

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**August 24, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

**Rick Buxton Jr.
Bryan Young, Treasurer**

**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 7:32 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 report. He stated that the road crew has been working on ditching during any recent dry days. Andrea explained that the Better Back Roads Grant is due in October, so they'll need to start work on that since it can be used for ditching. Discussion ensued about some recent state roads and the lack of ditching required for State projects versus Town roads. Pete's retirement from the highway department is planned for the mid to end of October. Joe inquired about Sawmill Road ditching to close out a Grants in Aid grant. The grant is for about \$11,600, it would amount to 450 total feet on two sides of the roadway if it's completed by the Town. Rick Buxton Jr. asked about whether we've contracted out or completed the work at the Town level and it was confirmed that the Town has been completing all the work for these grants thus far. Allen also stated that they have 4 culverts to put in throughout Town and Andrea inquired about a box culvert on Brown Lane. Allen stated that the work would not be completed this year and we need to decide whether to put in a box culvert or arch culvert. The highway committee will need to meet to discuss a grant for Highway Grants in Aid for FY 2026. Rick Buxton inquired about how much time Allen is devoting to paperwork during the day. He stated that this grant is about 10 hours total and discussion ensued regarding a Town Manager position and whether it may be beneficial for grant writing, zoning, etc. Andrea stated that Mike Winslow is willing to work with the Town writing several grants and managing administration, but there is a cost to it (approximately \$450-\$600). Hans stated that this could help Allen and get him back to the work he needs to do. Andrea asked the Board whether we could discuss the highway opening, while the road foreman is present and the Board agreed. Andrea read aloud a posting for the highway opening and expressed that this was included in VLCT, the State listserve and Addison Independent when the Town last advertised. Andrea discussed that most of the Towns of our same size have 4 full time road crew. She stated that she doesn't want to see us slide from 3 to 2 members and wants to make sure we put in the work to look for someone. Discussion ensued about possible candidates and trying to find someone or a couple people to even work part time who have snow plow experience. Allen stated that we now have a plow on the pickup, so this could be useful if needed. Andrea stated that we will post the position and the board discussed that we'll need to be prepared to draw on help from community members with experience if needed. The highway committee will be working with Allen to accept and review resumes and host interviews.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of August 10, 2026. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

The Board discussed the sewer GMP bill and agreed that it was right on par with the rate this time of year and our solar credit.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

Anna stated that she has hired a new assistant, Cindy Sproul, who will be working one/two day(s) a week to start becoming acquainted with the office and Clerk roles prior to Anna's leave.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Bryan Young, Treasurer, is meeting with Sharon Ronchetti, Lister, to work on taxes tomorrow. Hans inquired about delinquent taxes and how frequently the board gets a report. Andrea stated that if we don't hear from Diane Jackson, Delinquent Tax Collector, it is because the delinquent tax payer has a payment plan in place. If there isn't a payment plan set up, Diane will come to the Board and state that a tax sale is needed. Bryan stated that each year there is approximately \$100,000 in delinquent taxes after tax day. Then, there is a large portion of people who pay right after the cutoff. He stated that a dozen or so tax payers last a while and remain on the delinquent list. Andrea explained that with our tight budget, we often have to cover the education expenses that must still be sent to the State. Andrea praised the Board for the slim \$860 carry forward in last year's budget but stated that this has potential to cause difficulty in the case of delinquent taxes, though it hasn't yet presented a problem. Bryan also stated that there is a 12% increase on tax payments for delinquent taxes, so it is helpful in this case.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- Andrea received a call from Peter Ochs regarding issues with the rescue bay. Equipment was blocking supply cabinets with the lift so they couldn't restock and there was a mess at the front of the rescue bay. He spoke with Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, who looked into it and followed up with Jason McNolty, twice. Some changes have been made for the heat pump in the community space, the condenser pump will now be outside. She also stated that the heat pumps at the Town Office are not currently working. Someone was sent to address the problem this morning, but still neither heat pump is working. Jason is sending someone tomorrow. Andrea also stated that Jason is asking for the remaining funds and Andrea talked with Jason about the contract showing less for this payment and the remainder of funds to be paid after work has completed. There will be a MERP Meeting on Thursday at 9AM to discuss next steps.
- b. Town Fair 2026- Bryan is planning on being the voting delegate again this year for the VLCT Annual Meeting.

Mike Christian moved to approve Bryan Young as the voting delegate for VLCT. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

Andrea will be attending Town Fair as well and asked whether other board members were interested in attending. She stated that there is an early bird discounted price of \$99 if you sign up prior to August 31st. Sandy Korda will be attending as Emergency Manager, and the Clerks are planning to attend as well.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. Speed Limits- Andrea passed around copies of the highway speed ordinance. She asked for Board members to review so that we can start updating this as it was last approved in October of 2022. Andrea asked Board members to come to the next meeting with comments and any warranted changes they would like to make.
- b. PC/DRB Nomination- Dan Redondo sent an email to Andrea stating that Lynn Gallagher has been approved at the PC/DRB level.

Les Wood moved to approve Lynn Gallagher as a PC/DRB member. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

- c. Highway Retirement – Position Opening- Discussed during the highway report (see above) with the Road Foreman present.
- d. Budget- Andrea explained that we will have budget numbers to look at for the next meeting. She asked Board members to review in advance for this work.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. Junk Yards - The Board discussed properties around Town that have 3 or more junk cars present. Tom or Joe, Zoning Administrators, will need to visit these properties as they do not comply with Town ordinances.
- b. Research - Discussion ensued about a property in Town that will need to be reviewed by a Zoning Administrator and, perhaps, involve the Sheriff.
- c. Old Town Garage - Joe inquired whether he is able to enter the Old Town Garage legally. Joe asked about the lease regarding the property and Andrea passed it around for review. Andrea stated that the lessees were looking to purchase the building in 2021, but this couldn't occur as the property is a brown field. Andrea stated that there were changes made in Select Board minutes regarding amount paid and work to be done, but not on the lease itself. Joe stated that a camper has shown up now in front of the Old Town Garage. If still present, the Sheriff needs to be called and the camper needs to be removed. Joe will come into the Town Office to look at the Lister Card and the tax maps and then will give Mike Elmore, Sheriff, a call based on what he finds. Andrea shared the contact.
- d. Korean War Veteran Plaque- Rick Buxton Jr. inquired about a recent request relayed from the Town Office. Rick stated that the committee only worked on the Vietnam War side of the Monument and the Korean War side was cleaned up and taken out of the Town Hall. Rick was planning to follow up with the individual who made the request.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$27,660.19, Sewer Orders in the amount of \$1059.38 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 8:25 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, September 14, 2026
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM**