

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE
ORWELL SELECT BOARD**

**May 26, 2026
Town Office**

NOT APPROVED

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

**Jane Riedel Steve Wilk, Wilk Paving
Allen Alger, Road Foreman Jessica Shook, KBF
Diane Jackson**

Anna Golann, Clerk

The Regular Select Board Meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M., by Andrea Treadway, Select Board Chair.

1. CITIZENS COMMENTS.

Jane Reidel received a letter regarding her rental suspension for the old Town Garage. She wanted to confirm that the building was being torn down and not burned and ensure that the right of way would still be accessible to her property. The select board confirmed both. Jane stated that she will be renting dumpsters starting this week and mentioned that there are old town water pipes in the loft and other items the town will need to get rid of. She also inquired about whether the slate roof will be salvaged. The select board has not discussed this yet. The select board offered to suspend the rent payments while Jane is actively getting items out, which will go on the next meeting agenda.

2. HIGHWAY REPORT.

a. Road Foreman Report – Allen Alger, Road Foreman, gave the Highway Department Report. He introduced Steve Wilk, who provided a quote on paving for the salt shed. Andrea thanked Steve for the quote. Discussion ensued about the clarification of the project and the salt shed’s final size. The select board is hoping to finish the project before July, in this budget year.

Joe Pouliot moved to accept the paving bid on the salt shed and road extension. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

The next two days, they will be grinding on Route 30. The grinder has been used to edge blacktop and at intersections. Andrea shared the annual financial plan that was completed with Brian Sanderson from the State. There is an intern who is doing guard rail research and other grants/aid administration. Conversation ensued about the collapsing culvert heading into the school on Main street. Allen stated there is no contract with the town for discharge of the culvert. There are no grants available at this time for road work, hardly any towns in the state received grant funding this year. Andrea mentioned that there is currently a bill waiting in the house for a pilot program to allow waterfall funding for 15-20 million in grant funding for town transportation. Allen stated that the 19 Mack is still having issues. There is a front pump and they are unable to determine the problem as all the valves, oil, reliefs have been changed, and new motors were added due to overheating. Conversation ensued. Les would like to look at it when he is available. We need to start thinking

about a new truck as the wait for a truck build is over a year and there are very few companies that build trucks with the body the Town needs. Some towns trade trucks, Hans is questioning whether this is an option for Orwell. Hans is questioning whether we should pay for a new truck in one year to avoid interest, though it would make for a difficult tax year. Conversation ensued regarding a reserve fund for future years. Andrea would like to have estimates for costs associated with a new truck at the next meeting and Allen agreed to work on this.

3. MINUTES.

Les Wood moved to accept the minutes of the Select Board Meeting of May 11, 2026. Hans Tudhope seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

4. SEWER REPORT.

Mike Christian explained that this is the lowest Sewer bill we've had in a long time. It's about \$700 less than it has been due to the new pump, rate change, and our new solar. Conversation ensued about whether to add more solar to reduce electric bills further. Conversation ensued about the location of added solar and whether we would need transformer upgrades. Mike explained that it would be smarter to locate solar off of another transformer and we should wait until November to add more solar and determine the amount of our energy credit for the current array.

5. TOWN CLERK REPORT.

- a. Tech Group Contract- Anna passed around the proposed Tech Group contract for 2026-2027 for awareness of the Select Board. A couple of services were removed from the previous contract and services were refined for the office's current needs. Andrea mentioned that the Select Board computer still needs to be hardwired and our tv needs to be hung on a bracket for ease of seeing community members that would like to join remotely. We need to check whether a bracket was already ordered.
- b. EV Charging- Anna has been looking into grant funding and incentives for paid public EV charging in Orwell. Green Mountain Power has an incentive program for 10,000 per unit and the State has grant funding as well. Mike mentioned the high expenses of Level 3 chargers and that they require 3 phase power. Anna agreed to look into grants and or costs associated with buying chargers for further discussion.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT.

Hans is inquiring about the budgeting for specific town items and the timeline of their budgeting. Andrea stated that this is something that we can get from Bryan. Andrea, Anna and Sarah are meeting with Bryan this week to discuss payroll app options and credit card payment options for Town Office payments. Andrea has several clients that use an app to clock in and clock out for payroll. Discussion ensued regarding use of town worker's personal phones for this process.

7. OLD BUSINESS.

- a. ATV Signs- Mike determined that Orwell needs a total of 24 6" aluminum signs and a couple of extras may be purchased. 12 signs will say "ATVs Allowed" and 12 signs will say "ATVs prohibited". Mike will have finalized details in a couple of weeks.
- b. MERP- Andrea has a meeting on Thursday with Jason McNolty, owner of All Points Construction, and architect. She asked All Points Construction for a detailed breakdown at their last meeting with proof of purchase of items and still has not received it. The Town needs this for the grant and no additional invoices will be paid until we receive proof of purchase. Tom Purdy, Clerk of the Works, has been overseeing the work along with Andrea but working with All Points has been very difficult due to lack of communication. The grant work is projected to be complete by the end of July, but must be completed by the end of the year, per the funding. If the grant work is not completed, we would need to repay the grant but we can find another contractor to complete the remaining scope of work. Les asked whether it would be smart to pay All Points and make sure he does the work to ensure we continue making progress. Andrea asked that we see how the meeting goes on Thursday and stated that we could have an order ready

for the next invoice of \$66,207.70, if the meeting at 10AM is satisfactory. Mike would also like to attend the meeting.

- c. Salt/Sand Shed- The salt/sand shed is up and we are waiting for a bill before the permit can be closed. Joe will reach out to ask for the bill. Steve Wilk will provide a bill next week for paving.

8. NEW BUSINESS.

a. Library Trustee Resignation- Andrea read aloud resignation letter from Rae Anne Barry from the Orwell Free Library Board of Trustees. The Select Board would like to thank Rae Ann for her efforts and time spent.

b. Cemetery Hours- The cemetery is having a problem with nighttime visitors. Andrea researched how the Select Board can help and found that since the cemetery board is elected, the Select Board does not have purview to create a cemetery ordinance. The cemetery ordinance that we have is outdated and mentions no timing from dusk till dawn and they will be updating their ordinance at a future meeting, along with their hours. The Select Board has agreed to purchase the signs for the cemeteries stating “Dusk to Dawn”. Diane will let the Select Board know how many signs to purchase for all of the cemeteries after the Mount View Cemetery Board’s next meeting.

c. Kelly Brush Ride - Jessica Shook, KBF Events Manager- The 2026 Kelly Brush Ride has proposed a gravel route through Orwell on September 12, 2026. Jessica Shook, KBF Events Manager, zoomed in to answer questions for the Select Board. Andrea explained that Orwell used to host the Tour de Farms, so Orwell is experienced with bike road races. Jessica detailed that there will be approximately 900 cyclists over 6 different routes, from 10 to 100 mile loops, during the Kelly Brush Ride. The proposed gravel route through Orwell has an anticipated number of 50-60 cyclists for this first year and this would be treated the same as other loops to ensure safety with motorcyclists and local police. Andrea mentioned concerns about farming and large farm equipment on the roads during the September timeframe of this event. Jessica also mentioned that safety and riding two abreast, yielding, and that the cyclists are “guests at the invitation of cities, towns, communities that are hosting.” Andrea mentioned concern from her time on Orwell Rescue and the bike accidents she had seen on gravel roads and encouraged Jessica to reach out to Peter Ochs, President of Orwell Rescue, and Alex Kansky, Orwell Fire Chief, to ensure their buy-in. Anna to send their contact information. Andrea requested buy in from Rescue and Fire, insurance, proof of Sheriff’s department support, and a safety plan. Hans expressed concern as a farmer and the timing of harvest. Jessica to reach out to Betsy, KBF Ride Coordinator, and have her connect with Orwell Rescue and Fire to seek their support as the discussion continues.

d. Dog Warrant - Hans Tudhope read the Dog Warrant which will be turned over to the Addison County Sheriff’s Department.

Les Wood moved to sign the Dog Warrant to become effective on June 1, 2026. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

e. Appointments for TAC (Transportation Advisory Committee) – The ACRPC (Addison County Regional Planning Commission) sent the several appointment forms. Andrea checked with board members about whether they wanted their personal numbers as contacts for TAC.

Les Wood moved to appoint Joe Andriano Delegate and Cian Quinn, Alternate, for TAC. Joe Pouliot seconded the motion.

Mutual Aid Agreement – This mutual aid assistance agreement is between ACRPC and Addison County member towns.

Joe Pouliot moved to accept the Mutual Aid Agreement. Mike Christian seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 Yes 0 No.

f. Fire Department Missing Order- The Fire Department ordered \$800 of safety vests for traffic control at night. The company went bankrupt but cashed the check. Ben Alger has had several conversations with the Ohio company and they are supposed to send a check next week.

9. OTHER BUSINESS.

- a. PACIF Grant - Orwell rotates this grant through Highway, Fire and Rescue and it has a 50/50 match. This year Highway is up and Andrea will confer with Allen to discuss options for grant funding.

10. PAYMENT OF BILLS.

Hans Tudhope moved to pay the General Fund Orders in the amount of \$99,962.07, the Sewer Order in the amount of \$1,586.47 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 8:29 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, June 8, 2026
Orwell Town Office
7:00 PM**