

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**December 8, 2008**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Town Office**

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

**Present: Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman  
Allen R. 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.**

None.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - The Road Foreman announced that the highway computer crashed. No data was lost but the computer cannot be used. After research, a Sony laptop was located priced at \$756.54 including shipping and Windows XP. Allen M. Alger gave the Select Board copies of the quote and computer details. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to approve the purchase of a Sony laptop at \$756.54. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

The radio is now in the new loader. The radio's in the trucks were checked. There was some trouble with the unit in the '93 Mack. This radio is over 20 years old. New radios run between \$400 and \$500 and will be 50 watts. The Select Board will consider this information when going over the budget.

Allen M. Alger is working on the highway budget and is having difficulty getting price commitments. The grader motor is scheduled to be rebuilt at a cost of approximately \$10,000.

b. Oil Interceptor Quotes - Allen M. Alger reports that to date he has not heard back from McIntyre on a quote for an oil interceptor. He will continue to seek this quote.

c. UST Report - The yearly report is completed and will be double checked and mailed out before the deadline of December 31, 2008.

**3. MINUTES.**

**Carla Ochs moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of November 24, 2008, as written. Peter Young 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 \$13,698.87, the Loader payment in the amount of \$90,000.00 as voted at Special Meeting on July 21, 2008, Sewer orders in the amount of \$38.77 and the Town and Sewer payrolls. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

## 5. SEWER REPORT.

The monthly reports were checked and signed by the Select Board Chair. The new covers are on the chlorine tanks, Walker James reported.

## 6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Select Board reviewed the latest financial reports from the Treasurer. The Select Board will need the Sewer Fund balance figure for their December 22, 2008 meeting.

## 7. OLD BUSINESS.

Reappraisal Lister Letter - Cheryl Tudhope, Chair of the Board of Listers, submitted two letters, one addressed to the tax department and one addressed to appraiser Douglas McArthur concerning the state order given to Orwell to reappraise. Please see attached sheet for text of these letters.

The Select Board approved sending these letters and approved having the Chair sign the state letter.

## 8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Orwell Free Library Trustee Appointment - The Select Board received a note from the Orwell Free Library board stating that "Edith Thompson is quite ill and will no longer be able to act as a trustee" of the Orwell Free Library. Ramona Akpo-Sani expressed an interest in serving on the Free Library Board and has agreed to take Edith Thompson's place if appointed. Discussion ensued.

**Carla Ochs moved to appoint Ramona Akpo-Sani Trustee of the Orwell Free Library to fill the position (vacated by Edith Thompson who can no longer serve) until the next annual meeting March 3, 2009. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

b. Health Insurance Cost for 2009 - The first monthly bill for health insurance was received recently. The increase for 2009 for the highway health insurance coverage will be \$2,350.32 for the year. The increase is \$97.98 per person, per month. This is about a 19% increase over 2008.

c. 2009 Budget Work Begins - The Select Board began reviewing budget figures and discussed considering any major projects. One project will be the paving that was not done this year and will have to be completed next year along with paving for 2009. Hopefully next spring the paving costs will go back to the spring quote for 2008. It is most important to keep the infra-structure in good shape and not let it deteriorate beyond normal repair. Walker James will research the cost of enlarging the town office.

State highway aid will be reduced for 2009. The 1993 small Mack may need to be considered for retirement. Both Pilot and Hold Harmless will again be reduced in 2009.

## 9. OTHER BUSINESS.

a. Latest Mark Werle Letter - The Select Board reviewed the latest correspondence from the town attorney concerning legal matters.

b. Employee Evaluations - The annual employee evaluation time is here. Schedules will be set up with the Road Crew, Martin Williams and the Select Board Clerk.

c. Land Use Regulation Changes from PC - The Planning Commission submitted amendments to the Land Use Regulations of the Town of Orwell which, upon adoption, will allow the Town of Orwell to join the National Flood Insurance Program. These amendments will bring the Town of Orwell into

compliance with the NFIP which will allow all residents of the Town of Orwell to purchase flood insurance which is currently unavailable. The amendments primarily address definition changes applicable to the Flood Hazard Overlay District.

The Select Board reviewed the amendments and set their hearing date for January 12, 2009. Notices will be in the Addison Independent issues of December 22, 2008 and December 25, 2008, and posted in the usual places around town.

If there are no further changes after this hearing, the proposed amendments will be put before the voters in an article for the March 3, 2009 warning.

d. School Sewer Units - Roland Simmons reported that he explained to the Orwell Village Principal that any changes in the sewer unit numbers are to be negotiated with the Orwell Select Board.

e. Light Fixtures - The Select Board discussed replacement of the light fixtures in the town office. There are 19 fixtures and this year two ballasts had to be replaced. It was decided that replacement will be considered when more of the fixtures begin to fail.

#### **10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Roland Simmons moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board