

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**August 10, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

**Rick Buxton Jr.
George Coro
Diane Jackson**

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

Anna Golann, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Diane Jackson stated that the new cemetery sign is up, which declares that the cemetery is open “dawn to dusk”. She asked for clarification on police presence and Andrea stated that the cemetery bylaws would need to be updated and once this is completed, the Select Board would purchase signs for all cemeteries. Separately, George Coro expressed concern regarding speed on North Orwell Road and road signage that is difficult to see throughout Orwell. He stated that he would like to see the speed limit increased on N Orwell Road to reflect other village areas in Orwell, such as reverting back to 35mph to make it more attainable to go the limit. Discussion ensued about when the speed limit on N Orwell changed to 25mph and other nearby areas. George also discussed that he has traveled 4 different roads throughout Town and several of the signs are buried in trees or tipped over and many of the signs on Knox Hill are full of bullet holes. In addition, he noted demolition derby cars racing through that area. George also inquired about whether he should be reaching out to the Constable for these types of concerns and mentioned side-by-sides racing at night in the dark on North Orwell Road. Andrea expressed that the town needs to know about any after dark activity of ATVs. George stated that we were fortunate recently to have the Sheriff in Town when the motorcycle raced through Main Street. Discussion ensued about the solar speed limit sign, where it is placed in Town at the moment and whether it is helping to reduce speed. George asked about the location rotation for this sign. Hans and Mike stated that they don’t see the value in the sign, personally. George brought up neighborhood watch, how it helped in the past, and how this could help fix the speeding problem now. Andrea stated that we have a highway department committee, Les and Hans, and she would like to have George meet with them separately to go over all concerns. The highway committee would then work with Allen Alger, Road Foreman, to make sure that everything gets done.

Andrea also thanked George for fixing the Orwell Sign on 73 and letting the Select Board know that a fertilizer truck had hit it. George stated that he used pressure treated wood and put it back in the ground with a brace. He also stated that he’s willing to continue weedwhacking the sign so that it looks nice. Rick Buxton, Jr. was also in attendance and detailed that he didn’t want to see the speed limit increase due to young children playing and older people living on the road and he is concerned about raising the speed limit making speed a bigger problem. Andrea stated that we’ll put speed limits on the agenda for the next meeting and that we’ll be starting to review all Town policies to ensure they’re up to statute.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Hans Tudhope, gave the Highway Department Report on behalf of Allen Alger, Road Foreman. He stated that the Butler building at the Town Garage looks good after the painting that Les lined up. Sunderland tree is set up for tree work in Orwell from September 7-11th. The road crew has been ditching and fixing washouts due to beavers at 18 Sunset Lake Rd. Allen also shared that the drug tester from

the State never showed up for Pete and Alex this past week. Andrea explained that this has now been rescheduled. Hans also spoke to Allen about Pete's retirement in October, but that this hasn't been made official. The Select Board would like to have a plan if he is officially moving forward with retirement.

B. Access Permit- Wood Bros. Land Company- Allen went and looked and the sight lines are good. Les is looking to add a driveway at 59 Route 73W.

Joe Pouliot moved to approve the Access Permit for Wood Bros. Land Company. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No. Les abstained.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of July 27, 2026. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

Dated August 2nd, Ed Tracey detailed that the Sewer Plant continues to perform without incident.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

Anna stated that the primary election is tomorrow. Polls are open at the Town Hall from 10am- 7pm.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Andrea asked whether the Select Board received the Treasurer's report and encouraged them to start reviewing for upcoming budget work.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- Andrea stated that she has not been receiving weekly emails from All Points Construction. She believes that Tom must be communicating with them. She stated that the reimbursement came through from the State and we have not received a new bill from All Points.
- b. Orwell Sign- The Board thanked George Coro for his work fixing the sign on 73. Rick Buxton Jr. inquired about whether a wooden road sign may help reduce sign damage and the Selectboard agreed to try this for a sign that frequently gets stolen. Rick stated that he'd get it made and give it to Allen to put up. Andrea stated that we have a budget for signs but not enough of a budget to fix all the damage that has been happening lately. George stated that perhaps we could replace some of the stop signs with yield signs, but Andrea explained that our signs are based on sight lines and the orange book. George also questioned what the problem is with the Sheriff presence, whether it is money related or time related. The Selectboard confirmed that this is due to the Sheriff's department being short handed, but they've just hired a few new Sheriffs and Orwell should be receiving more hours shortly. The board discussed that the hours have become predictable and Andrea stated that she'd discuss varying the hours with Mike Elmore tomorrow.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. LHMP Contract Extension- Andrea stated that the contract for the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan had a typo from the state and needed to be extended due to expiration on July 1, 2025 instead of September of 2026.

Mike Christian moved to sign the LHMP Contract Extension. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. Gender Diverse Bike Race- Liz Wolf sent a thank you after their bike race this past Saturday.
- b. Bat Exposure- Andrea stated that we did get a report of a bat exposure in town and passed around the incident report.

- c. Town Fair 2026- Andrea stated that VLCT puts together a fair each year and she went last year with Orwell's Clerks. She inquired whether other Selectboard members were interested and stated that Sandy Korda is interested in attending as Emergency Manager.
- d. Sheriff's Report- We received the Sheriff's Report for the month of July and there was one arrest for excessive speed. The board reviewed the report.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$128,155.69, Sewer Orders in the amount of \$1015.79 and the Town Payroll. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 3 Yes 0 No. Les and Andrea abstained.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Golann,
Clerk of the Board

**Next Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 24, 2026
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM**