

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD
December 17, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Town Office**

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

**Present: Allen M. Alger Cheryl Tudhope
Allen R. Alger Barbara LaDuc
Robert G. Arnebold Mark Young Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk**

The meeting was called to order at 7:43 p.m., by Roland Simmons, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Peter Young reported that he received a complaint about road crew snow plowing that was destroying his lawn on Church Street property. Peter Young investigated other areas around town. Discussion ensued.

The Select Board explained that they control all activity in the town road right-of-way. The road crew is doing an excellent job snow plowing. This includes pushing back road snow to keep the roads open and safe for travel.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - Allen M. Alger stated that he is having a problem with two cars that are parked in the school driveway at all times. This impedes snow plowing. Discussion followed.

Walker James moved to have the Select Board send a letter to the owners of the vehicles requesting that the vehicles be kept out of the driveway during plowing hours. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

Walker James and Roland Simmons will work on writing and sending this letter.

The Road Foreman had a wing on his truck break today. The parts are in and the '04 Mack will be back in service tomorrow.

The Select Board again commented on the excellent work the road crew is doing on town roads especially after the storms.

b. Storm Report - The storm was kind and Orwell did not get as much snow fall as was predicted. All the roads are plowed and sanded. There are a few hills and corners that will get a repeat coverage.

3. MINUTES.

Walker James moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 10, 2007, as written. Carla Ochs 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 \$12,575.12 and \$7,095.28, the HAVA Grant orders in the amount of \$3,058.27, Sewer orders in the amount of \$176.00, and the Town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

a. Reserve Fund - The Select Board reviewed with the Treasurer the Sewer account balance. Discussion ensued.

Peter Young moved to put \$8,000 in a Sewer Reserve Fund for 2008 and to approve having the Select Board Chair write and sign an order to create this fund. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

b. Air Line - Walker James reported that the air line was dug up, inspected and reburied. This line will need to be dug up and worked on again in the Spring.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Carla Ochs moved to approve Roland Simmons signing any orders needed to pay bills before the end of 2007. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Budget Work 2008 - The Select Board will hold a budget meeting on Thursday, December 27, 2007, at 7:30 p.m. to be held in the town office.

b. Town Attorney Billing - Roland Simmons explained that the Town Attorney did send in a year end billing but it did not include the last two months. Discussion followed.

The Select Board approved having the Chair contact the Town Attorney to send the rest of the billing so that it can be paid in this fiscal year.

c. ***Will Stevens Letter on "Prebate" Issue - Town Officers were reminded to get their detailed information letters written and sent out to Rep Will Stevens.***

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Payroll 2008 - Roland Simmons presented recommendations for the 2008 payroll. Review and discussion followed.

Carla Ochs moved to adopt the payroll as discussed and presented pending the Sewer Treatment Operator's evaluation. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

b. Auditor - The Select Board is advertising for a person to fill the Auditor's position vacated by Hans Tudhope, who has moved out of town. The ad has been posted for only one week. A decision will be made at the Select Board December 27, 2007 meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Employee Evaluations - Roland Simmons reported that the Town Clerk completed an evaluation for the Assistant Clerk, Elizabeth Walker. Discussion followed.

The Select Board approved giving Elizabeth Walker 4 personal days and 6 sick days per year.

Walker James and Roland Simmons will complete the balance of the annual evaluations.

b. New Parcel Maps - The Select Board reviewed the new version of the parcel maps that Cheryl Tudhope received this week. It will take some time to digest the new format and information but they look good.

c. COD/CLA - The State sent the Coefficient of Dispersion and the Common Level of Appraisal notice effective 1/1/2008. The figures are as follows:

Coefficient of Dispersion - 19.57%

Common Level of Appraisal - 79.66 %

Lister Chair Cheryl Tudhope stated that the Town **may** be receiving a notice to reappraise once again. The last town wide appraisal was in 2004.

d. Public Hearing on Act 43 - This public hearing is re-scheduled for Thursday, December 20th, 2007, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Kehoe Conservation Center, Point of Pines Road, Bomoseen, Vermont.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Carla Ochs moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board

