

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**January 14, 2008  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Office**

**Select Board - Paula Barnes  
Walker James  
Roland Simmons  
Peter Young**

**Present: Allen M. Alger Karen Rowland, Auditor  
Allen R. Alger Mark Young, Treasurer  
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.**

None.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - Allen M. Alger reported that they drew \$5,100 worth of sand last week and are receiving a steady flow of salt. Some sand was hauled by the Town from Markowski. The sand and salt are being mixed to make the salt go farther.

Peter Young stated that he gave the Road Crew the information on the new drug and alcohol testing system that will begin February 1, 2008. The new rules and info should be here before that date.

Vallencourt submitted a price \$150 less than the previous quote to take down the dead tree in the road right of way across from Tudhopes. The Road Foreman is waiting word from the property owner.

b. Ledge Work - Bob Shaw notified Allen M. Alger that he has a 150 hammer and is looking for work. There are ledge areas in Town where this machine could be used. Some places are on Daignault Hill, Royce Hill and Needham Hill Roads and the sand pile area at the Town Garage. The cost is \$200/hr. This will have to be put in the budget.

c. Certificate of Highway Mileage 2008 - The certificate of highway mileage report form arrived from VTrans. The Select Board reviewed the information. Discussion followed. There are no changes for 2008.

**Paula Barnes moved to have the Select Board sign the 2008 certificate of highway mileage, listing 75.375 miles with no changes. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.**

**3. MINUTES.**

**Paula Barnes moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 17, 2007, and the special meeting of December 27, 2007, as written. Roland Simmons 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 amounts of \$49,187.70 and \$3,969.00, Sewer orders in the amount of \$1,625.46, and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.**

## 5. SEWER REPORT.

- a. The quarterly and monthly reports were reviewed by the Select Board Chair and signed.
- b. The Select Board reviewed the pay level for the treatment plant manager. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to raise the monthly pay of Martin Williams to \$890.00. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.**

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Select Board reviewed the financial reports with Karen Rowland, Auditor and Mark Young, Treasurer. Karen Rowland had questions for both the Select Board and Treasurer.

There was continued work on trying to deal with more corrections sent down from the Tax Department on tax billing. It seems these corrections may continue until April 1, 2008.

**Walker James moved to instruct the Treasurer not to bill taxpayers for additional late filing penalties as included in the revised bills because there is no clear documentation basis for this billing. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.**

There were three or so checks on the State list dating back to June and October that were not found in the financial report for 2007. Later in the evening Mark Young came back and stated that he had found the missing State checks.

Karen Rowland stated that the Auditors will do the delinquency list of taxes as of December 31, 2007. The Select Board will need the balance as of 12/31/2007 for both the sewer and general funds.

The Select Board instructed the Treasurer to move the monies in #6077 savings account into the general fund to meet the order payments for tonight.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Employee Evaluations - The Select Board reviewed the annual year end evaluations for town employees. The evaluations were well received reported Roland Simmons.

b. Budget 2008 - The Select Board continued working on the 2008 budget. Final work is scheduled for the January 28, 2008 regular meeting along with the final work on the warning. A draft copy of the warning was given to Select Board members to work on for the January 28, 2008 meeting.

c. Mileage Reimbursement 2008 - The IRS allowance for 2008 is .505. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to raise the Town payment for mileage to .505 per mile. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.**

d. Tomaino Letter - Roland Simmons read the letter he wrote concerning the car being parked in the way of snow plowing on the school circle. The car must be removed or it will be towed at owner's expense.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Audit Schedule for Town Report - The Auditors submitted the following schedule:

1. January 25<sup>th</sup> - Reports due.
2. February 7<sup>th</sup> - Town report to printer.
3. February 21<sup>st</sup> - Mail out town report.
4. March 4<sup>th</sup> - Town meeting.

b. Town Officer Petitions - The Select Board reviewed the list of town officer petitions for town meeting.

c. Drug and Alcohol Testing Meeting - Peter Young reported that he attended the required PACIF CDL controlled substance & alcohol testing contractor change meeting and gave the following information.

1. VLCT has hired a new company to do the required testing.
2. There will be new rules, regulations and a website affective as of February 1, 2008.
3. A new handbook is being sent out.
4. Notices will be sent out by email.
5. Temporary drives are now to be addressed every time they do any work. This is a problem for many towns. One answer is to treat part time workers as 'on active status.' They then will go on the active list and be called each testing event. Since many of these people hold CDL's maybe something can be worked out with their testing in the jobs where they work using their CDL. Perhaps the Town can get records from Spafford and Carpenter. This needs to be researched.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Will Stevens Prebate Letters - Rep Will Stevens requested that town officers write individual "prebate" letters that he can bring to the hearing.

Roland Simmons read the letter he sent to Rep Will Stevens. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes. The Lister Chair, Treasurer, and Town Clerk also wrote and emailed their individual letters concerning the "prebate" problems directly to Rep Stevens.

b. Benson Highway Notice - The Benson Select Board notified the Town of Orwell Select Board that the Town of Benson plans to discontinue all town highways not shown on the Vermont Agency of Transportation map of Benson Town Highways.

The warning for the public information hearing was attached stating:

Benson Town Office  
Stage Road  
Benson, Vermont  
February 11, 2008

7:00 p.m.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT.

**Walker James moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes - 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board



