

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**July 13, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

**Select Board: Andrea Treadway, Chair
Mike Christian
Joe Pouliot
Hans Tudhope
Les Wood, Vice Chair**

**Allen Alger, Road Foreman
Bryan Young, Treasurer
Diane Jackson, Delinquent Tax Collector
Liz Wolf, WCC
Michael Lee, Twig Farm**

Anna Golann, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Diane Jackson discussed a trailer owned by the Estate of Larry Curavoo that is being moved. Jeff Treadway helped get it onto a trailer, but it hasn't been picked up yet and is currently sitting on the side of 22A. Diane explained that all of the back taxes have been paid and this home will need to come off of the grand list as the trailer will no longer be here. Diane will discuss this with Sharon Ronchetti so that this may be accurately reflected for property taxes this year.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Allen Alger, Road Foreman, gave the Highway report. He has received two bids for tree removal throughout Orwell on road edges, including but not limited to 2 trees on the diamond, 6 on Hemenway Hill Rd, a couple on Brown Road and 3 on N Orwell. One bid is from Sunderland Tree Service for \$4800 and the other bid is from Black Bear for \$6000. Joe Pouliot stated that a lot of additional tree work needs to be done on Route 73 and Sunderland Tree Service was willing to work for the week for \$10,000 and take down as many unsafe trees as possible. Discussion ensued about the amount of tree work that is needed and will continue to be needed in Orwell. Allen stated that Sunderland can get to us first and it would be cheaper to go with them and have them keep going as far as they can for the week.

Joe Pouliot moved to do a week's worth of tree work at \$10,000 with Sunderland. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Allen also detailed that the 19 Mack is still having overheating problems. Allen received a quote to fix the truck and we've already spent \$4,000 trying to figure out the problem. The quote to fix is \$7,000.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the \$7,000 to fix the 19 Mack. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Allen explained that the pin for the excavator broke today and will be \$2,000 to fix. Hans asked whether Shaw's Garage would have something that we could retrofit. Les also said he might have someone who could

help and they are going to look into it. Additionally, Allen put one culvert in today. The road crew will be hauling sand tomorrow. Separately, Les inquired with Allen how to proceed with an unsafe parked car on the side of Hemenway Hill Road. If the car is not moved, Les will let the Sheriff know so the car can be dealt with properly.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of June 22, 2026 and the Special Select Board Meeting of June 25, 2026. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

Andrea read aloud the report from Ed Tracey. In summation, all is currently well at the Waste Water Treatment Facility and Ed recommended a timeline of 2-4 years for financial planning of the next sludge removal in Lagoon 1. Discussion ensued about alternative ways to deal with sludge to save on cost. In addition, Andrea reviewed and signed forms for the Waste Water Treatment Facility that will need to go to the State. Joe asked about the process for sludge removal and Allen explained that they vacuum into a trailer and isolate the solids. Andrea detailed that sludge removal isn't that far away and encouraged the board to make a plan in advance as the only servicer is in Coventry and it is a lot of money in trucking costs. Les asked if we could screen the plastics and materials from the portable toilets and whether this needs to be addressed with Dundons. Hans expressed interest in visiting the Sewer plant to see what their procedures are. Joe asked what the company name is that services the sludge removal and asked whether Ed Tracey could come to our next meeting to provide information and create a starting point. Les confirmed that we'd need to shut down the Lagoon that is being worked on during the sludge removal process. Mike will call Ed Tracey to ask him to attend the next meeting. Hans asked about our current Sewer loans and Bryan explained that we still have a 15 year loan for the last sludge removal and pump replacement that was just under \$400,000. Discussion ensued about whether Dundon's dumping should continue based on the concentration of sludge and cost of sludge removal, how sludge removal has been handled in the past, and whether there could be an alternative to sending sludge to Coventry. Bryan detailed that Dundon's septage dumping is 1/4 of the current sewer payments. The board agreed to collaborate with Ed Tracey at the next meeting to start future planning for sludge removal and address any concerns or questions with the current processes at the Sewer Plant.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

