

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**
January 12, 2026
Town Office

NOT APPROVED

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

Bryan Young, Treasurer
Allen M. Alger, Road Foreman
Tony Lake, Sunrise/Sunset Lake, Virtual

Betty Walker, Clerk

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mike Christian moved to go into Executive Session for Attorney-Client Confidential Communications for the purposes of providing professional legal services to the Select Board per VSA §3139(a)(1)(F) and to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee under the provisions of 1 VSA §313(a)(3) at 7:00 PM. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

The Select Board came out of Executive Session at 7:35 PM.

No action taken on the Attorney-Client Confidential Communications for the purposes of providing professional legal services to the Select Board.

Joe Pouliot moved to give the employees a 4% Cost of Living Raise for 2026, retroactive from January 1st. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Mike Christian stated that he discussed with the Road Foreman about the Needham Hill Project. Green Mountain Power will not be burying their lines. This area is mostly ledge. They will be installing overhead lines. This project is to start approximately within the next thirty days. Need to have some trees trimmed.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – ANR received the Wetland Permit and payment for work on Burke Road. They are requesting all of the pages of the permit along with an area map of the project to be scanned to them. The Road Crew has been doing a lot of sanding and salting of the roads. Salt loads are slow to come in. We are also going through a lot of sand. A valve is leaking in the 2017 Mack. We need to make this truck last at least another two years. ACRPC (Addison County Regional Planning Commission) conducted a traffic count on Chipman's Point Road. The average speed is 35 mph with the fastest speed being clocked at 70 mph.

b. Mileage Certificate – The Select Board received the 2026 Mileage Certificate to be completed by February 20th. This certificate must be completed to determine Orwell's share of State Aid for town highways for FY27. The total calculated mileage for Orwell is 75.375 with no changes.

Les Wood moved to accept the Certificate of Highway Mileage. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to approve the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of December 22, 2025, and the Special Select Board Meeting of December 31, 2025. Rob Barnes seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

Sewer Report – “I am pleased to report that the Wastewater Treatment Facility continues to perform without incident. With cold weather in December a heat lamp had to be turned on in the Effluent Chamber to keep the surface from freezing and interfering with the flow meter readings. This is usual. The solar power is on-line as of 12/30/2025. As is normal, all is well at the WWTF.”

Annual Phosphorus Report – “The Town of Orwell is on track with the Phosphorus Waste Allocation. As indicated in our TMDL report.” Respectfully, Edward Tracey.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

Vacancies for Auditors, Listers and Constable – Town Officer petitions are still available at the Town Clerk’s Office for anyone interested. There are openings for Auditors, Listers and a Constable. The deadline for completed, signed petitions, to be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office is January 26, 2026, 5:00 PM.

Andrea mentioned that this should be brought up at Town Meeting so the public is aware. At this moment we only have one Lister running and there will only be one Auditor left. We need to give the option to the townspeople to not have these people elected as we may need to make these appointed or hired out positions.

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

a. MERP – Joe Pouliot and Andrea Treadway met with Chris Dundon, Dundon Plumbing and Heating, Shelly Pottorf from Architend and Jason McNolty from All Points Construction and Restoration. The cost of the HVAC/ERV & Heat Pumps is more than what was figured. Chris Dundon will have info and prices available this Friday. Efficiency Vermont confirmed they will be offering rebates in 2026 for heat pumps and commercial kitchen equipment. We are eligible for a Municipal Discount per project. We may be eligible for Green Mountain Power rebates.

b. Budget – The board went over the Budget sheets, making a few changes.

Expense sheets: MERP Implementation Grant corrected the figure from \$312,623.09 to \$206,773.09, corrected Sewer Rent figures for Fire Department, First Response and Town Garage, increased the budget for Salt to \$100,000 and Sand to \$80,000, worked on the Payroll figures. Went over the Listers Budget and removed some of their line items that are already line items in the budget. Added a line for Training at \$1,100, Consulting at \$3,200 and Postage at \$100. Sheriff’s Contract was left at \$30,000 and to let them know that is our budget figure for 2026. There is \$12,775.27 left in the Bandstand budget. Use \$5,000 for Landscaping around the Bandstand. Put the balance toward the Salt Shed. There is \$120,000 in the budget for the Salt Shed.

Income Sheet: Added figures for State Highway Aid, State Hold Harmless Payment and the School Tax Adjustment.

Sewer Budget Sheet: Balance forward of \$19,157.36. Adjusted the Payroll.

Andrea to change all these figures and send the Board and Treasurer the final budget. To approve the budget at the January 26th Select Board Meeting.

c. Bandstand – Rob Barnes had spoke with all the volunteers that worked on the Bandstand and they all stated that they don’t want to get paid. Instead, put all their names on a page giving them recognition in the Town Report along with a picture of the Bandstand. Some Orwell Citizens, and the Congregational Church, brought food and drinks to the volunteers, which was much appreciated.

d. Salt Shed – To remove the old shed. Keep the Butler building. There is \$120,000 in the budget for the Salt Shed.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Lister Resignation – A resignation letter was received from Jean Audet as Lister for the Town of Orwell, effective January 1, 2026. Jean has served as a Lister since 2010 and feels that it is now time to step aside.

Les Wood moved to accept the resignation and wishes to thank her for her years of service. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

b. Representative for Middlebury Regional Emergency Medical Services – The current Representative, Mark Young, has stepped down from this position. He feels strongly that we need someone to represent us. We pay the same per capita as Middlebury. We need someone to look out for our interest. Anyone interested can contact Andrea Treadway.

c. Warning – The proposed town budget is \$1,842,887.68. Amount to be raised by taxes \$1,128,551.49 and \$714,336.19 to be raised by non-tax revenues. Sewer budget \$110,691.36 to be raised by user rents and dumping fees. Warning to be approved at the January 26th Select Board Meeting.

d. 2026 Sunrise Lake Milfoil Management Project – Tony Lake stated that there have been some changes to the process. It used to be due in February/March and now it is due by January 30th. Also, now it needs to be done electronically. Tony Lake will fill out the application on the ANR website and then invite someone from the Town, who will need an ANR account, to finalize and certify the application and then send it off to the State.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

VLCT Training Opportunities and Municipal Priorities – Andrea gave copies to all the board members. One has dates for monthly training opportunities listed for the whole year. The Municipal Priorities explains how VLCT will help support municipalities.

CLA (Common Level of Appraisal) for 2026 is at 96.37%. The assessments in town are at market value.

The Addison County Sheriff's Report/Invoice was received for the month of December 2025, with 47 Officer Hours, 381 Cruiser Miles and 1 Traffic Court Hour.

A ceremony was held to recognize the winners of the 2025 John Lewis Leadership Award. Congratulations to Rafaela Botti of Orwell. The John Lewis Leadership Award honors young people who demonstrate leadership, a commitment to civil rights, and efforts to improve their communities.

Outright Vermont filed an ACT 250 Permit to make improvements at Camp Sunrise. These improvements will improve safety, accessibility, and the overall educational experience for campers, staff and other users of Sunrise.

A Vermont Town wrote that they put their General Fund in an interest bearing account and have earned approximately \$12,000 annually from interest.

An Animal Bite Report was received from the Town's Health Officer, Kent Anderson, with the owner of the dog being bit by their own dog while trying to break up a fight.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Les Wood moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$36,599.917 and \$2,127.74, Orders for 2017 Mack in the amount of \$4,960.00, and the Town Payroll. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No. (Andrea Treadway recused herself from the 2017 Mack Orders).

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Mike Christian moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 PM. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Betty Walker,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Regular Select Board Meeting
Monday, January 26, 2026,
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM.**