

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**
December 22, 2025
Town Office

NOT APPROVED

Select Board: **Andrea Treadway, Chair**
Rob Barnes
Mike Christian, Absent
Joe Pouliot
Les Wood, Vice Chair

Glen Cousineau, SVUUSD
Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman

Betty Walker, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Glen Cousineau, SVUUSD, reported that things are looking better with the school budget. Last fiscal year, SVUUSD was the 5th poorest district in the State. The way they calculate students numbers we did gain 70 students back. The Legislature may artificially buy down tax rates again.

Glen also talked about Act 173, which was passed two years ago requiring town-wide reappraisal every six years. We need to start thinking about that now. NEMRC did many of these reappraisals. Orwell has used them in the past. We used Alyth Hescock for the latest reappraisal. Orwell may also have to hire an outside appraiser as we have one new Lister and two vacancies this year. Justus Devries, Real Estate Appraiser, was suggested.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman, reported that it has been an interesting couple of weeks. The 2017 Mack Truck is back together after the accident on December 11th. The insurance adjuster stated that the plow is totaled. Mike Shaw thinks he can fix it. We have a new one coming in two weeks. We will then have one regular plow and two mud plows. Allen mentioned some things to think about. We are over budget \$18,000 on salt. We've used a lot so far. We are paying \$98 a ton. There is no school for two weeks so we won't be as aggressive with salting. We need to hammer for the footing for the Salt/Sand Shed. A company in Barre has a hammer for \$25,000. Did some more measuring for the Salt/Sand Shed. We would like to save the Butler building. We have been putting the pick-up truck in there. It has a new door and a good roof. Andrea Treadway talked with Bud Carpenter about the contract for the building. He will honor his earlier bid. We are putting a \$50,000 payment toward the building, on tonight's orders. We still have \$107,000 set aside from ARPA for the Salt/Sand Shed. We received one bid for concrete so far. We could have an earlier meeting in January to work on the budget.

b. Small Scale Local Safety Grant – This grant is up to \$50,000, with no match. The goal of this program is to address simple improvements that will increase safety on the local roadway system and can be used for: removal of trees or ledge, replacement of guardrails and signage, to name a few. Applications must be received by Monday, February 2, 2026.

c. Wetland Permit – The Wetland Permit, for work to be done on Burke Road area, is on tonight's orders.

2. MINUTES.

There are two sets of minutes. The Board actions of December 8, 2025 were ratified at the Special Meeting of December 19, 2025. A motion is needed to approve the December 19, 2025 Special Meeting minutes where we ratified the December 8, 2025 Meeting minutes.

Les Wood moved to approve the December 19, 2025 minutes, where we ratified the December 8, 2025 minutes. Rob Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of December 8, 2025 as ratified. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.**5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.**

Town Officer petitions are available at the Town Clerk's Office for anyone interested. The deadline for completed, signed petitions, to be returned to the Town Clerk's Office is January 26, 2026.

6. TREASURERS REPORT.**7. OLD BUSINESS.**

a. MERP – Joe Pouliot and Andrea Treadway met with Jason McNolty, All Points Construction Company and Shelly Pottorf, Architend, to go over with them what we expect. We received a better updated timeline and will continue to meet with them every two weeks. Next meeting Thursday, 10:00 AM, Orwell Town Office. All Points Construction Company, will be working with Dundon's on the plumbing/heating part. We have a beautiful standing seam roof at the Town Office. Jason McNolty is to purchase all the appliances by the end of the year to be able to receive rebates.

b. Salt Shed-Concrete Bids –One bid has been received from Myron White Jr. Concrete out of Poultney. We were still waiting for one from Freeguard Concrete in Whiting. A concrete quote was received earlier from Harrison Concrete in the amount of \$74,500. It was stated that we should do this as early in the year as possible. Myron's proposal states they are to pour a foundation and footing for a 40' x 60' Salt Shed, walls to be 1' thick by 10' high, all concrete to be 4,000 psi, walls will have a chemical added to resist salt corrosion, floor will be done by others. Payment to be made upon completion. Price quoted was \$68,000. It was decided to accept this proposal.

Joe Pouliot moved that we use Myron Concrete. Rob Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Errors and Omissions – The Clerk checked with Cheryl Tudhope, Chair Lister, who stated that there are no Errors and Omissions.

b. Abatement – The Clerk checked with Diane Jackson, Delinquent Tax Collector, who stated that she is not aware of any Abatements. Discussed having Diane attend a future meeting for update on delinquent taxes.

c. Silver Heist – The Silver Heist Race Committee is wondering if the Board accepts September 26, 2026 as a date for the next run. She wasn't sure if this needed to be put to a vote or not. The Select Board is okay with this date.

Joe Pouliot moved to approve the Silver Heist date of September 26, 2026. Rob Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

d. Asset Management Plan TAC Grant – The TAC Committee has money to divide up between the towns. Shoreham and Ripton are working on an Asset Management Plan, putting together a capital plan. Whiting opted out and if Orwell is interested we need to let TAC know. No local match. This would map out a plan for equipment and/or specific projects. We had one done about ten years ago. Andrea will send an email to TAC stating that we are interested. See if we are approved for it.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

Act 181- Act 181 alters Act 250, to allow for more robust housing opportunities in Village and Downtown centers. We have to opt in or out. The PC/DRB tabled it at their November meeting. We have to have some growth to increase the tax base. The land around the outside of Orwell's Village area is either in the Nature Conservancy, Land Trust, Estates or farmland. Discussion ensued. Orwell's Land Use Regulations make it impossible to subdivide/build. We will put this on a future Agenda and get input from the Planning Commission. If we opt out it would take longer. This is just a resolution saying we support it.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Les Wood moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$103,326.80 and the Town Payroll. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. Rob Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Walker,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, January 12, 2026,
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM.**