

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

February 25, 2008

**7:30 p.m.
Town Office**

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

**Present: Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman Barbara LaDuc
Allen R. Alger
Arnebold, Robert G
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 - At this time there is very little salt. A delivery of ½ load was received this week. The sand pile gets very hard when there is no salt. Another storm is predicted for tomorrow and Wednesday.

The heater motor was put in the loader. The Road Foreman showed the Select Board a picture of the eroding cab support on the loader. This is now on record.

CAT sent in a price of \$107,000 less \$15,000 trade in - net \$92,000. John Deere has not replied and Hazelton - Komatsu only sent a spec sheet with no prices.

b. Eastman Access Permit - The Select Board reviewed the road access permit for the proposed Eastman house on Mt Independence Road. Allen M. Alger specified the culvert needed.

Walker James moved to approve the Access Permit submitted by Michael & Alyson Eastman. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

3. MINUTES.

Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2008, as written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Walker James moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amounts of \$6,072.21, the Sewer orders in the amount of \$522.57, and the Town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. March 4, 2008 - Town & School Meeting - The clerk reminded people that this year the Vermont Presidential Primary is also being held on March 4th. Discussion followed.

This year the Town Meeting begins at 10 am the Town is first followed by the School District Meeting.

The Select Board reviewed the warning for the Orwell Village School.

All seems to be in order for next Tuesday's meeting and elections.

b. AC Humane Society Contract - The 2008 contract for animal services was signed by the ACHS and returned with the latest instructions. A copy was given to Dean Hanson, Orwell Animal Control Officer.

People who brings animals in should call the Addison County Humane Society first.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Town Service Officer Appointment - Roland Simmons reported that John Tetreault consented to continue as Town Service Officer.

Paula Barnes moved to appoint John Tetreault Town Service Officer for 2008. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

b. Donald Tupper - Sand - Roland Simmons related that Donald Tupper inquired about buying sand from the Town for his private road. He would spread the sand himself. The Select Board discussed with the Road Foreman access to the road sand stored at the town garage. Discussion ensued.

The Road Foreman reported that last Monday Champlain Construction dumped a load of sand and before we could get back to reload the sand was gone. There was a lineup at the sand pile.

A dump truck load of sand is \$190 plus salt that almost doubles this cost.

The purpose of the current policy was to make sand available to individual people for their driveways. If this is getting out of hand, an adjustment needs to be made. Discussion continued.

Walker James moved to allow the taking of sand as long as the sand stays inside the Town borders. The Town is willing to accept donations for this service. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 3 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain [Carla Ochs].

c. Timothy D'Avignon - 4th Class Road - Tim D'Avignon asked Roland Simmon about the Class 4 road that some of his land borders. He is interested in subdividing some land that could be accessed from TR 23, a Class 4 road. Discussion followed.

The Town does not service a Class 4 road Roland Simmons explained to Tim D'Avignon.

The Town has a Class 4 policy. The clerk will send a copy to Tim D'Avignon.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. TOEC Training - 4/16/2008 - UVM is again offering the Town Officer Educations Conferences at locations around the State. On April 16, 2008, a session will be held at the Holiday Inn in Rutland. The agenda for this conference was distributed to the Select Board. Registration online saves \$5 per person.

It will be helpful to know by the next Select Board meeting, who wishes to attend.

b. William E Johnson of PTR Letter - A memo was received from William E Johnson, Director Property Valuation and Review, stating what their records show as the official education property values are. These values will be used to calculate the final tax amount, school aid payment and payments to the Education Fund for fiscal year 2008.

c. Local Government Day Review - Both Carla Ochs and Roland Simmons attended the Local Government Day sponsored by VLCT and held last Wednesday.

Carla Ochs sat in on the Senate Finance Committee hearing. There were many comments on the problems with the rebate-prebate system. There were many, many people who because of the constant confusion with this system, lost out on their prebate/rebates because of the poor timing set up by this system and because of the conflicting and confusing information being given out by the State.

Roland Simmons sat in on the Senate/House joint meeting on Transportation. Roland Simmons and Sandy Miller [Town Manager of Milton] spoke on a new study project that VLCT Board has started, to try to figure out what to do about the lack of funding in transportation. They explained what they were going to do. The only question they got from the Senate/House people was whether this report would come out before the election or after the election. This seemed to be their main concern.

The discussion at the transportation committee centered on the difficulty Towns have with getting anything done through the Agency of Transportation. The report from Glover was that Glover got a grant to put in a sidewalk that the Town wanted and had matching funds for. Then Glover found out that they had to do some studies that would take 18 months and would cost more than the cost of building the sidewalks. Glover gave back the money and put the sidewalk in themselves. The way things are going with the Agency of Transportation and rising costs, Glover may very well have to do away with their paved roads.

Roland Simmons reported that it is proven that for every dollar put in to the transportation system, the return is \$5.37. Therefore, when the transportation fund is shorted or dipped into for the general fund, the Vermont economy is being cut by this amount. This has been going on for 16 years now.

The federal funds keep decreasing; but Vermont cannot even raise enough funds to match the federal funds to get this money. The money goes elsewhere, such as a summer study or keeping the legislature in session overtime.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Walker James moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Roland Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes - 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board

Regular Meeting

March 26, 2007