

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD  
November 9, 2009  
7:30 p.m.  
Town Office**

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

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

**Susan Ann Arnebold, Clerk**

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

**1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Peter Young reported that he received some comments after the joint Shoreham/Orwell Crown Point Bridge meeting of October 26, 2009. But currently all seems to be calm now.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - The '04 Mack truck box is painted and looks good. Allen M. Alger needs the wastewater permit # for his UST report. Walker James will get this for him.

Six stop signs are currently in place. The Road Crew is waiting for the last order to be shipped from Giddings to complete the last three installations.

b. Speed Limit Signage - Allen M. Alger was given the speed limit sheet with the changes and additions. This is the next sign project. The cost will be about 40-45 dollars per sign. The Road Foreman will research possible grants at the next Foreman work session. Most of these sign costs will be included in the 2010 budget.

c. Health Insurance Renewal - Rate increases will be much less this year; only single digit rather than the double digits of last year. The Road Crew will stay with their current policy.

**3. MINUTES.**

Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of October 26, 2009, as written. Paula Barnes 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 \$18,029.59, tax anticipation note in the amount of \$304,758.89, Fire/Rescue building note in the amount of \$29,402.50 [to be paid 11/16/2009] and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No

**5. SEWER REPORT.**

The monthly State reports were reviewed, signed and mailed by Roland Simmons.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT.**

The Select Board reviewed the current financial report and went over several problem areas.

Roland Simmons reported back to the Select Board that he had two note offers for the Fire/Rescue building note renewal as follows:

First National Bank of Orwell - 3 year note at 4.25% and  
National Bank of Middlebury - 7 year note at 3.99%.

Discussion followed.

**Paula Barnes moved to have Roland Simmons confirm the 3.99% at 7 years as a fixed rate for the term and is so authorized to sign the note. If not fixed, to sign the Orwell Bank note at 4.25% at 3 years. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The note is due November 16, 2009.**

**The motion passed - 3 Yes; 1 No Walker James; 1 Abstain, Peter Young.**

## **7. OLD BUSINESS.**

a. Crown Point Bridge Update - The Orwell Select Board met with the Shoreham Select Board as planned at Shoreham on October 28, 2009, to work on the draft letter to Commissioner David Dill. The Select Boards jointly signed the final draft letter and mailed it out October 29, 2009. Commissioner Dill acknowledged receipt of this letter shortly thereafter.

Roland Simmons read the latest Bridge updates received today. [Copies of the letter, the receipt, and the latest Bridge updates are attached to these minutes.]

b. Parcel Maps to VCGI - The Select Board reviewed the request for permission to put the Town parcel maps on the VCGI Website. No permission will be granted at this time.

c. Current Use Meeting - Roland Simmons reported that this session was held to get input to deal with the funding cuts the legislature is looking to enact. All programs cannot be supported; therefore programs, specifically Current Use, are being looked at for possible cuts. Will Stevens collected some very good responses from local towns concerning the Current Use programs.

## **8. NEW BUSINESS.**

a. Dr. Callahan Traffic Concerns - Roland Simmons read a letter from Dr. Callahan who listed his concerns about the speed and volume of traffic thru the Village. The Select Board was pleased to get these written comments from Dr. Callahan. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

The Select Board will write another letter to the State Safety Board and will ask that the School Board consider doing the same. The letter will include a request to the State to increase surveillance and to lower the Village speed limit to 25 mph especially in the school parameters running from the Fire/Rescue building to Route 22A. In addition, the Select Board will again request that a 35 mph speed sign be posted just north and just south of the Route 22A and Route 73 intersections in Orwell.

**Walker James moved to have the Select Board write the letter [as described above] to the State Safety Bureau. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No**

Dr. Callahan's letter will be included with the other letters to be submitted to the State. Roland Simmons will speak with Herb Schulte, School Board Chair about this speed issue.

b. PACIF 2010 Renewal - The Select Board went over the building reappraisals submitted by PACIF for 2010. Several amounts - Town Garage, Town Office and Fire/Rescue seems out of line. Walker James and Roland Simmons will contact PACIF reps about these increases in value before submitted the renewal packet for 2010.

c. Fire/Rescue Building Usage - Walker James reported that he had a couple of requests, one of which is a wedding and reception for the 5<sup>th</sup> of December and the other is a request to hold a baby shower, both at the Fire Station. There will be no alcohol at either event. Louis Hall turned these requests over to the Select Board, Walker James explained. A lengthy discussion ensued.

Peter Young asked if any of these two events involved Fire/Rescue people. In the past discussions, Paula Barnes reminded people, the goal was to keep these types of private social events in the center of Town. The question of what events should be allowed at the Fire/Rescue building was explored.

One very important consideration is that PACIF only covers municipal use of buildings and makes available separate insurance coverage under their TULIP program for any private social use of a town building. This program lays out very specific requirements and costs.

***The Select Board believes that the use of this building is for public safety with emergency services use as its primary purpose and priority. PACIF covers all such activities.***

The Select Board asked Paula Barnes and Peter Young to look into defining and finalizing a written Fire/Rescue building policy *to cover insurance requirements and to protect the Town* when such private event requests arise. Peter Young took the Select Board municipal building file to work out details.

At the next Select Board meeting, Paula Barnes suggested Fire/Rescue people meet with the Select Board to go over the policy. The next meeting is Monday, November 23, 2009.

d. Lister Resignation - The Select Board received the following letter from Stephen James, dated November 9, 2009:

“To Selectboard, As I’m not able to spend the time necessary to perform my duties as Lister for the Town of Orwell, I will resign my position effective today. I have spoken with the other Listers, and they are aware of my decision.

Respectfully yours, Stephen James”

The Select Board will set up a posting for filling this office.

## **9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. Mike Rogals Complaint - Mike Rogals called to be put on the agenda but did not attend the meeting.

b. Environmental Court Update - No word has come down from the Environmental Court or from the Town attorney about any decision on the Orwell violation case to date, Peter Young and Roland Simmons reported.

## **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