

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

December 13, 2010

7:30 p.m.

Town Office

NOT APPROVED

**Select Board: Walker James
Carla Ochs
Roland Simmons
Miles Tudhope**

**Present: Allen M. Alger
Robert Arnebold Russell Young**

Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk

The regular Select Board 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 – Right now there is a light covering of snow and the roads are mostly unfrozen at this point, the Road Foreman explained.

The sand and salt supply is ready for any weather along with the new truck.

A new salt mixture is being tested by several towns that would greatly extend salt coverage of the road to 2 ton treated salt to 14 miles of road. This is at least a 5 to one ratio. All the cost will need to be figured along with the trial towns input before any decision on this method would be made.

The Select Board and Road Foreman discussed some ideas about the Mt Independence Road slide area. At this point gravel is much less expensive than paving. More research will continue.

b. Health Trust – The final health insurance plan is the HD/HP HSA 2250 PACIF Plan. Under this plan the employee will need to set up his own HSA with a regular weekly contribution at a bank of his choice. There will be a pay increase of 2% for 2011 to cover this deduction.

c. The New Truck – Allen M. Alger reported that the new truck is working just fine.

3. MINUTES.

Walker James moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 22, 2010, and the minutes of the special meetings of November 29, 2010, and December 3, 2010, as written. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Carla Ochs moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of **\$13,647.98**, Election Officials in the amount of **\$50.00**, the Sewer Fund in the amount of **\$139.57**, and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed – 4 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

The monthly State reports were reviewed and signed by the Select Board Chair.

Discussion ensued concerning the Lagoon Reserve Fund.

Walker James noted that it is about 8 years since the lagoon was cleaned and this will probably have to be done again in about two more years, if everything goes as expected.

Carla Ochs moved to transfer **\$14,000.00** from the Sewer Fund to the Lagoon Reserve fund. Miles Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed – 4 Yes 0 No.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The latest financial report from the Treasurer was received and reviewed.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. 2011 Budget Work – The Select Board reviewed the preliminary budget figures submitted by Roland Simmons. The Select Board will need to see the final year end figures which will hopefully be available from the Treasurer the first week in January. The highway budget was looked at along with the sewer budget figures. Payroll review will begin at the next regular Select Board meeting.

b. Truck Note – Roland Simmons reported that the Select Board received a bid from the National Bank of Middlebury on a \$94,950.00 truck note for three years of 3.95%. The First National Bank of Orwell submitted a bid on a \$94,950 three year note of 3.25%.

Miles Tudhope moved to sign a **\$94,950.00** note for three years at 3.25% with The First National Bank of Orwell and to have the Select Board Chair put the final signature on this bank note after it is completely filled in. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed – 4 Yes 0 No.

Carla Ochs and Walker James signed the note at this meeting.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Dr. Allan Curtiss, Community Health Center – There is an opportunity to set up a Federally Qualified Health Center at the Dr. Allan Curtiss Community Health Center in Shoreham. Grant Whitmer of the Community Health Centers of The Rutland Region is very interested in helping to set up a community health center in Addison [at present there are no community health centers in Addison County] and feels the Dr. Curtiss center is a very good place to start one.

The Select Board is asked to write a letter of support for this project. Dr. Allan Curtiss is very interested and gives his full support to this project. Senator Bernie Sanders submitted his letter of support. [Copy of his letter is attached to these minutes.]

Discussion followed. There will be \$250,000 of federal monies available per year to support such a center. Grant Whitmer feels that such an FQHC access point in Shoreham would be of significant benefit to residents of this area. It would insure that the practice is maintained into the future and will see all

patients without regard to income or insurance status. A full range of primary care services would be provided in Shoreham along with a Sliding Fee Discount to patients with household incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level.

Miles Tudhope moved to send a letter of full support from the Orwell Select Board to the CHC of RR addressed to Grant Whitmer, Executive Director, for establishing the FQHC community center in Shoreham. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed – 4 Yes 0 No.

Roland Simmons will write a letter of support to be mailed out tomorrow.

b. Auditor Resignation – Roland Simmons read the following letter:

“To The Selectboard: Due to my husband’s rapidly declining health, I find it necessary to resign my position as auditor. I am hoping that I can be of occasional help to Sue, Ray and whomever you can coax into replacing me. Wish I had been able to give you more “notice”...I know it’s not easy filling some of these positions! Thank you [and the voters] for the opportunity to serve the town for as long as I have. Sincerely, signed Karen S. Roland.”

Karen Roland serves the Town of Orwell well and long and the Select Board, on behalf of all the people of Orwell, send wishes of support and of thanks to Karen and to her family.

Walker James will ask Wayne Weseman if he has any interest in this position.

c. HR Getting Started – VLCT PACIF again offers a free HR option starter kit primer consisting of employer posters, handbook and information on proper interviewing and hiring. The Select Board approved sending away for this free option.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Pilot Check – In reviewing the latest financial report, Roland Simmons noted that the Pilot check did come in but was entered in the wrong category. This will be corrected by notifying the Treasurer. According to the notification from the State, received by the Select Board, there is still a small amount due to be sent to Orwell.

b. Delinquent Tax Collector Report – Louis Hall filed his latest report on delinquent tax collections which the Select Board reviewed. There were several letters of commitment to pay tax debts.

c. School Fuel – The meters were read and a December billing for \$3,196.78 was sent to the Village School as they requested.

d. Personnel Evaluations – Roland Simmons reminded people that year end annual employee evaluations should be scheduled.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Miles Tudhope moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board