

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD  
October 26, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Office**

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

**Present: Allen R. Alger  
Robert Arnebold  
Martha Fisher, SB Shoreham  
Bob Fisher, Shoreham  
Stephen Goodrich, SB Shoreham  
Dean Hanson, Road Crew**

**Andrea Ochs, PC Chair  
Jason Paquett, Shoreham Road Foreman  
Paul Saenger, Chair, SB Shoreham  
Karen Shackett, SB Shoreham  
Will Stevens, Rep  
Robert Warren, SB Shoreham**

**Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk**

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. by Roland Simmons, Chair.

**1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Roland Simmons noted that an envelope with a White River Junction postmark and addressed to the Orwell Select Board arrived today, containing a newspaper article about executive sessions but with no ID as to who sent the clipping.

Peter Young reported that a business owner expressed concern and took issue with the State giving free rides on a ferry to temporarily replace the Crown Point Bridge. Discussion followed and the Select Board took note of these concerns.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - Dean Hanson stood in for Allen M. Alger, to give the road report. The town roads are in good order. A culvert was installed on Needham Hill Road.

Dean Hanson asked the Select Board if the paved portion of the road at the landslide area on Mt Independence Road could be opened for the winter. The shoulders in this area are stabilized and are in good shape. Discussion ensued.

The Select Board decided to keep the secondary gravel road open and in use at least till the Spring of 2010.

b. Betterback Roads Grant - Dean Hanson reported that Allen M. Alger has been working on this grant for the Chipman's Point Road water problems. Stone line ditches and possible pond construction on private land to slow water flow are in the plan. The grant papers are ready to be submitted.

c. Town Garage - VLCT Letter - The Select Board Chair received a letter from Chris LaBerge of VLCT as a follow up of his visit to the Town Garage October 16, 2009. Four recommendations were submitted all of which are done or are in the process of being completed.

**3. MINUTES.**

**Walker James moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 12, 2009, as written. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 3 Yes 0 No. [Carla Ochs and Peter Young did not attend this meeting.]**

#### 4. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Paula Barnes moved to pay the General Fund orders in the amount of \$33,250.20, the Sewer orders in the amount of \$495.08 and the Town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No

#### 5. SEWER REPORT.

#### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Roland Simmons reported that to date the National Bank of Middlebury offered a note for 7 years at 3.99 percent for the Firehouse building balance still owed. The current three year note at 5.22 percent is due in November. The First National Bank of Orwell is only offering 3 year notes. The Chair will check back with Thomas Eddy with this information.

#### 7. OLD BUSINESS.

CU Meeting 10/15/09 Report - Was not given because time ran out because of the bridge concerns.

#### 8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. PC Hearing 10/23/09 - Andrea Ochs reported that there will be no memo from the PC about the Land Use Regulations [LUR] hearing. Letters to surrounding towns did not go out. They have now been sent out and a new hearing date is set for November 24, 2009, 7 pm at the Town Office.

There will still be time to get the changes in the LUR ready for a vote at Town Meeting 2010, Andrea Ochs assured the Select Board.

b. 2010 Budget Notices - The Select Board approved sending out 2010 budget notices to all departments and organizations. These requests are due back December 1, 2009.

c. Possible Free Ferry Service in Place of Crown Point Bridge - The Orwell and Shoreham Select Board met with Rep. Will Stevens, Shoreham Road Foreman and Orwell Road Crew to discuss the needs and concerns of these two towns if such a ferry service goes forward. Paul Saenger reported that the latest plan is to run a free, large, ice breaking ferry from Shoreham, 24/7 and capable of carrying trucks.

The following considerations and requirements to reduce the impact on these two towns caused by the increased traffic were listed:

##### **Shoreham--**

- Stop light on Route 22A and Route 74 just east of the village and across from the Church
- Stop light at School Street and Route 74 in village
- State to re-pave Route 74 [currently a State road]
- Improved signage for increased traffic in village
- Sidewalks along Route 74 in village [there are no sidewalks now]
- State to take over Route 73 in Shoreham

##### **Orwell--**

- Stop light at Route 73 and Route 22A
- Reduced speed limit along Route 22A in Orwell
- State to take over Route 73 West [Route 73 East is a State road]
- Re-pave Route 73 West
- Grants for signage to cover increased traffic
- Re-pave and repair Route 74

Both towns see increased truck traffic and see problems with running a FREE ferry.

Both towns see the need for additional support for emergency services because of increased ferry traffic activity.

Both towns agreed to write a joint letter to Secretary of Transportation David Dill, stating their needs and concerns.

Karen Shackett drafted a letter with the help of all participants. Copies were given to all to review and to add any additional ideas.

The Select Boards and participants will meet a second time on Wednesday, October 28, 2009, at 7 pm in the Shoreham Town Clerk's Office to further discuss the impact and the draft letter. The goal is to have the letter ready to sign and then to be in the mail by Friday, October 30, 2009.

***One very import concern is that the current Ti Ferry be returned to its original set up as soon as this bridge problem is solved and in working order for all commuters.***

***A copy of this draft is attached to these minutes.***

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. Orwell Free Library - Librarian Hours - The following, from the Orwell Free Library minutes of September 17, 2009, was read:

“Throughout the summer there was Story Time on Tuesdays from 10-11 am. This was a popular time for little ones and Kathy made a motion to regularly add this hour to the librarian's weekly schedule with the appropriate pay. Ramona seconded the motion and it was passed. Lisa will submit a list of the summer's extra hours and Kathy will provide the Selectboard with a copy of these minutes authorizing the backpay for Lisa for these hours as well as the extra hour weekly from here on.”

b. VLCT Fund Request - VLCT stated that the treatment plant permits are being changed to add 0% pollution requirements. This change will affect every small town treatment plant. The VLCT is challenging this change in court and needs further monetary support from local towns. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to send VLCT \$300 to help VLCT with their challenge and to authorize the Select Board Chair to sign the Sewer Fund order for the check. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - No.**

## **10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Paula Barnes moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m. Roland Simmons seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board