

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

November 24, 2008

7:30 p.m.

Town Office

Select Board - Paula Barnes
Walker James
Carla Ochs
Roland Simmons
Peter Young

Present: Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman
Allen R. Alger
Robert 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 stated that there has been some controversial discussion in Town about Town boards and ours showing a lot of feeling apparently about some issues. When people have comments, it is always better to offer a solution along with a complaint instead of just complaining. It is Roland Simmons opinion that it is more productive for people with complaints to offer some solutions to curing a problem.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - New Loader - The Road Crew announced that the new loader is at the Town Garage. In addition, the grader has a fresh coat of paint, is spruced up, in good repair and ready for the next workload. The Salt Shed is full. The Select Board stated that Town roads are in good shape.

The Road Foreman reported that 14 loads of sand were hauled from Brandon last week. To date Allen M. Alger has not received a listing of the school bus routes.

The weather report warns possible snow and rain by Tuesday morning.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

THE ROAD CREW DOES THE BEST JOB THAT IT CAN BUT THIS YEAR THERE ARE ADDITIONAL ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED.

THE SELECT BOARD ASKS THAT CITIZENS BE AWARE THAT BECAUSE OF SHORT SUPPLIES AND BUDGET CUTS, MATERIALS MAY NOT BE READILY AVAILABLE.

THE SELECT BOARD ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO KEEP THIS IN MIND, BE SURE THEY HAVE SNOW TIRES ON EARLY AND TO THINK ABOUT LIMITED COVERAGE ON ROADS THIS SEASON.

IN ADDITION, IT MAY VERY WELL TAKE LONGER TO OPEN UP ROADS AFTER A STORM. ROADS WILL GET ONE OVERALL COVERAGE AND THEN JUST HILLS AND CORNERS TO CONSERVE ON MATERIALS THAT MAY BE IN LIMITED SUPPLY.

b. Interstate Weight Limits Resolution - The Select Board reviewed a resolution to increase weight limits on Interstate highways in Vermont. (See attached copy.)

Peter Young moved to support this resolution and to have the Select Board Chair sign the resolution copy. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

c. Oil Interceptor - The Select Board received a quote for the installation of an oil interceptor for the Town Garage, as required by the State. Allen M. Alger is awaiting quotes from several other companies. This information is needed for developing a budget for 2009.

3. MINUTES.

Peter Young moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 10, 2008, as written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$6,104.08, Election Officials in the amount of \$150.00, Sewer orders in the amount of \$322.40 and the Town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

None.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

None.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. VT Police Coverage Meeting Report - Roland Simmons attended this meeting held in Rutland. This was a summer study report held in Milton and Rutland. Milton saw 8 or 9 towns at this meeting. At the Rutland meeting there were 2 towns, Orwell and Rutland Town. Not a lot was accomplished but one good point was made by a Rutland Town Select Board member. He stated that all these things that are being taken away from the towns have already been paid for in taxes. This is probably not legal. These services are directed out to the towns but now it is being kept by the State.

Another comment made by the police officer attending is the question of where is the State going to get the police officers to do these things. The people are just not there. Police application success ratio is very low.

b. Local Highway Aid Cuts Update - Trevor Lashua of VLCT sent the following update on the proposed local highway aid cuts. "Yesterday the legislative Joint Fiscal Committee deferred any decision on the proposed local highway aid cuts of nearly \$3 million until the full legislature convenes in January. This means that the signed resolutions worked. While this initial piece of news is good news, local government is by no means out of the woods yet. The cut proposal is still alive. Please continue to be in contact with your Reps and Sens on how important these programs are for local government.

c. PC Interim Zoning Admin Appointment - To date no letter of appointment was received.

d. L. Quesnel Letter/Bill - Roland Simmons read the letter he wrote and sent to Lorenzo Quesnel concerning the damage to Murray Road in October. A bill was included.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Disabled VETS Exemption Increase. - Cmd Sgt Major Lou Lertola, Retired, sent a letter to the Select Board requesting that the Select Board support an increase in Orwell's property tax exemption for qualified veterans. (A copy is attached to these minutes.)

Peter Young moved to present an article on the warning for Town Meeting to increase the property tax exemption for qualified veterans from \$10,000 to \$40,000. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

The clerk will research to find out if there are any local adopted exemptions. These must be voted otherwise state education tax will be levied on these properties. It seems there is a limited period of exemption. Thus, every ten years these exemptions need to be re-voted.

b. Constables - Legislative Change - The Select Board was notified by letter that there was a legislative change during the last session which required that ALL constables who exercise any law enforcement authority become at least part-time certified no later than July 2010. To date Orwell does not have any constables who exercise any law enforcement authority.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. UVM - Conference on Energy & Climate Change Dec 6, 2008, Randolph - UVM Extension Service and the VT Energy & Climate Action Network invite you to attend the First Annual VT Conference on "Community-Based Approaches to Energy and Climate Change" on Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9 am to 4 pm at the VT Technical College in Randolph. Conference registration, refreshments and exhibitors begin at 8 am with the conference starting at 9 am. Full conference registration fee is \$20/person and includes all workshops, general sessions, exhibit hall and lunch. To register, visit www.regonline.com/VTEnergy.

b. Mark Werle Letter - The Select Board received a letter bringing the Select Board up to date on the current Environmental Court case.

c. VT Cares - Vermont Cares will again hold its annual bike tour on June 13, 2009, which will begin at Kingsland Bay State Park in Ferrisburg. There will be a support and gear stop at the Orwell Green. The Select Board will ask for an updated insurance form covering the June 13, 2009 date.

d. Orwell Free Library Librarian - The Select Board discussed the librarian position for the Orwell Free Library. At the last Orwell Free Library Board meeting, the Board hired Lisa Thal as the Librarian. Discussion followed.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Carla Ochs moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ann Arnebold
Clerk of the Board

Regular Select Board Meeting

May 12, 2008

NOT APPROVED

Page 4 of 4

Regular Select Board Meeting

July 23, 2008

Regular Meeting

March 26, 2007