

**MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD
March 8, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Town Office**

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

**Present: Allen M. Alger Elizabeth Eddy
Allen R. Alger Cindy Leazer
Robert Arnebold**

Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk

The regular Select Board meeting was called to order at 7:28 p.m. by Roland Simmons, Chair.

As per VSA 24§ 871, the Orwell Select Board organized for the 2010 term.

Walker James moved to nominate Roland Simmons as Chair. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. Walker James moved to close the nominations. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion to close passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons. The motion to elect Roland Simmons as Chair passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons

The Select Board then reviewed the attached sheet and committee list.

Walker James moved to adopt the slate as presented with the addition of 7:30 p.m to be added after the word Month on the last line. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report - The Road Foreman reported that frost is slowly coming out of the gravel roads. The Road Crew is doing grading wherever possible.

Road closed signs at the Mt Independence slide site were put up once again and once again they are either removed or vehicles ride around them. Discussion ensued.

The Select Board will post the closing of this section of the road - from the John Duffy driveway to the Maguire Audet driveway.

The Road Foreman has as yet to receive quotes on paving from Wilk or D&F. A quote from Pike is due tomorrow. The State paving grant application deadline is April 2, 2010.

b. New Truck - Allen M. Alger is to get a quote from Clarks who requested to be allowed to compete for the sale. Discussion followed.

Walker James and the Road Foreman, armed with their specs, will meet with Clark to what they have to offer. Perhaps a better price will come forward.

c. Tandem Truck Research - Several people have asked about considering a tandem truck in place of a single axle, Roland Simmons reported. Discussion ensued.

Allen M. Alger was asked to work up a sheet to include a Mack tandem truck to be available at Town Meeting.

3. MINUTES.

Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of February 22, 2010, as

written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No. Miles Tudhope did not attend this meeting.

4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$18,363.54, orders in the amount of \$150.00 for Election Officials, one Line Item in the amount of \$2,350.00, and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

5. SEWER REPORT.

The monthly report to the State was submitted by Martin Williams. The Chair reviewed and signed the report.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Select Board received some financial reports and detail reports for January and February from the Treasurer. These reports were reviewed.

Miles Tudhope moved to request from the Treasurer monthly financial reports [Sewer and General] to include, deposit reports, General and Sewer budget and transaction reports and any other financial details needed for the Town business. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No

7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. Tax Collection - The Select Board needs to get a handle on delinquent tax collection. This past year showed how important regular tax collection is. The General fund was over drawn because taxes did not come in, not because the Select Board spent over budget. The Select Board would like to see the Delinquent Tax Collector bring in delinquent payments on a more regular basis.

Miles Tudhope moved to have Louis Hall, Delinquent tax collector, give a monthly financial and deposit report to the Select Board. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

b. Town Meeting Minutes - The Town Clerk delivered to each of the Select Board members copies of the Town and School minutes for the March 2, 2010, Town Meeting for their review.

c. Town Office Lights - The Town Clerk reported that on Wednesday of this week, the Town Office lights will be replaced by new and more efficient units.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Cindy Leazer - Dog Ordinance - Cindy Leazer stated that she needed some clarification on some things related to the dog ordinance. There has been a continuous problem with a neighbor's dog that continues to run loose. The Animal Control Officer answered Cindy Leazer's calls taking the dog three times, and then returning the dog to its owner. The dog continues to run loose. Discussion ensued.

Cindy Leazer needs some help with this dog problem. After reading through the Dog Ordinance, Cindy Leazer submitted some recommendations to updating the ordinance. There needs to be a system to write up reports, animals kept in a kennel and not released until the fines are paid. As it stands now, the ordinance is not working. There are many similar problems around Orwell.

The Select Board will review the current dog ordinance, develop an animal control officer job description, and speak to the Animal Control Officer about these complaints of dogs running loose, about writing up reports on any dog actions and about filing them in a timely manner at the Town Office.

Cindy Leazer was very appreciative of the work done last year by the Select Board to get unlicensed dogs licensed. At this point, Roland Simmons asked Cindy Leazer to call him if there are any

further dog problems when the Animal Control Officer is called.

b. Shrewsbury VFD Request - The Select Board received a request from Barry Griffith of the SVFD for permission to share the FCC co-channel 154.385 MHZ. It seems SVFD did not complete and submit the necessary documentation for renewal of their license. The Select Board asked both Allen R. Alger and Allen M. Alger about this sharing. Both stated that they did not see any problem with granting the SVFD request and agreed that the Select Board could sign the letter of concurrence with no problem.

c. Town Service Officer - Carla Ochs moved to appoint Virginia Wilson as Town Service Officer for the current year - April 15, 2010 to April 15, 2011. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

d. PC/DRB/ZA Appointments Letter - Roland Simmons read a letter from Andrea Ochs stating the PC/DRB nominations to fill the terms that run out this March. Discussion followed.

Miles Tudhope moved to appoint the slate as presented by the PC/DRB letter. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons.

David King and Thomas Purdy - Planning Commission

Donald Tupper stepping down from Planning Commission

ACRP Delegates - David King and Clyde Park - Alternates - Andrea Ochs and Robert Bogdan

David King and Donald Tupper - Development Review Board

Roland Simmons - Zoning Administrator for 3 years.

Copy of the appointments letter is attached to these minutes.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Court Case Conference - Miles Tudhope moved to go into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m., to discuss details on the ongoing legal court case. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

Miles Tudhope moved to come out of Executive Session at 9:37 p.m. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

No action was taken.

b. Solid Waste Appointment - Carla Ochs moved to reappoint Kori Mitchell delegate and Roland Simmons alternate to the Addison County Solid Waste District for the coming year. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons

c. Energy Audit for Municipal Buildings - ACRP notified the Town that they now can offer free energy audits for municipal buildings. Discussion followed. Roland Simmons will contact Elizabeth Golden and set up something for Orwell.

d. Emergency Manager - Walker James moved to appoint Robert Arnebold Emergency Manager for Orwell. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

10. ADJOURNMENT.

Roland Simmons moved to continue this meeting Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 6:45 p.m. at the Town Office to continue the Court Case conference. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ann Arnebold
Clerk of the Board