Anna and Sarah will present a plan for website, payroll and digitization updates for the Town Office for the next fiscal year at the next Select Board meeting on July 27, 2026.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- Andrea explained that she disagreed with the assessment in the most recent update from Jason McNolty, Owner of All Points Construction, and stated that the work that had been done last week was not up to par. Andrea stated that Tom Purdy Sr. has been overseeing the work but his concerns have not been taken seriously and corrections have not been proposed by the company. Les proposed to talk to Andre and is planning on stopping by the Firehouse to check in on progress. Allen explained that they've been working but not much is getting accomplished. Discussion ensued about how to proceed and it was determined to address the concerns at the next meeting and work with Andre when he is back from vacation to get things back on track.
- b. Kelly Brush Ride Update- Andrea explained that the proposed Kelly Brush Ride will not be riding through Orwell this year. There will likely be a proposal for next year.

- c. Delinquent Dogs- Gary Murdock, Constable, will be picking up the ticket book from the Town Office and working on tickets for delinquent dogs. Anna explained that we just had an individual come in to license their 3 dogs. We have between 20-30 unregistered dogs in Town currently who will be receiving tickets.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Bike Ride Proposal- August 8- Liz Wolf and Michael Lee attended the meeting to discuss a proposed gender diverse bike ride through Orwell on August 8, 2026. They explained that this is part of a series of rides and Liz has been running rides for women in the Chittenden county area. They also recently had a bike ride through Shoreham and Bridport. Liz explained that this is not a race and rather for fun and recreation. Road rules will be followed and the ride in Orwell will be open to Women and Men, with equivalent gender numbers. Mike explained that Orwell has beautiful riding and his personal riding here has informed the proposed route through Orwell, Shoreham and Whiting. Mike explained the route and discussion ensued about the hills in Orwell. Andrea explained that the Town asks for notification of the Sheriff's Department, proof of insurance, and informing Town Fire and Rescue. Hans expressed concern about his farming on this Saturday but the route will not pass the farm. Andrea provided information for the Fire Chief and President of Rescue for Liz and Michael to contact. They also expressed interest in using the village green as a rest stop and will connect with the Town Clerk to file paperwork if desired.

Joe Pouliot moved to allow the bike race. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

- b. VT Forest Fire Warden State State Changes- State statute has changed and now the Fire Chief is required to be the Forest Fire Warden. Andrea explained that there was a lot of kickback on this, but Orwell is lucky because our Fire Chief, Alex Kansky, is already our Forest Fire Warden.
- c. PC/DRB- Lynn Gallagher has been put forth by Dan Redondo as a new member of the PC/DRB, but without the rest of the board's approval. Andrea explained that Bob Almeida and Joe Andriano were approved by the Select Board, but they were not brought to the PC/DRB for a vote either. Les proposed that this be done correctly by the planning commission and DRB and then brought to the Select Board. The board expressed full support if the procedure is done correctly and then brought back to us. Andrea to discuss the decision with Dan Redondo.
- d. BCA Telecommunications Appeal- Andrea explained that the State recently made a change on the taxation of telecommunications and solar. There have been so many appeals that the State has created a fast track to bypass the BCA level and along a pathway right to PVR. The current appeal is from VTel and the select board's sign off is required.

Les Wood moved to sign the Telecommunications Appeal and send it to PVR. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 1 No.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. PILOT/Hold Harmless Estimate- The Hold Harmless estimate is \$106,672 and the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of taxes) is \$7,107 for the upcoming year. Andrea and Bryan Young, Treasurer, noted that both estimates are similar to last year.
- b. Dog Complaints on 73 - There have been three complaints now regarding the same dog in Town. The Board read the complaints to be aware.
- c. VT Counsel on Rural Development Leadership Summit - We received an invite for the Rural Development Leadership Summit and Andrea expressed interest in attending for the Town of Orwell.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amounts of \$146,640.05 and \$10,000, the Sewer Order in the amount of \$1,378.86 and Town Payroll. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Mike Christian moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:59 p.m. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Golann,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Select Board Meeting
Monday, July 27, 2026
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM**