

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**
January 27, 2026
Town Office

NOT APPROVED

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

Kathleen Hall **Wayne Hall** **Richard O. Buxton, Jr.**
Chris Mongeur **Gary Murdock** **Diane Jackson, Del Tax Collector**
Karen Rowland **Andy Snyder, Virtual** **Glen Cousineau, Virtual**
Dave Lambert, Virtual **Julia Beamish, Virtual**

Betty Walker, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:04 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board, Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Andrea Treadway stated that we are having trouble with our camera and Zoom. Also, at the meeting of January 12, Citizens Comments didn't start until 7:30 PM, due to an Executive Session. This was not updated on the Agenda, but these times are approximate.

Gary Murdock would like the words "Town Roads" added to "p" and "q" on the ATV Ordinance so they read:

- p. no firearms shall be discharged or operated from or on an ATV on Town Roads.**
- q. ATV's shall not be operated within the Town of Orwell between the hours of 10:00 PM and 7:00 AM on Town Roads.**

Kathleen Hall would like clarification of Section 3A. It was stated that dirt bikes or Rokons (two-wheel drive motorcycle) are not considered ATV's. Only three and four-wheeled vehicles. Section 4E, what is considered a Legal Trail? These are Class 4 roads that we don't maintain. A few examples are Griswold Lane, North of Stonewood Farms, Old Stage Road to Route 22A, Pearl Road and DeWitt Lane. Section 5 - Enforcement and Penalties, who enforces and who collects? Andrea stated that Law Enforcement Officers would handle this. This would be the Sheriff's Department, the State Police and the Constable if authorized by the Select Board. Tickets/fines would be handled by the Judiciary Bureau and a portion would come back to us.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman, did not attend tonight's meeting. The road crew has been out all weekend. He reported that there is hardly any salt left. They mixed salt with the sand today and will be out tomorrow plowing and sanding where needed. Andrea to meet with the Road Foreman on Thursday to work on the "Small Scale Local Safety Grant". The goal of this program is to address simple improvements that will increase safety on the local roadway system. The awards are capped at \$50,000 and the minimum award amount is \$5,000.

b. Wetland Permit – The Wetland Permit is finally completed. This is for the widening of the Burke Road swamp area.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of January 12, 2026. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.**5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.****6. TREASURERS REPORT.****7. OLD BUSINESS.**

a. MERP – Andrea Treadway met with Jason McNolty, All Points Construction and Restoration, and Shelly Pottorf, Architend, to review the quoted “complete by” dates. Andrea stated to them that we were very unhappy. The signed contract stated that he was required to reach out to local contractors. He eventually reached out to Chris Mongeur, CRM, and Chris Dundon, Dundon Plumbing and Heating. Quotes for work to be done was received from All Points Construction and Dundon’s, who quoted us options. Dundon’s came in a little higher. All Points Construction has a list of sub-contractors/vendors to do all the different jobs. If we go with All Points Construction, then he would use Dundon’s to deal with the electric water heater and the undermount heater for the sink. Wayne Hall asked what MERP is. It stands for Municipal Energy Resilience Program, from Building and General Services. The grant was in the amount of \$420,330.79. So far, the upgrades have been new interior lights and a new standing seam roof at the Town Office, and solar panels at the Firehouse and Sewer Plant. Much more work is planned for these buildings including the Town Garage. Andrea stated that we have tax credits coming back for solar and special rebate pricing from Efficiency Vermont for work being done in each building, which could add up to \$10,000 for each building.

Joe Pouliot moved to use who Jason McNolty wants to use, so it stays within the budget. Mike Christian seconded the motion.

It was explained that we are going with the original one where the money came from. Chris Dundon was asked to put in a bid, but his was higher and we don’t want to go over budget.

The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

b. Budget and Warning – Andrea reported that two items were missing to complete the budget sheets, “Interest on Borrowings” and “Insurance”. The insurance invoice from VLCT PACIF was just received. We received and accepted quotes from Myron White for cement and BCI for the Salt Shed building. This has been built into the budget. The CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) is at 96.37%, the COD (Coefficient of Dispersion) is 8.95% and the State Adjustment is 137.03% for the coming year, which means our Statewide Education Tax will be lower. The Town Budget is down a couple of hundred thousand from last years, at \$1,877,297.38, with \$1,162,961.19 to be raised by taxes and \$714,336.19 to be raised by non-tax revenues. Sewer Budget is \$110,691.36 to be raised by user rents and dumping fees. Discussion ensued.

Joe Pouliot moved to accept the Budget and the Warning. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

c. ATV Ordinance Adoption – At the beginning of the meeting we had Public Comment where Gary Murdock asked for clarification under “p” and “q” and asked to add “on Town Roads” to both.

Open to Public Comment. Julia Beamish asked “What is the cost to the Town to implement and enforce the Ordinance?” Andrea Treadway replied that we have an agreement with the Sheriff for “X” amount of dollars. What is the penalties and fees? This is done through the Judicial System. What is the plan of enforcement of the ordinance and who is in charge of enforcement? The Sheriff’s Department or the State Police. Will there be a system for residents to lodge complaints to the Select Board and how will the Select Board handle these? If you have an issue contact the Select Board and we will put it on the Agenda for discussion. To catch someone, we need proof and an Ordinance. As far as signage, an anonymous member of the public has offered to purchase the ATV signage required by law for the Town. The Highway Department is to put them up. Kathleen Hall wanted to make sure that her clarification about “no dirt bikes or Rokons” was recorded. Gary Murdock stated that he envisions the Constable as a central place to call and say that they are having a problem, and then he can contact the Select Board or Sheriff/State Police. Chris Mongeur said that the key to this whole thing is to get a plate number. Registration is required. Joe Pouliot stated whether this passes or not there are still people out there that will ride illegally. David Lambert asked questions about the anonymous person who came forward and offered to purchase the ATV signs. It was stated that this was just someone who wanted to help the town. Rick Buxton asked if this Ordinance passes, will it be reviewed in a year? Yes, this is in the Ordinance. Andrea stated that if this passes and becomes an Ordinance is sixty days, we will receive the money gifted for the purchase of the signs and they would go up. The signage will also help the constable. The signs will simply say “Open” or “Closed”. Julia Beamish stated that the Benson ATV Club has come

up in conversation. What is the size of their membership? How many guests do you have annually? Mike Christian answered that there are about 70-75 members and he has no idea as to how many guests. Andrea mentioned that we also now have a trailer for the radar sign which will go up in the spring. Andy Snyder commented that ATV's recommendation state that they are not intended to be used on paved roads, yet in our Ordinance it says otherwise. This will be inviting a large number of people into our town using our roads. Andrea thanked Andy for his comments and stated that right now we can't do anything about the ATV's on our roads. The Ordinance gives us some legal standing which we don't have right now. Public Comment closed.

Joe Pouliot moved to adopt the ATV Ordinance with the small changes made tonight. Les Wood seconded the motion.

Les Wood asked what could we do to make some money if needed to replace signs. Andrea stated that the Select Board would not be in charge of doing that. That would be a club. He just wants to make sure there is no signage charge to the Town.

The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

The next step is it will go in the newspaper. Citizens have 44 days to petition to disapprove the ordinance. If no petition is received, the ordinance passes in 60 days.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Delinquent Tax Collector Report – Diane Jackson, Delinquent Tax Collector, was asked to attend to explain the Delinquent Tax list. Diane stated that a couple of older ones are either paying, promise to pay or are currently under an Estate. One has paid inbetween years. Diane stated that she sends out monthly letters, contacts people, and tries to work with people. Everyone on the delinquent list is making an effort. The law has changed that a contract is needed. You break the contract and it then goes to tax sale. It's an ongoing process.

b. Town Report – Andrea Treadway wrote up the Select Boards Report for the Town Report. It includes what the Select Board has accomplished this year and especially all the names of the people who helped build the Bandstand. Karen Rowland, Chair Auditor, has asked for a photo of the Bandstand to use for the Town Report cover. Discussion ensued. Andrea to add the tree removal that occurred at the Sewer Plant, done by Joe Pouliot.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

Town Report concerns. Hopefully we don't have the same problem as last year with missing or unsent reports. The Auditors have been in contact with the Post Office.

It would be a good idea to have your Absentee Ballot postmarked by the postmaster, drop them in the ballots box outside the Clerk's Office or ask for your ballot early to ensure your vote counts.

The paperwork for the ANR Grant, for the Sunrise/Sunset Lake Milfoil, has been completed.

The Town received a dog report from the Health Officer, Kent Anderson.

Andrea spoke with the Town Clerk in Panton who used an outside assessor at a cost of \$10,000 and an outside audit is \$17,500 a year.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Les Wood moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$34,120.39 Sewer Orders in the amount of \$2,267.34 and the Town Payroll. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No. (Andrea Treadway recused herself from the Select Board Orders).

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Walker,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2026,
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM.**