

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**July 27, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

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

Bryan Young, Treasurer

Anna Golann, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:10 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Allen Alger, Road Foreman, gave the Highway Department Report. He stated that we've received all salt for this coming year and a cost savings of \$2.50/ton with Barrett's, cheaper than Cargill's bid for this year. In addition, the 19 Mack was fixed, seems to be working and cooling well and a new pin was made for the excavator, which is now working again. The road foreman is working with the State on Wednesday to discuss beavers at Sunrise Lake and they've been ditching around Royce Hill and Singing Cedars. Les brought up the potential to paint the Butler building at the Town Garage for \$2,500 this year and match the green paint of the other buildings. Andrea looked at the budget and stated that we do not have enough money left in that particular Highway budget line, but there is left over money from the bandstand and a few other areas of the budget. Les stated that he needs to let them know by tomorrow and that this is a want, not a need. Hans stated that he is against spending on this and would like to encourage budgeting for this expense next year. Mike was in agreement with Hans, but stated that the work won't get any cheaper. Andrea noted that all of the projects that have been done recently have been covered in our budget and she also doesn't want to see another large loan needed. The majority of the board agreed and gave Les the go ahead to try to line up this work for \$2,500. Separately, Hans stated that the new paving on North Orwell Road has created a large drop for farmers entering their fields on large equipment. Allen stated that the pavement needs to settle and then we will add on to these particular areas for this purpose. Joe inquired about a couple of situations in town, including a camper parked on Roberts Ave, a property line dispute, and another property on Main Street with dumpsters sitting in the road in the town right of way. Andrea stated that the Constable should go discuss the dumpsters in the town right of way and Joe is going to handle giving Gary a call. If Gary is not able to do this, we'd need to work with the Sheriff.

B. Maple Broadband ROW Application- Andrea stated that Maple Broadband is looking to bury a line across Shoreham Depot Rd. Allen has looked at the application already and signed off on it. Andrea asked that Maple Broadband update their contacts for the Selectboard and town email address.

Joe Pouliot moved to approve the Maple Broadband ROW Application. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 13, 2026. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

- a. Ed Tracey- Ed Tracey, Sewer Plant Manager, was present for the meeting. Les praised his work to the Board. Andrea opened the conversation, stating that we asked Ed to come to discuss a timeline for sludge removal, what work needs to be done, and what other options we might have at the Sewer Plant to reduce sludge removal expenses. Joe stated that an estimate to budget with would be helpful, but Ed stated that an accurate estimate would be challenging based on several factors, namely the shape of the lagoon causing stacking on the edges and inaccurate measurements. Hans stated that we have a debt on the last sludge removal so he is concerned as we're now thinking about cleanout again. Ed stated that the majority of the sludge comes from porta potties, but that the Town also receives revenue from dumping fees. Ed discussed that there is no immediate issue at the Sewer Plant, but his report of sludge build up was given with the goal of keeping the Select Board informed for a future need. He discussed that there is sludge accumulation in Lagoon #1 and the role of Lagoon #1 is to take in and settle the heavy material prior to Lagoon #2 polishing the material and getting it into compliance. Ed informed the Board that it has been 8 years since the last clean out and that 10 or so years between cleanouts is a good goal for sludge removal. Hans reiterated his concern for having a backlog of Sewer cleanout expenses and a concern that the Town is getting behind on these payments. Ed stated that the last Sewer note had a complete upgrade of the aeration system in addition to the sludge removal, which was trucked to Coventry, VT, as they were and still are the only certified facility. Hans and Les questioned that amount of sludge removed last time and the Select Board will look into this to inform further discussion. Ed discussed that in order for permit compliance, we need to reduce Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), remove total suspended solids, monitor parameters with phosphorus, ammonia and additionally, e. Coli in summer. The Board agreed to consult the record, look at the amount of sludge removed last time and the breakdown of the payment to try to make an educated guess for the cost for next removal. Les questioned the fertilizer value of the sludge and Ed mentioned that the regulations are extremely tight for this and this includes finding land, leases, liability, monitoring wells, yearly testing of ground water, to name a few. Andrea stated that it has been a long time since any town used this practice, though several towns did this in the past. In addition, Ed discussed that the composition of sludge includes heavy metals, plastics, pathogens, inorganics, which do not exist in cow manure. Allen questioned whether a rinse from the fire department could help sludge accumulation, but Ed stated that the volume doesn't change wherever it is within the surface of the Lagoon so this won't make a difference. Joe stated that we need to look at the old paperwork to make an educated decision moving forward. The board thanked Ed for coming and answering questions.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

