

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD
September 14, 2026
Town Office**

**Allen Alger, Road Foreman
Kate Hunter, Librarian
Diane Jackson, Delinquent Tax Collector
Bryan Young, Treasurer**

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

Absent: Mike Christian

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 she attended a VLCT Webinar last week regarding abandoned property throughout the State of Vermont and the Land Bank. The State figures it will cost \$1.5 to \$2 million dollars each year for 5 years for this program. Currently, it is not required for all towns to upload their delinquent taxes as part of this initiative, but this is the goal. Diane stated that this initiative seemed like it was going to be very expensive and it would only potentially help Orwell with the green Orville Davis house in Town. Andrea stated that she would look into this as well and explained that there are a lot of requirements currently coming down the hill. Diane also inquired whether there were any questions from the Select Board regarding delinquent taxes. Hans stated that he had asked at the last meeting with the goal of understanding the process for delinquent properties and how frequently the Select Board would be informed regarding any changes. Bryan Young, Treasurer, stated that there are constant payments occurring, approximately 10 to 12 each month. Diane mentioned that there are currently 14 delinquent properties on her list in Town but everyone has a payment plan set up. More detail ensued regarding delinquent properties in Town and their payment plans. The board thanked Diane for her work.

Kate Hunter, Librarian, informed that during the Food & Farm Fest over the weekend the circuit breaker on the East side tripped and wouldn't flip back on. She mentioned that the food truck had no issue in July at the first event. Joe inquired about whether the Town has an electrician and Andrea stated that Perkin's (County Line) Electric or Peck could be hired to work on this. Les expressed that the breaker is fairly new, so something else might be going on. Andrea also mentioned JPW has a master electrician as well and stated that we'll try to find someone local and go with Peck Electric if we can't find anyone. Andrea will give Les phone numbers to call to set this work up. Kate also stated that she is working on a Community Calendar for the Library and she is looking to aggregate the calendars of the Library, Mount Independence and the Municipality. Kate stated that anyone is welcome to the link who would like to see calendar progress. There will be community member access and this will be overseen by the Library. Andrea stated that she thinks this is a great idea. On another note, Kate expressed intent from Orwell Recreation of doing Trunk or Treat again this year. Allen Alger, Road Foreman, stated that the lights will be used for Trunk or Treat so the Town should make sure the electrical work gets done quickly.

Eric Oak was present to discuss the speed limit during school hours on Main Street. He stated that his wife walks the kids to school and he is concerned about the speed during school hours. Andrea explained that this is a State road and Orwell has not had any luck changing the speed limit with the State. Andrea recommended he contact Brian Sanderson at VTrans for District 3. She explained that it's helpful for citizens to reach out to raise awareness and then the Select Board can support this process as well. Andrea mentioned that she plans to talk with Mark, Sheriff, in the morning about doing more patrol around school hours. Eric also asked about how to get

permits and Andrea recommended that he speak with Tom Purdy to clarify his permit needs and then get the necessary permits from the Town Office. Eric stated that he hasn't had any luck with Tom and was wondering how to proceed with his concerns. Andrea recommended that he speak with Allen Alger regarding his new driveway and to discuss his concerns and permit needs with Joe Pouliot, Assistant Zoning Administrator, after the Select Board meeting this evening.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

- a. Road Foreman Report – Allen Alger, Road Foreman, gave the Highway Report. The road crew has been grating and mowing brush. Sunderland Tree Service has one more day of work. Andrea inquired about what they've been doing with the chips and whether they could be repurposed for use by Orwell Recreation around trees. The board discussed that this wouldn't be a good idea due to invasive species and the quality of the wood chips. Joe inquired about how far the working days went with Sunderland and whether the bucket truck was there last week. He stated that there were only 2 guys chipping brush and he wouldn't consider this a full day, while noting that he hadn't seen any of the live trees removed. Allen clarified that they've been directed to take all of the dead trees first, before taking down any live ones and he also detailed that he did some work clearing on Royce Hill Rd. Discussion ensued about the best way to clear the road sides and the amount of road clearing that is needed in Orwell and across the State. Andrea is currently on the Road Advisory Committee and stated that they don't get much money and just lost more employees. Allen mentioned that Alex is off this week, Pete is off next week, and Allen has planned vacation in November around Thanksgiving. Allen hasn't received any leads on a replacement for Pete upon retirement. The Board clarified that the position requires a CDL and a Health Card. Allen also mentioned that the road crew has been checking road signs and stated that Aluminum is in short supply currently. The necessary carbide bits for the grader have shot up in price by \$10 each and Allen mentioned that he believes he has enough carbide stocked for the plow to get us through winter since they're not currently available.
- b. Guard Rail Inventory Report – Allen stated that there was no attachment shared with him. Andrea will send it out to the Board for review after the meeting.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of August 24, 2026. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

Andrea shared Ed's report which states "I am pleased to report that the Wastewater Treatment Facility continues to perform without incident. As a FYI, despite efforts to minimize and break up floating materials that are common in wastewater, several small islands have accumulated in the primary lagoon. After attempting to remove these independently it was evident that this is not a single person job. Therefore I have enlisted the services of Dundon Septic Service to perform the break up and extraction of the material. I will follow up as the process wraps up. In closing I would like to thank the Board for their continued support at the WWTF." In a separate correspondence, Ed detailed an emergency at the Sewer Plant on Monday, September 14th, in which he enlisted Dundons for work most of the day on a plugged intake to Lagoon 1 and a jetting to the crossover pipe. Due to islands of debris drying out on the banks, Ed explained that a roll off will need to be dropped for disposal. Andrea recommended Ed work with Anna to coordinate with the business Orwell has used in the past.

Les Wood moved to accept the Sewer Report. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

Anna explained a change to Tuesday night for the next Select Board meeting in order to accommodate the Slate Valley Board Meetings and Glen's attendance for our BCA Meeting.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Bryan Young, Treasurer, stated that Taxes are coming in so the Town should be out of debt for the year.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. MERP- The heat pumps are not working again at the Town Office. Andrea explained that she met with Tom, Shelly, and Jason last Monday to go over the punch list. She detailed the dates and explained the scope of work for the coming days at the Firehouse, Town Garage, and the Town Office. Les stated that the work seems to be moving in the right direction, slowly. Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, has been on top of working with All Points regarding work flow.
- b. Speed Limits – Andrea asked whether the Select Board has comments regarding the Speed Limit Ordinance. Hans stated that he doesn't want to stir the pot and wished he could have gotten ahead when the last change happened. Andrea explained that she would like to simplify the ordinance to read that the speed limit in Town is 40mph unless otherwise posted. Joe detailed that he doesn't see why the speed limit should be any lower than 30mph in Town. Discussion ensued about the speed limits on N Orwell Rd and whether the limits should revert back to 35 in the area of the cemetery after the village area. Hans explained that we should be cognizant of sign cost with any changes. Andrea stated that if no one on the board would like to make a change, it will be left as is. The Board decided to leave the Speed Limit Ordinance as is for now.
- c. Budget – Andrea discussed with the Board having the Budget Committee (Andrea & Hans) take a first crack at the budget and then share with the rest of the Board prior to a meeting. Andrea asked Bryan to share the numbers at the end of this month so that budget work can be started at the beginning of October, with the goal of bringing a first budget draft to the Board at the end of October. Andrea stated that work will start with numbers from last year. Hans inquired about how the library budget works with the Town and discussion ensued. Andrea stated that there is an opening on the library board if Hans is interested.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

- a. VTrans Grant Opportunities – Andrea stated that the Better Back Roads Grant and the Better Connections Grant are both available through VTrans currently. Andrea mentioned that Mike Winslow can help with grant writing and administration with his fee being covered by the grant. Andrea recommended Allen contact Mike to figure this out as soon as possible. The Better Connections Grant is about sidewalks, bike trails and bike paths and Andrea stated that Orwell doesn't have a need for this work at the moment.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$60,139.49 and \$52,966.16, Sewer Orders in the amount of \$1,260.45 and the Town Payroll. Les Wood seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

11. ADJOURNMENT.

Joe Pouliot moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 4 Yes 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,
Anna Golann,
Clerk of the Board

Next Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ Orwell Town Office
Immediately Following Warned BCA Meeting