

**MEETING OF THE  
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**December 22, 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 7:35 p.m., by Roland Simmons, Chair.

**1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.**

Peter Young noted that the flag at the Town Office looks tattered. Discussion ensued. Peter Young will search for a new flag and replace and properly dispose of the current flag.

Walker James stated that the Road Crew is doing an extraordinary job on the Orwell Town roads especially when compared with other towns.

**2. HIGHWAY REPORT.**

a. Road Foreman Report - The roads are plowed and are being sanded mainly on hills and corners. The new loader is working very well. The bigger bucket and increased power enables the Road Crew to do more jobs with great precision and less time.

Peter Young reported that he was questioned about the loader left running. The Road Foreman explained that when doing jobs like loading sand CAT recommended that the most efficient method is to keep the motor running on these short spurts. Constantly starting and restarting over and over is not good for the machine. It is far better to leave the engine running.

Allen M. Alger advised that the sand pile is better than half gone. Champlain Construction is willing to deliver to Orwell along with its Benson run and will bill as requested. Discussion followed. The Select Board approved replenishing the sand at this time with billing for 2009.

b. State Highway Jan 2009 Payment Freeze - At this point in time the Legislature has put a freeze on the highway aid payment due to come to Orwell January 15, 2009. This is the third payment [\$32,410.29 for Orwell] of four that towns receive each year to maintain town highways. In addition, word is out the fourth payment may also be threatened.

**ORWELL CITIZENS ARE URGED TO CALL OR EMAIL  
REPRESENTATIVE WILL STEVENS AT 802-897-7031 EMAIL [wstevens@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:wstevens@leg.state.vt.us),  
SENATOR CLAIRE AYERS AT 802-545-2142 EMAIL [ayer@gmavt.net](mailto:ayer@gmavt.net) AND  
SENATOR HAROLD GIARD AT 802-758-2577 EMAIL [hgiard@leg.state.vt.us](mailto:hgiard@leg.state.vt.us).**

**Let them know that you do not want to be SHORT FUNDED  
\$32,602.57 dollars and/or POSSIBLY \$65,205.14 dollars of money  
you already put into the transportation fund and into your local budget for 2008.**

c. Certified Highway Mileage Report - The Select Board reviewed the 2009 certified mileage for Orwell. This is the document the State uses to base their highway aid figures for Orwell. The mileage has not changed; it is 75.375. Discussion followed.

**Paula Barnes moved to approved the certified highway mileage report as presented for 75.375 miles for 2009. Peter Young seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

The five members of the Select Board signed the certified highway mileage report as completed.

### 3. MINUTES.

**Peter Young moved to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of December 8, 2008, 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 \$14,551.41, the Town Attorney payment in the amount of \$3,644.00, Sewer orders in the amount of \$326.91 and the amount of \$6,500.00 to go into the Sewer Lagoon reserve fund and the Town payroll. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

### 5. SEWER REPORT.

The Sewer account balance from the Treasurer is \$8,233. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to place \$6,500.00 from the Sewer Account into the Sewer Lagoon reserve fund. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

### 6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mark Young as Treasurer advised the Select Board that yet another taxpayer received late payment from the State Tax Department after the Treasurer made his tax settlement. Discussion ensued.

At some time in the next week or so he will need an order to write a check refunding the taxpayer in the amount of this payment. **Once again the State is asking the Town to lay out money that it no longer has because of the State Tax Department delays and inaccuracies.**

### 7. OLD BUSINESS.

a. 2009 Budget Work - The Select Board reviewed the bills received via fax today from the town attorney, Ryan Smith and Carbine. Discussion ensued.

**Peter Young moved to pay \$3,644.00 in general billing to Ryan Smith & Carbine for the 2008 budget and to hold the balance of zoning violation billing until the case is settled. Walker James seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes 0 No.**

The Select Board Chair will continue to research the Ryan Smith billing.

b. Last Minute 2008 Bills - **Carla Ochs moved to authorize Roland Simmons, Chair, to sign orders to pay any last minute routine 2008 bills. Paula Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed - 4 Yes 0 No 1 Abstain - Roland Simmons.**

**8. NEW BUSINESS.**

a. COD/CLA For 2009 - The State notified the Town of Orwell that it has determined that Orwell's coefficient of dispersion is 19.21 for 2009 and common level of appraisal is 74.16 % for 2009.

COD is a measure of uniformity of appraisal for all properties in the Orwell grand list.

The CLA provides a town of your total listed value in the State's estimate of total fair market value.

b. Tax Dept Reply to Orwell Resppraisal Letters - The State Tax Department confirmed receipt of the Lister and Select Board letters send out two weeks ago concerning an order to reappraise for Orwell.

***The Select Board recommends that taxpayers read the copy of this reply attached to these minutes.***

c. VLCT Unemployment Insurance Rate for 2009 - The 2009 unemployment insurance rate is \$1.10 which will amount to \$533 plus a manager fee of \$250 totalling \$783 for the year to be paid in four quaterly payments.

**9. OTHER BUSINESS.**

a. HR Sentry Service - VLCT PACIF offers access to Human Resources Sentry with two options to members. These are online human resources assistance tools. The Select Board reviewed the information and decided at this time to access the HR Getting Started option. This option is free for PACIF members.

b. No Abatement Requests - The Select Board noted that no requests for abatement were received for the end of the year meeting.

c. Chiefs of Police Meeting - The Vermont Association of Chiefs of Police is sponsoring a luncheon at 12 noon on Tuesday, January 13, 2009, at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Montpelier. The cost is \$15.00 per and includes beverage, tax & tip. If you are interested please call Ms Carter at 802-388-4018 or email her at [bcarter@police.middlebury.vt.us](mailto:bcarter@police.middlebury.vt.us).

d. Notice of Changes in the Agriculture's Animal Health Office - A copy of this notice will be sent to Dean Hanson, ACO for Orwell. A copy is attached to these minutes.

e. Peck Animals - The Select Board recommended that the ACO check out the animals at the Peck farm.

**10. ADJOURNMENT.**

**Peter Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:14p.m. Carla Ochs seconded the motion. The motion passed - 5 Yes - 0 No.**

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Ann Arnebold

Clerk of the Board