- a. Clerk & Assistant Clerk Presentation- Anna presented on hopeful changes to the Town Website to ensure compliance, payroll and benefits changes to create uniformity, accuracy, and awareness across Town Departments, and an initial plan for digitization to preserve Town records. Andrea reminded the board that the Town Clerk's budget is not overseen by the Select Board and Anna expressed a desire for Board support and feedback as we continue into this next phase. The proposed changes to the budget are approximately \$5,800, with a cost savings of approximately \$36,000 from reduction in employee time while maintaining Town Office hours this year. The Board thanked Anna and Sarah for their work and encouraged changes to support the office.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Andrea passed around the financial management questionnaire for the State. This is a required annual questionnaire, which was signed by Andrea under the direction of the Board.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- Andrea expressed that Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, is doing a great job of overseeing the project. She stated that there is now a licensed master plumber on staff who is doing all of the

commissioning at the Firehouse. The Ansel system is still pending but Jason McNolty, Owner of All Points Construction, was meeting with Impact Fire to discuss this on the 23rd. In addition, Jason asked to delay attic insulation at the Town Garage due to heat and Andrea discussed doing it at night so that work is completed by September 1. Also discussed was redoing the roof over the heat pump, which was confirmed by Jason. Andrea completed the implementation grant report that is due by the 31st and put in the Town's 5th request for reimbursement from the MERP grant. Andrea suggested that All Points would like to consolidate efficiency testing at the end of all projects and that the remaining work would be completed at the Town Office just before testing.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Fyles Fixed Price Contract 2026-27- Last year, Andrea stated that the Select Board opted to sign the fixed price contract. Andrea read that the fixed margin is \$0.45 for 2026-27 and today's price would be \$1.612. Based on the estimated gallons, the fixed rate would be \$1.70/gallon.

Les Wood moved to sign the Fyles Fixed Price Contract for 2026-27. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

- b. Orwell Sign- Concern about a dislodged Town of Orwell sign on 73 over by Horton Rd was brought to the attention of the Select Board. Andrea detailed that this sign was put in as an Eagle Scout Project and the Town agreed to manage it after it was put in. Andrea asked the board how to proceed. Discussion ensued about what was needed to get the sign back up, including two 4x4s and finials. Les asked who might be willing to fix it and Mike inquired whether Rob Barnes may be willing. Joe is going to look into the cost and who may be willing to do the work for the next meeting.
- c. ATV Signs- Mike stated that half of the ATV signs are up in Town and he'll continue working until complete.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. Delinquent Dog Sheriff's Department- Andrea stated that Gary Murdock, Constable, does not feel comfortable writing tickets and now the Sheriff's Department is taking on the tickets for delinquent dogs.
- b. Fire Department Lighted Vests - Andrea read a great sequence of call attempts between Orwell Fire Department and the business to connect on the missing vests. On one occasion, Ben Alger was able to get through and learned that the business was going under. On another attempt, the town was offered fulfillment of the order if there was a willingness to change the vest color from red to green, which was agreed upon. The value of this missing vest order is \$800. Andrea detailed that the Fire Department feels badly about this expense. Discussion ensued between Board members regarding whether it was worth it to involve the lawyer. Ultimately, the Select Board stated that it makes sense to move on rather than incurring lawyer fees for a product we may never receive. Andrea agreed to forward this information on to Ben.
- c. Homeward Bound- Anna stated that we had our first Homeward Bound intake this past week of a lost dog. A black poodle was taken to Homeward Bound by the Sheriff after being caught safely by Jane Reidel on Roberts Ave.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$50,442.52, Sewer Orders in the amount of \$407.50 and the Town Payroll. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Golann,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 10, 2026
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM**