste facilities; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: WATER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and approve the sum of \$1,008,205.00 for the Water Enterprise Fund beginning July 1, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F ½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or to take any action relative thereto.

REVENUES

User Fees	\$951,627
Investment Income	\$10,069
Water Liens	\$33,846
Misc. Revenue	\$664
Development Charges	\$12,000
Retained Earnings	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,008,205

EXPENSES

	Direct
Commission Salary	\$0
Salaries & Wages	\$380,550
Expenses	\$403,890
Equipment	\$42,500
Capital Outlay	\$30,000
Emergency Reserve	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$871,940
	Indirect
Retirement	\$45,000
Workers Comp.	\$8,800
Medicare	\$3,500
Health Insurance	\$52,000
Dental Insurance	\$2,400
Life Insurance	\$200
Other Insurance	\$5,800
Collection Dept.	\$5,750
Accountant & Treasurer Dept	\$12,815
Subtotal	\$136,265
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,008,205

ARTICLE 10: WWTP/SEWER ENTERPRISE BUDGET

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and approve the sum of \$1,757,162.24 for the WWTP/Sewer Enterprise Fund for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. c.44, §53F½, amount to be funded from the following sources; or to take any other action relative thereto.

User Fees	\$1,716,962.24
Connection Fees	\$200.00
Sewer Liens & Fees	\$40,000.00
Retained Earnings	\$0
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,757,162.24

EXPENSES

	Direct Costs
Salaries & Wages	\$390,391.03
Expenses	\$638,413.51
Capital Outlay	\$40,000.00
Debt & Interest	\$536,063.70
Emergency Reserve	\$10,000.00
Subtotal	\$1,614,868.24

	Indirect
Retirement	\$53,855.00
Workers Comp.	\$13,170.00
Medicare	\$3,000.00
Health Insurance	\$52,000.00
Dental Insurance	\$4,200.00
Life Insurance	\$132.00
Other Insurance	\$3,323.00
Collection Dept.	\$3,668.00
Accountant & Treasurer Dept	\$8,946.00
Subtotal	\$142,294.00

TOTAL BUDGET	\$1,757,162.24
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ARTICLE 11: REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2026

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide a sum of money to pay the Town of Orange assessed share of the Ralph C. Mahar (RCM) Regional School District budget for FY2026 and the Franklin County Technical School (FCTS) district budget for FY2026 as detailed in the chart below, or take any other action relative thereto.

	FY25 Town of Orange Appropriation	FY26 Certified by the Regional School Committee	FY26 Finance Committee recommended
RCM Operating Assessment	\$ 5,246,895.00	\$ 5,920,506.00	\$ 4,443,006.00
RCM Capital Assessment	\$ 144,261.00	\$ 141,179.00	\$ 141,179.00
FCTS Operating Assessment	\$ 606,065.00	\$ 565,058.00	\$ 565,058.00
FCTS Capital Assessment	\$ 20,251.57	\$ 20,973.96	\$ 20,973.96
Total Assessment	\$ 6,017,472.57	\$ 6,647,716.96	\$ 5,170,216.00

ARTICLE 12: TOWN BUDGET FISCAL YEAR 2026

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or otherwise provide such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025; or take any other action relative thereto. (OMNIBUS BUDGET)

ARTICLE 13: ELECTED OFFICERS COMPENSATION

To see if the Town will vote to fix the compensation of all elected officers of the town as provided by M.G.L. c.41, §108 effective July 1, 2025, as contained in the budget; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: TRANSFER FROM AMBULANCE RECEIPTS RESERVED FOR APPROPRIATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Account the sum of \$17,400 for the Fire Department Ambulance; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: ALLOCATION OF FUNDS TO SEWER INFLOW AND INFILTRATION (I/I) ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$47,575.00 from account 660-444-5700-2000-00000 Blodgett St Sewer Replacement to account 220-000-3590-7534 Sewer Inflow and Infiltration (I/I) Account; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT STABILIZATION ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$40,000 from the Wastewater Grit Removal Account to the Wastewater Treatment Facility Equipment Replacement Stabilization Account 661-000-3590-1000; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 17: TRANSFER TO STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$25,000.00 for the Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: TRANSFER TO CAPITAL STABILIZATION

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$25,000.00 for the Capital Stabilization Fund; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: TRANSFER TO OPEB TRUST

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$25,000.00 for the OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) Trust; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: ACCEPT BUTTERFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING

To see if the Town will vote to approve the School Committee transfer of the care custody management and control of the property located at 94 South Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110 and Parcel 115, and further described in a deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds at Book 878, Page 351, dated September 8, 1945 to the Board of Selectmen for general municipal purposes including disposal; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 21: CONVEY BUTTERFIELD SCHOOL BUILDING

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey, transfer, or otherwise dispose of the property located at 94 South Main Street, Orange, Massachusetts, identified as Assessor's Map 110 and Parcel 115, and further described in a deed recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds at Book 878, Page 351, dated September 8, 1945, to the Orange Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) for the purpose of facilitating beneficial reuse and redevelopment of the site, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems appropriate; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 22: LANDFILL SOLAR PANEL LEASE – JONES STREET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to lease, license, or otherwise grant the use of all or a portion of the Town-owned property located at the Jones Street landfill for the purpose of installing, operating, and maintaining solar panels and related infrastructure, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into all agreements and take all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 23: CEMETERY LOT BUY BACK

To see if the Town will vote to authorize payment of \$400.00 from Cemetery Sale of Lots Account to Robin Dodge Taupier, 93 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange MA 01364, to buy back her lot, Block 14, Lot 36, Spaces 1 and 2 at South Cemetery; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 24: FRCOG CHARTER

To see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; or take any action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 25: DEED IN LIEU OF FORECLOSURE

To see if the Town will accept a deed in lieu of foreclosure with regard to property on Flagg Road described in a deed recorded in Book 2826, Page 293 and as Parcel Identifier 209-0-26. Said parcel was Taken by the Town for unpaid FY 2009 taxes in the amount of \$2,163.76, and the assessed value of the subject property is \$40,800; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 26: UNCLAIMED AND ABANDONED PROPERTY

To see if the Town will vote to accept provisions of M.G.L. c. 200A, § 9A, Disposition of Unclaimed Property, allowing the Treasurer to reclaim old or stale checks or abandoned funds back to the general fund; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 27: TAX TITLE PAYMENT AGREEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following bylaw relative to payment agreements for properties in tax title:

1. The Treasurer shall have the authority to enter into written installment payment agreements with persons entitled to redeem parcels in tax title on such terms and conditions as the Treasurer may determine in the Treasurer's reasonable discretion and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 60, § 62A. This bylaw shall apply to all taxpayers with parcels in tax title in the Town of Orange.
2. All installment payment agreements shall comply with the following minimum requirements:
 - a. The payment agreement shall have a maximum term of ten (10) years;
 - b. The payment agreement may include a waiver of up to 50% of the interest that has accrued in the tax title account, but only if the taxpayer complies with the terms of the agreement (no taxes or collection costs may be waived);
 - c. The installment payment agreement must state the amount of the payment due from the taxpayer at the time of execution of the agreement, which must be at least 10% of the amount needed to redeem the parcel at the inception of the agreement.
 - d. The payment agreement shall be extended to the following categories: residential, industrial, and commercial properties.
3. The Treasurer is under no obligation to accept late payments;

4. During the term of agreement, the Treasurer may not bring an action to foreclose on the tax title unless there is a breach of the agreement; or timely payments are not made on other amounts due to the town that are a lien on the same parcel

Nothing in this bylaw shall preempt or preclude the authority of the Treasurer to accept accelerated or partial payments or negotiate and enter into payment agreements authorized by any other law, and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 28: AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW FOR FIRE APPARATUS

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$2,300,000, or any lesser amount, under the provisions of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of purchasing two fire trucks, including all related equipment and costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action necessary to carry out this vote; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 29: APPROPRIATION FOR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING – FIRE DEPARTMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash for the purchase of protective clothing and gear for the Fire Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 30: APPROPRIATION FOR SEALCOATING – FIRE STATION 2

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$7,500 from Free Cash for sealcoating and surface maintenance at Fire Station 2, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 31: PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT USING AMBULANCE RECEIPTS RESERVED

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$115,589 from the Ambulance Receipts Reserved for Appropriation account for the purpose of purchasing stretchers, stair chairs, radios, and radio repeaters for use in the Town's ambulances, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 32: AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW FOR POLICE CRUISER

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$72,000 for the purchase of a police cruiser for the Police Department, including all related equipment and costs incidental and related thereto, and to meet said appropriation by authorizing the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said sum pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 7, or any other enabling authority, and to authorize the Board of

Selectmen to take any and all actions necessary to carry out this vote; or take any other action relative thereto. *Requires a 2/3rd vote*

ARTICLE 33: AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW FOR HIGHWAY DUMP TRUCK

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow the sum of \$157,000, or any lesser amount, under the provisions of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of purchasing a Ford F-600 dump truck for the Highway Department, including all related equipment and costs incidental and related thereto, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any action necessary to carry out this vote; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 34: POLICE TASERS, BODY CAMERAS, AND CRUISER CAMERAS – THIRD PAYMENT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate and transfer the sum of \$57,000 from Free Cash for the third of five payments for the purchase of tasers, body-worn cameras, and cruiser-mounted cameras for the Police Department, including all costs incidental and related thereto; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 35: TRANSFER OF FUNDS – FORMER DEXTER PARK/ARMORY ROOF APPROPRIATION TO LIBRARY OR OTHER TOWN-OWNED BUILDING ROOF OR DRAINAGE PROJECT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$138,125.17, originally appropriated under Article 16 of the October 2011 Special Town Meeting for the Dexter Park Roof, and subsequently reauthorized for Armory Roof Repairs under Article 29 of the June 2018 Annual Town Meeting, and which is no longer needed for that purpose, to be used for roof repairs, roof replacement, or associated drainage system improvements on the Library or another Town-owned building; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 36: TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT REVOLVING FUND TO T-HANGAR DESIGN PROJECT

To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$3,265.00 from the airport revolving fund account to pay the town's local share of a \$490,600.00 federal and state grant for the design phase of a six-bay municipal hangar project at the airport; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 37: TRANSFER FROM VARIOUS AIRPORT ACCOUNTS TO T-HANGAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$2,866.01 from the perimeter fence account, and \$12,393.00 from the hazard beacon account, to pay a portion of the town's local share of a \$1,150,000.00 federal and state grant for the construction phase of a six-bay municipal hangar project at the airport; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 38: TRANSFER FROM AIRPORT REVOLVING FUND TO T-HANGAR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

To see if the town will vote to transfer and appropriate the sum of \$70,000.00 from the airport revolving fund account to pay the balance of the town's local share of a \$1,150,000.00 federal and state grant for the construction phase of a six-bay municipal hangar project at the airport; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 39: BUILDING DEMOLITION ACCOUNT

To see if the Town will vote to transfer and appropriate from Free Cash the sum of \$75,000.00 to account 001-239-5800-1000-10000 ART 19 ATM 6/21 BUILDING DEMOLITION for the purpose of paying for clean-up of properties that the Building Commissioner has declared a public hazard or unsafe; or take any action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 40: ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNCIL ON AGING VAN EXPENSE LINE

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, Stabilization, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$10,000 to establish a Council on Aging Van Expense line to cover the initial costs of operating and staffing the Council on Aging van; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 41: APPROPRIATION FOR OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION PLAN

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, including Free Cash, Stabilization, borrow or otherwise provide the sum of \$4,000.00 to serve as the local match for a \$10,000.00 planning grant received by the Town, for the purpose of hiring a consultant to update the Town of Orange Open Space and Recreation Plan; or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 42: AUTHORIZATION TO BORROW FOR FAIRMAN ROAD CULVERT

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$300,000.00 to pay costs associated with the Fairman Road Culvert Replacement Project, including construction oversight, and to meet this appropriation, to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow said amount pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44 or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor; said funds to be used to strengthen the Town's application for grant funding to support the project; or take any other action relative thereto.

Requires a 2/3rd vote

ARTICLE 43: DOG CONTROL BYLAW AMENDMENT

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Dog Control By-Law Chapter 115 voted at Town Meeting May 3, 2004 by striking the words with lines drawn through and adding the words underlined in bold and further that non-substantive changes to the numbering of this bylaw be permitted in order that it be in compliance with the numbering format for the Code of Orange; or take any action relative thereto.

DOG CONTROL

115-1. Purpose.

These regulations are intended to guide those persons owning or keeping dogs within the Town of Orange in their role as responsible pet owners. Although it is hoped these regulations will act as an educational tool, it must also be understood that enforcement of same is necessary to protect the rights and safety of the public.

115-2. Licenses and tags.

- A. The owner or keeper of a dog, kept within the Town of Orange, said dog being six months of age or older shall cause that dog to be licensed annually. The license year shall be from April first to the following March thirty-first inclusive.
- B. The Town Clerk shall issue dog licenses and tags. The Clerk shall record for each license issued, the name, address and telephone number of the owner or keeper of each dog so licensed, the tag number issued, date of last rabies vaccination, breed, age, color, or other description of the dog. Each tag shall contain the tag number, the name of the town of ORANGE and the year of issue. The owner or keeper shall cause said dog to wear around its neck or body, a collar or harness to which he/she shall securely attach the tag issued. In the event that any tag is lost, defaced or destroyed, the owner or keeper shall obtain substitute tags from the Town Clerk.
- C. The owner or keeper of any dog shall provide proof of said license upon request of the Animal Control Officer, Police Officers or other authorized officials.
- D. There shall be a fee that is paid by the owner for each license and tag and any replacement tag issued by the Town Clerk. All fees under this section shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, and may be changed from time to time, as they deem appropriate. No license fee or part thereof shall be refunded because of a subsequent death, loss, spaying or neutering, or removal from the Town of such dog. Any owner or keeper of a dog who moves into the Town of Orange, and has a valid dog license for his/her dog from another city or town in the Commonwealth, may obtain a Town of Orange transfer license upon presentation of license documentation from said city or town. A license shall not be issued for any dog unless the owner or keeper provides the Clerk with a veterinarian's certificate verifying that the dog is currently vaccinated against rabies, or, indicating that because of infirmity, other physical condition or regimen of therapy, said vaccination is deemed inadvisable. The rabies vaccination date shall be recorded on the license record.
- E. No fee shall be charged for a dog specially trained to lead or serve a handicapped person, upon presentation of certification of said training.
- F. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any domestic charitable corporation incorporated in the Commonwealth, exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect or abuse; or stray dogs housed in a facility operated by or under contract with the Town of Orange for the purpose of housing stray dogs, or pet shops

licensed under Chapter 129 Section 39A of the General Laws and where otherwise provided by law.

115-3. MULTI-DOG Personal kennel licenses.

- A. Any owner or keeper of ~~four or more~~ more than four dogs, six months of age or over, may elect to secure a multi-dog kennel license in lieu of licensing such dogs under 115-2. Such license shall be in lieu of any other license for any dog while kept at such location during any portion of the period for which such multi-dog kennel license is issued. The holder of a multi-dog kennel license shall cause each dog kept therein to wear, while it is at large, a collar or harness of leather or other suitable material, to which shall be securely attached a tag upon which shall appear the number of such multi-dog license, the year of issue, and the inscription ORANGE. Such tags shall be issued by the Town Clerk.
- B. The fee for multi-dog personal kennel licenses shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, and may be changed from time to time, as they deem appropriate. Dogs under the age of six months shall not be counted in the number of dogs kept therein. The Town Clerk shall upon application, issue without charge a multi-dog license to any domestic charitable corporation, incorporated exclusively for the purpose of protecting animals from cruelty, neglect or abuse, and for the relief of suffering among animals. A personal kennel is a pack or collection of more than four (4) dogs, three months old or older, owned or kept under single ownership for private personal use.

115-4. Leashing and restraint of dogs.

- A. No person owning or keeping a dog in the Town of Orange shall permit such dog to be kept at large in the Town of Orange. The owner or keeper of a dog in the Town of Orange shall restrain by a suitable means such dog.
- B. Any dog found to be at large in violation of this section may be caught and confined by an officer authorized to do so, or returned to the owner or keeper of record forthwith. The Animal Control Officer, or authorized agent, shall attempt to notify the owner/keeper of record of a confined dog. The owner/keeper of said dog shall have a period of time, not to exceed ten days, within which to recover said dog. Return of the dog to the owner/keeper of record shall be dependent upon admission of ownership or the keeping of said dog, and assumption of responsibility by the owner or keeper. If said dog is unlicensed, a current license shall be obtained and all impound fees paid prior to release of the dog. In addition to fees charged by the kennel for boarding, medical or other care/costs, the impound fee shall be paid to the Town of Orange. Impound fees shall be determined by the Board of Selectmen, and may be changed from time to time, as they deem appropriate.
- C. This section shall not be construed to limit or prohibit the use of hunting dogs during the hunting season, the conducting of field trials for hunting dogs or the training or use of Police K-9 units.

115-5. Control of nuisances.

No person owning or having the care, custody or control of any dog shall permit such dog to soil or defile or commit any nuisance upon any sidewalk, street, thoroughfare, beach or wetland, in or upon any public property, or in or upon the property of persons other than the owner or persons having the care, custody or control of such dog, unless said person picks up any such waste and disposes of same in a sanitary manner. Disposal in a storm drain is not a sanitary manner. This section shall not apply to physically handicapped persons in sole custody or control of said dog. Penalty for violation of the section shall be twenty-five dollars (\$25.00) for each offense.

115-6. Property damage, appraisal, reimbursement.

- A. Whoever suffers loss by the worrying, killing or maiming of his livestock or fowl by dogs shall inform the Animal Control Officer, or other authorized agent, who shall forthwith proceed to the scene to view the damage, who shall determine if the damage was done in fact by dogs and, if so, appraise the amount of damage if it does not exceed one-hundred dollars (\$100.00).
- B. If in the opinion of the aforementioned agent of the town, the damage exceeds one-hundred (\$100.00) dollars, the damage shall be appraised on oath by three persons, one of whom shall be this agent of the town, one shall be appointed by the person alleged to have suffered the loss and the third appointed by these two.
- C. Said appraisers shall consider and include in such damages the number and kind of animals damaged, the extent of the damage and the approximate weight of the killed animals. The appraisers will also note in their report whether or not any animals were sent for medical treatment in an effort to save them, the number and kind of such animals. Such report shall be filed in the office of the Board of Selectmen within ten days of said appraisal. The Board of Selectmen may require the appraisers to provide any additional information that they deem appropriate. The appraisal will be reviewed and submitted for payment as deemed appropriate. Reimbursement may be denied or limited in accordance with Chapter 140

115-7. Liability of dog owner.

- A. The owner or keeper of a dog which has done damage to livestock or fowl shall be liable for such damage, and the Board of Selectmen may order the owner or keeper to pay such damages after an investigation by the Town Administrator of the facts of the matter and appraisal conducted as outlined in Section V.
- B. In the event that the owner or keeper of such dog known to have done damage to livestock or fowl refuses to pay upon the order of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator shall enter or cause to be entered a complaint in district court for the enforcement of the order.

115-8. Vaccination against rabies.

- A. The owner or keeper of a dog three months of age or older, housed or sheltered in the Town of Orange shall cause such animal to be vaccinated against rabies by a licensed veterinarian using a vaccine approved by the Mass. Department of Public Health. Such owner or keeper shall procure a veterinarian's certification that such animal has been so vaccinated and setting forth the date of such vaccination and the duration of immunity, or a notarized letter from a veterinarian that a certification was issued, or a metal rabies tag bearing an expiration date indicating that such certification is still in effect, or a veterinarian's certificate indicating that because of infirmity, other physical condition or regimen of therapy, said vaccination is deemed inadvisable.
- B. Vaccinated animals shall be revaccinated periodically in accordance with rules and regulations adopted and promulgated by the Mass. Department of Public Health. The owner or keeper of a dog shall present certification of rabies vaccination upon demand of the Animal Control Officer, Police Officers or other authorized officials of the Town.

115-9. Quarantine of dogs suspected of having contagious disease.

The Board of Selectmen or their authorized agent, may order any dog which said person has reason to believe is affected with a contagious disease of a serious nature, to be quarantined or isolated for at least ten (10) days upon the premises of the owner or of the person in whose charge it is found, or in such other place as the Board of Selectmen or agent may designate. A dog, which has been quarantined or isolated by order of the Board of Selectmen or their agent, shall, during the continuance of such quarantine or isolation, be deemed to be affected with a contagious disease. The owner or keeper shall be responsible for any fees incurred for any off-premise quarantine. Whoever knowingly breaks or authorizes or causes to be broken a quarantine so imposed, or whoever contrary to such order of quarantine or isolation, knowingly removes a dog or authorizes or causes it to be removed from a building, place or enclosure where it is quarantined or isolated, or whoever contrary to an order or notice of quarantine, knowingly places or causes or authorizes to be placed any other animals within a building, place or enclosure where a dog is quarantined or in contact therewith, or knowingly causes or authorizes to be concealed, sold, removed or transported, a dog, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that it is affected with a contagious disease, or whoever knowingly authorizes or permits such dog to go at large within the Town of Orange, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each offense. Any such dog found at large by the Animal Control Officer, or other authorized agent of the Town, shall be captured and confined at the expense of said owner or keeper.

115-10. Violations and penalties.

Any person guilty of a violation of this article shall be penalized by noncriminal disposition and subject to a fine as set forth in Chapter 1, General Provisions, Art. 1, unless otherwise specified within this regulation.

115-11. Adoption policy.

It shall be the policy of the Town of Orange, to attempt to make available for adoption, those impounded dogs, which have gone unclaimed and are deemed healthy and suitable for pets. The facility holding a contract with the Town of Orange for impound services, may offer said adoption service in accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140 Section 139A, acting in the capacity of a "shelter" as defined in MGL Ch. 140 Sec. 136A. Alternatively, the Town may place unclaimed dogs, suitable for adoption, with the MSPCA, Pioneer Valley Humane Society, or other breed specific rescue organization. The Town of Orange will not assume financial responsibility for the upkeep and boarding of said dogs beyond the initial required ten day holding period.

115-12. Vicious, barking, or nuisance dogs.

If any person shall make a complaint in writing to the Board of Selectmen, that a dog owned or kept in the Town of Orange is a nuisance by reason of vicious disposition or excessive barking or other disturbance, the Board of Selectmen shall cause to be investigated such complaint, including an examination on oath of the complainant, and after holding a public hearing, may make such order concerning the restraint or disposal of such dog and payment of damages as may be deemed necessary. Within ten days after such order the owner or keeper of such dog may petition for relief of said order in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 140 Section 157. Any person owning or keeping a dog subject to any order of the Board of Selectmen, who shall fail to comply with said order of the Board of Selectmen, shall be punished by a fine of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for each offense. The owner/keeper of any dog subject to an order of the Board of Selectmen shall be responsible for any and all costs of carrying out said order. The act of a dog in attacking or biting another dog or other animal may be made subject of a complaint under the provisions of this section.

115-13. Definitions.

As used in this chapter, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

AT LARGE - shall mean free of physical restraint and permitted to wander on private property, public property and ways at will.

COMMERCIAL BOARDING OR TRAINING KENNEL – an establishment used for boarding, holding, day care, overnight stays or training of animals that are not the property of the owner of the establishment, at which such services are rendered in exchange for consideration and in the absence of the owner of any such animal; provided, however, that “commercial boarding or training kennel” shall not include an animal shelter or animal control facility, a pet shop licensed under section 39A of chapter 129, a grooming facility operated solely for the purpose of grooming and not for overnight boarding or an individual who temporarily, and not in the normal course of business boards or cares for animals owned by others.

DOMESTIC CHARITABLE CORPORATION KENNEL – a facility operated, owned or maintained by a domestic charitable corporation registered with the department or an animal welfare society or other nonprofit organization incorporated for the purpose of providing for and promoting the welfare, protection and humane treatment of animals,

including a veterinary hospital or clinic operated by a licensed veterinarian, which operates consistent with such purposes while providing veterinary treatment and care.

KENNEL – a pack or collection of dogs on a single premise, including a commercial boarding or training kennel, commercial breeder kennel, domestic charitable corporation kennel, personal kennel or veterinary kennel.

LICENSE PERIOD - shall mean the time between April first and the following March thirty-first, both dates inclusive.

LIVE STOCK OR FOWLS - shall mean animals or fowls kept or propagated by the owner for food or as a means of livelihood; also deer, elk cottontail rabbits and northern hares, pheasants, quail, partridge and other birds and quadrupeds determined by the department of fisheries, wildlife and environmental law enforcement to be wild and kept by, or under a permit from said department in proper houses or suitable enclosed yards. Such phrase shall not include dogs, cats and other pets.

OWNER OR KEEPER - shall mean any persons, firm, association or corporation owning, keeping, or harboring a dog.

PERSONAL KENNEL – a pack or collection of more than four (4) dogs, three (3) months old or older, owned or kept under single ownership, for private personal use; provided, however, that breeding of personally owned dogs may take place for the purpose of improving, exhibiting or showing the breed or for use in legal sporting activity or for other personal reasons; provided further, that selling, trading, bartering or distributing such breeding from a personal kennel shall be to other breeders or individuals by private sale only and not to wholesales, brokers, or pet shops; provided further, that a personal kennel shall not sell, trade, barter or distribute a dog not bred from its personally-owned dog; and provided further, that dogs temporarily housed at a personal kennel, in conjunction with an animal shelter or rescue registered with the department, may be sold, traded, bartered or distributed if the transfer is not for profit.

ARTICLE 44: ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY BY EMINENT DOMAIN – 16–36 WEST RIVER STREET

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by eminent domain, gift, purchase, or otherwise, for general municipal purposes, the property located at 16–36 West River Street, identified as Assessor's Map 110, Lot 227, more particularly described in a deed to Karmacan LLC, dated December 9, 2019, and recorded in the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Book 7466, Page 55, containing approximately 1.06 acres, more or less; and to appropriate a sum of money for such acquisition, including any damages for the taking, legal fees, and related costs; said taking to be subject to all existing encumbrances, liens, and easements of record; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article; or take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk, at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

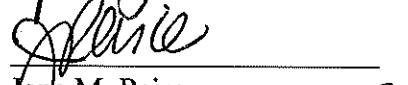
Given under our hands this 28th day of May in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-five.

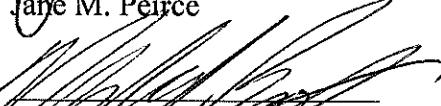
BOARD OF SELECTMEN


Thomas J. Smith


Julie Davis

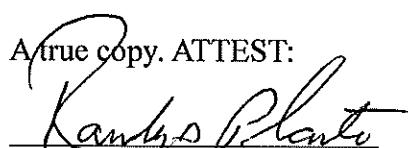

Andrew J. Smith


Jane M. Peirce


Michael Bates

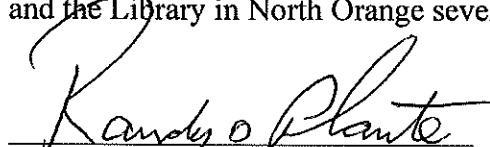
Selectmen, Town of Orange

A true copy. ATTEST:


Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

FRANKLIN, SS.

Pursuant to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Orange, by posting up attested copies of the same at the Town Hall and Post Office in Orange and the Library in North Orange seven days at least before the time of holding said meeting.


Randy Plante, Constable of Orange

5-29-25
Date