

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**February 9, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Office**

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

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

**Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Roland Simmons, Chair.

**1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Allen R. Alger stated that at a recent accident on Route 22A one of the Troopers present asked if he could be invited to a Select Board meeting to discuss the problem of speeding on Orwell back roads. Discussion ensued. The Select Board asked Allen R. Alger to inform the Trooper that he is most welcome to attend such a meeting.

Peter Young reported that once again he received comments about the loader running while unattended. The person asked if the 'meter was running up hours' while the loader motor was idling at the Town Garage. Discussion followed. The Select Board expressed assurance that this is not hurting the machine this time of year or adding costs to the Town.

Peter Young stated that he was approached by someone who was upset that they did not know that the Town is now paying the Librarian. Discussion ensued. The Select Board asked that Peter Young inform people who have questions of the Select Board to come to the Select Board meeting and present their concerns to the whole Select Board. This information has been in the Select Board minutes as part of several meetings since last fall.

Roland Simmons said that he again was asked questions about the feeding of the Peck animals.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - Allen M. Alger was not present at the meeting. As he reported earlier to the Select Board he went over with the representative from Pike Industries for rebidding the 2008 State paving grant work, visited over at the area from Ron to Paul Parent's for pricing on reclaiming and top coat, will do the patch on the corner by Murphy's where the asphalt is breaking up [this will be at no cost to Town] and check on the strip near Audets on Mt. Independent Road.

The section of Mt. Independent Road from Babbitts to Maglorie Audets - 1.7 mile section - Pike will submit a bid price for both reclaimed and shim and top coat to be submitted for the VLCT stimulus package.

When Pike stated that the work may be more expensive. Roland Simmons stated that there already is a bid in for this and this should be done as soon as possible, May or June. Allen M. Alger already told Pike this.

b. State Paving Grant - 2009- 2010 - The new paper work is in and will be worked on during the next few meetings. The deadline for application submission is March 17, 2009.

c. Town Garage Keys - The keys for the new locks for the Town Garage were distributed , a list was compiled and along with the remaining keys given to the Clerk for storage.

d. Security for Buildings - Peter Young researched several companies and will contact them for details and come back to the Select Board with this information. At this time the Town Garage will be considered for added security.

### **3.MINUTES.**

**Peter Young moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of January 26, 2009, as presented. Walker James 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 \$25,057.72, Sewer orders in the amount of \$854.90 and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

Roland Simmons reported that he contacted Mark Young about the Intuit bill and the Treasurer stated he will look into it and get back to the Select Board.

### **5. SEWER REPORT.**

The Select Board Chair reviewed and signed the monthly reports.

### **6. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

### **7. OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Sewer Septage Charge Rates - Walker James gave a report on the septage charges from other treatment plants in the area from Glens Falls to Vergennes. Discussion followed.

The Select Board decided that at this time no change will be made on the current Orwell Treatment Plant rate.

b. VA Exemption & Education Tax - The current State exemption is \$10,000. The new bill allows individual towns to increase this exemption up to \$40,000 but any amount above the \$10,000 will not be exempted from the education tax.

### **8. NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Liquor and Tobacco Licenses - The Select Board reviewed the applications from Orwell Gas N' Go liquor and tobacco and the applications from Made in Vermont Ltd for tobacco.

**Peter Young moved to approve the 2009 second class liquor license and tobacco license for Orwell Gas N' Go and the tobacco license for Made In Vermont UnLtd. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

b. 2009 Humane Society Contract - The Select Board reviewed the 2009 contract submitted by the Addison County Humane Society.

**Paula Barnes moved to have Roland Simmons, Chair, sign the contract to option #2 unlimited animals at \$500 for the year. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

c. Website Report - Rodney Batschelet, our website technician presented a list of ideas for changes and additions he would like to do. Some of the ideas are: getting connected to search engines; rearrange the set up so content is found by a search; put up counter at the bottom of the page for hits; a real time clock; news and weather of the day; additional links such as other town sites; mini calendar; more user friendly especially for people with disabilities, such as hearing; and enabling people to change the size of the type.

The Select Board approved these changes and additions, is pleased with the website work and thanked Rodney Batschelet for his good work.

People are encouraged to send in dates for the calendar and any other suitable community information to Rodney Batschelet - [airbrush@shoreham.net](mailto:airbrush@shoreham.net) or click on the connection at the *town-of-orwell.org* website.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. Mark Werle Letter - Roland Simmons read the latest correspondence from the town attorney, Mark Werle.

b. HR Centry - This is a free service via the Internet giving the latest information and laws concerning Human Resources for town employers and employees. There will be a webinar on February 12, 2009 for anyone interested.

c. Cub Scout Banquet - The Blue and Gold Banquet is being held at the Orwell Town Hall at 5:00 p.m. on February 21, 2009. This is by invitation only.

d. Wellness Workshop - There will be a Wellness workshop held at the Hampton Inn in Rutland from 9 to noon on Thursday, February 12, 2009. People will learn how to earn \$50-\$100 per person and how their municipality can earn up to a 4% insurance rate credit. A healthy lunch is included with no fee.

e. Truck Replacement Information - The Road Foreman and the Select Board are gathering information and prices for a possible replacement of the '93 Mack for next year.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Peter Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Ann Arnebold  
Clerk of the Board