

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

October 13, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Town Office

**Select Board - Paula Barnes
Walker James
Carla Ochs
Roland Simmons**

**Present: Allen M. Alger - Road Foreman Karen DeMoy
Allen R. Alger John Hill
Robert Arnebold Robert Martin
Gerry Audet Mark Russell
Laura Coro Lisa Thal**

Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:27 p.m., by Roland Simmons, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

None.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report -Allen M. Alger reported that the Road Crew is working on ditching and stone lining. The sand and salt piles are up to par. This week the sander and plow frames will be installed. All will be ready for winter's surprises. The Road Foreman arranged for backup help and will be on vacation from October 17 to November 3, 2008.

Milton CAT reported that the new loader is to be shipped from the factory [to their shop] on October 21, 2008. Hopefully this date will be kept and the loader will arrive some time in early November.

b. Shoales Drive - The Road Foreman and Gerry Audet measured the area of the road on Shoales Drive bordering the pond that is overflowing onto the town highway. Gerry Audet stated that the pond area will be improved by putting in an overflow pipe and further stated that the land owner, Dave LaMontagne takes responsibility if the road is damaged.

Last week Roland Simmons and Walker James inspected this section of the town highway at the request of the Road Foreman. On the northwest side of Shoales between the two houses the Select Board members found a pond with dam 18 inches in the road right of way. Previously there was an existing much smaller pond. The current pond water level is above the road and at this time water is leaking onto the road. Discussion ensued.

The Town needs the road protected; access for all vehicles including emergency vehicles must be maintained. At the request of Gerry Audet, the Select Board will write a letter to David LaMontagne explaining the Select Board's concerns, the need for repairs and improvement of an overflow pipe as soon as possible.

c. Town Highway Right of Way - Mark Russell Barn Drain to Lake - Roland Simmons and Walker James, when viewing the problems at Shoales Drive, discovered road work being done at the Mark Russell farm. The FEDS are improving the Russell barnyard, putting in a cement pad where roof water

can drain and be directed into a pipe that will run 6 feet under the Town Road, level out about 20 feet, run 75 feet and drain into Lake Champlain. Roland Simmons checked with the State ANR and was advised that the State does not require a permit, the Feds have precedence. The Select Board reviewed the details and discussion followed.

Mark Russell needs a Town Highway Right of Way permit to do any work in a Town Highway, specifically Mt Independence Road.

Walker James moved to issue a Town Highway Right of Way permit to Mark Russell to push a pipe under the road and if this is not feasible and specifying that the Road Foreman inspect the job, permit the digging up of the Town Road. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

3. MINUTES.

Walker James moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of September 22, 2008, as written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of **\$23,101.82**, Sewer orders in the amount of **\$58.30** and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

The Select Board Chair reviewed and signed the monthly and quarterly reports on last Friday.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. VLCT 2008 Town Fair Report - Roland Simmons attended the annual meeting and Town Fair held at the Grand Hotel in Killington, Vermont.

b. PACIF Insurance 2009 - The Select Board reviewed the application along with the vehicle and building sheets. The application as written was approved and will be signed and mailed Tuesday, October 14, 2008.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Gerry Audet Fire Pond Cleanup - Gerry Audet explained that several years ago the Fire Department installed a fire pond on his property. The dirt from the fire pond was muck and was piled up to allow it to dry out. The pile is about 10 by 60 feet and now needs to be leveled off. Discussion ensued.

Allen R. Alger will look over the area and will get an estimate of the cost of using a bull dozer to level out the material. This is most likely the least costly method to spread out the dirt.

b. John Hill, Candidate - Roland Simmons invited John Hill of Benson to the Select Board meeting to present his views and position. John Hill is running as an Independent for Representative from

Addison-Rutland #1 District consisting of Whiting, Benson, Shoreham and Orwell. Will Stevens is the incumbent and is running for re-election.

John Hill gave a brief talk explaining his reasons for running and his background. Listening to people out in the field and learning to work together rather than against each other in the legislature are some of his goals. After discussions and questions, the Select Board thanked John Hill for coming.

c. Order to Reappraise - The Select Board received an order to reappraise from Director William Johnson, of PVR. The letter notified the Select Board that he determined that Orwell 2007 CLA and COD were 79.66 and 19.57 respectively. Thus, Orwell is required to reappraise its education grand list properties. Orwell is given "30 days to contest the finding under procedural rules, to develop a compliance plan, or both. If the director accepts a proposed compliance plan submitted by the municipality, the director shall not order commencement of the reappraisal until the municipality has had one year to carry out that plan." The order is dated September 22, 2008, and received September 25, 2008.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Lister Workshop Request - Cheryl Tudhope requested permission to attend and IAEO workshop on fundamentals of assessment ratio studies November 5, 6, & 7, 2008, in White River Junction. The Select Board approved lister participation in this workshop.

b. Orwell Free Library Payroll - Two members of the Orwell Free Library Board and two members of the Wright Memorial Library Board Orwell met with the Select Board to discuss putting the Orwell Librarian on the Town payroll. After lengthy discussion Robert Martin of the Wright Memorial Board felt that he needed more information before going ahead. Another meeting will be scheduled with the two Library Boards and the Select Board after further research.

c. Delinquent Property Tax Workshop - Louis Hall signed up for this workshop, Thursday, October 23, 2008 at the Milton Town Office in Milton, VT. This workshop is put on by VLCT.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Walker James move to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes - 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board

Regular Select Board Meeting

May 12, 2008

NOT APPROVED

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Regular Select Board Meeting

July 23, 2008

