

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD
October 22, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Town Office**

**Select Board - Walker James
Carla Ochs
Roland Simmons
Peter Young**

Present: Allen M. Alger Robert G. Arnebold

Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by Roland Simmons, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Roland Simmons commented that if this is what global warming is going to be I'm in favor of it 100%. I love the color we had this year. It is gorgeous. This last weekend the woods were on fire. It can't get any better than this year. The colors in the woods and all over Orwell and surrounding towns are fantastic.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - By Thursday of this week all the brush cutting should be completed. After that the machine goes to Shoreham. The Road crew is doing a nice job, Peter Young commented.

By tomorrow the salt shed should be full. Both trucks are ready to go for winter weather. We continue to draw gravel Allen M. Alger reported.

A reminder: Allen M. Alger will be on vacation next week - Oct 29th.

b. Dead Tree in Road Right of Way - The Roy's were contacted and asked about splitting the cost to remove the dead maple in front of their property on North Orwell Road, Roland Simmons explained. To date no reply was received. The tree needs to be taken down. The cost will be about \$600 the Road Foreman estimated. The truck is in Brandon so it can be easily done this week.

3. MINUTES.

Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 8, 2007, as written. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Carla Ochs moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$4,978.35, the Sewer orders in the amount of \$417.67, and the Town payroll. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

Walker James reported his and Martin Williams hours to Gail Pope, as she requested.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Green Up Day Coordinator. - Roland Simmons stated that Cindy Watrous agreed to be coordinator again this year and will give her time to train Elizabeth Orr as co-coordinator.

b. School Board Appointment - Karen Close of the Supervisory Union advised the Town Clerk that Judy Fyles was appointed by the Orwell Village School Board to complete the term vacated by the resignation of Dawn LaPrise.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Budget Request Notices - The Select Board requested the clerk to send out requests for budgets from the different Orwell Town Officers, entities and organizations, with a deadline of November 30, 2007.

b. Broadband for Orwell - Peter Young would like to represent Orwell in the Governor's and the State's Broadband project. There is a search committee set up to look at what towns' needs may be and he would like to give input for Orwell. The Select Board approved this request.

c. VLCT Health Trust Year in Review - The Select Board Chair read the health trust review for 2007. A copy of this report is attached to these minutes.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Current Use Report - The clerk gave the following Orwell use appraisal report:

- 88 parcels in current use with 69 different property owners.
- 14,767 Ac or 54% in current use out of 27,803 total Acres.
- Assessed Value - \$24,287,200.

b. VLCT Annual Meeting Report - Roland Simmons reported on the 2007 annual meeting held last week and stated that he felt it was a very productive session. Abandoned cemeteries and town responsibility for them was one area under discussion. VLCT feels SDVR will see no action in 2008 but feels the state should take up education property tax collection. VLCT strongly supports local control.

c. Atty Gen Public/Private Tax Info Decision - The AG's office issued their opinion that property tax bills remain public records open to the public, even though possible private income information is now on these bills. A summary of the reasons for this opinion are as follows:

The Vermont statutes require the tax commissioner to pay homestead property tax adjustment amounts to municipalities.

The statutes require municipalities to show the amount of the state's payments on property tax bills.

The statutes also require municipalities to maintain books and records showing property taxes due and tax payments made.

The statutes provide that all records produced or acquired in the course of town business are public records.

There is no statute that authorizes municipalities to deny public access to property tax bills and other public records that show a municipality's receipt and disbursement of property tax payments.

d. Orleans Variance - The Select Board was notified that the variance Brian Orleans applied for to the Agency of Agriculture was granted by Roger Albee, Secretary.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Carla Ochs moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 p.m. Peter Young seconded the motion.

The motion passed - 4 Yes - 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ann Arnebold
Clerk of the Board

Regular Meeting

March 26, 2007

