

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

January 12, 2009

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**

**Louis Hall, Delinquent Tax Collector
Andrea Ochs, PC Chair
Karen Rowland, Auditor
Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk**

Following the Select Board Land Use Regulations hearing, the regular meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m., by Roland Simmons, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Peter Young pointed out that there is a new flag at the Town Office, donated by him. This flag was presented to Peter Young upon his retirement from 38 years in the National Guard. The Select Board thanked him.

An inquire about booster ads for a non-school sports program was received by Peter Young. A possible site mentioned was the baseball field. The Select Board explained that this field is under the Village School jurisdiction. Discussion ensued.

The Select Board asked that the person come personally to a Select Board meeting and present his/her request.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - Allen M. Alger reported that all is going OK. More sand was added to the sand pile. The sand delivery problems at this time of year are the frozen chunks.

Some work is being done on the '93 Mack sander.

b. AOT Letter on Posting Roads - A letter and application for posting roads was received by the Select Board. The documents were turned over to the Road Foreman to keep on file, if the need should arise to post any town roads.

c. Hazardous Road Situation - The Select Board received an E-mail noting a "very hazardous" road situation near the Hough Crossing intersection. Discussion ensued. The Road Crew will look into this.

d. Certified Highway Mileage - The Select Board received confirmation of the 2009 highway mileage certificate from the State.

3. MINUTES.

Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 22, 2008, as written. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the Orwell Free Library Librarian, Lisa Thal, 12.90 per hour starting in January. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$30,286.36, payment to the Delinquent Tax Collector in the amount of \$2,982.10, Sewer orders in the amount of \$1,339.00 and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

The Select Board Chair reviewed and signed the monthly and quarterly reports.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. 2009 Budget Work - Payroll - The Select Board continued work on the budget sheets that now have the actual expenses entered. Karen Rowland gave the clerk this information this morning.

The income, expense and sewer sheets were gone over and several changes made. The Select Board plans to meet again next week to finalize this work to meet the Auditors' deadline of January 23rd.

The Select Board discussed several items with Karen Rowland and stated that, after going over the budget sheets, they will submit questions and request final balance figures.

b. 2009 Warning - The Select Board reviewed the draft of the 2009 Town Meeting Warning. Discussion ensued.

Under section 4A, it was noted that the Orwell Free Library has hired a Librarian who will now be placed on the Town of Orwell payroll. Discussion ensued.

Paula Barnes moved to set the Wright Memorial Library request at \$8,000.00 because the Town is now paying the Orwell Free Library Librarian thru the town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

c. L Quesnel Road Damage Bill - The Select Board reviewed this letter and will send a second request stating that if not paid within 30 days, the bill will be turned over for legal action and will then include any collection fees connected with this process.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Revised List of SPANS - The State notified the Town of Orwell of two property owners that the tax department has now confirmed as residential for tax purposes. This is part of a list that the Listers sent in quite awhile ago stating that they believe these taxpayers should be filing homestead declarations.

b. Withhold State Monies - Because the State is holding back a considerable part of the Town budget - the 3rd and 4th highway aid payments, discussion ensued as to what to do.

Roland Simmons moved to freeze any payments to the State of Vermont until a resolution on the highway payments is made. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

c. Louis Hall Request - Louis Hall presented the delinquent tax list as of December 30, 2008 to the

Select Board and asked if the Select Board wishes to have Jonathan Bump send letters to the taxpayers on the list. There is one name for 2005 and eight names for 2007. Discussion followed.

Paula Barnes moved to have Jonathan Bump send letters to these delinquent taxpayers to include a cut off limit of 30 days from the date of the letter in which to respond. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

2005 - Cole, Robert - 148.46

2007 - Danlieko, Wilfred - 811.65, Ekstrom, Robert- 51.98, Holley, Gregory - 35.84, Howes, Thomas & Brenda - 2,297.20, Kinney & Kuss - 614.19, Roberts, Derek - 1,461.68 and Smith, Ruth - 555.55 Total 5,828.09.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Annual Employee Evaluations - The Select Board reviewed the annual employees evaluations and completed and signed the Select Board Clerk evaluation.

b. Planning Commission Letter - The Planning Commission notified the Select Board that they voted to approve the changes in the Land Use Regulations for inclusion into the National Flood Insurance Program. These changes will now be warned at Town Meeting for voter approval and adoption.

c. AC Budget Report and Meeting Date - The AC budget meeting will be held January 30, 2009, 1:00 p.m., second floor conference room. The 09/10 proposed budget figure is \$349,810.

d. Legislature Day - Local Government Day is Wednesday, February 18, 2009, Capital Plaza Hotel 8:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. **This is a chance to make your voice heard at the State House!!!**

10. ADJOURNMENT.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board