

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

July 9, 2007

7:30 p.m.
Town Office

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

Present: Allen M. Alger Rodney Batschelet
Allen R. 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.

None.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - Allen M. Alger reported that the culverts are done on the blacktop. Chloride is still being worked on along with gravel.

b. Traffic Study - Roland Simmons asked if the Select Board was interested in applying for grant money to do a traffic study. This study will enable the Town to put up posted speed limits where necessary. Discussion ensued.

Carle Ochs moved to pursue grant money for a traffic study to enable the Town to post speed limits on some roads. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

c. Paving Grant - The Road Foreman stated that Pike Industries is ready but no word has come about the State paving grant. He will again give District #3 a call.

d. Right of Way Permit - The Select Board reviewed the right of way permit submitted by the State for Mt Independence Visitors' Center. The permit explained that the State proposes to install a 4" drainage pipe parallel to the road on the East side of the road for approximately 200 feet. Discussion followed.

Walker James moved to approve the right of way permit. Roland Simmons seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

The motion was tabled because the Select Board will need to get more information before making a decision on this permit.

3. MINUTES.

Peter Young moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of June 25, 2007, as written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain [Carla Ochs was not at this meeting.]

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$40,091.45; Line Items in the amount of \$7,000.00; and the Town and Sewer payroll. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

Martin Williams submitted the monthly and quarterly reports. The Select Board Chair reviewed and signed both reports.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Select Board reviewed the latest financial report.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Carpenter Letter Concerning Horton Road - Walker James spoke with Jordan Carpenter who stated that anything the Town needed the Select Board has his complete permission to do, whatever is necessary. A letter stating this should be arriving shortly at the Town Office.

b. Perry Letter - The Select Board noted comments in a letter from Johanna Perry concerning Horton Road. The Select Board noted that Johanna Perry's letter included Paula Barnes who was not present and did not include Carla Ochs who was present.

b. Website - Rodney Batschelet stated that the Town now has a Website "**town-of-orwell.org**" and asked people to view the site and give him feedback. He showed the Select Board the site. The Select Board was very pleased with his work. They will continue to work with him on adding and improving the site to get as much information out to the citizens of Orwell.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Dept of Health Notice - Because of recent budget cuts, the VT Dept of Health is canceling the Town Health Officer Program. As of July 1, 2007 the following changes go into effect:

1. Support by Environmental health designees no longer available.
2. Training for town health officers no longer provided.
3. You no longer need to submit Animal Bite Report Forms to the Health Dept.

The Select Board will send a memo to Virginia Wilson, Orwell Health Officer, stating that they will continue to support her and for her to please come to the Select Board with any problems.

The VT Dept of Health's Town Health Officer webpage is -

"<http://healthvermont.gov/local/tho/tho.aspx>"

b. Tax Rate - The Select Board reviewed the figures worked up by Roland Simmons for the 2007 tax rate. Discussion ensued. The Select Board will vote on a final figure after conferring with Mark Young, Orwell Treasurer.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. MS Bike Tour Thru Orwell - Roland Simmons announced that the MS Bike tour will come thru Orwell sometime on Sunday, August 12, 2007. This is a fund raising event.

b. WC Payroll Audit - The Town received a refund check in the amount of \$1,322.08 from VLCT for the 2006 payroll audit difference.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ann Arnebold
Clerk of the Board

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