ANNUAL REPORT
2020

Town of Orwell, Vermont

For the Year Ending
December 31, 2020

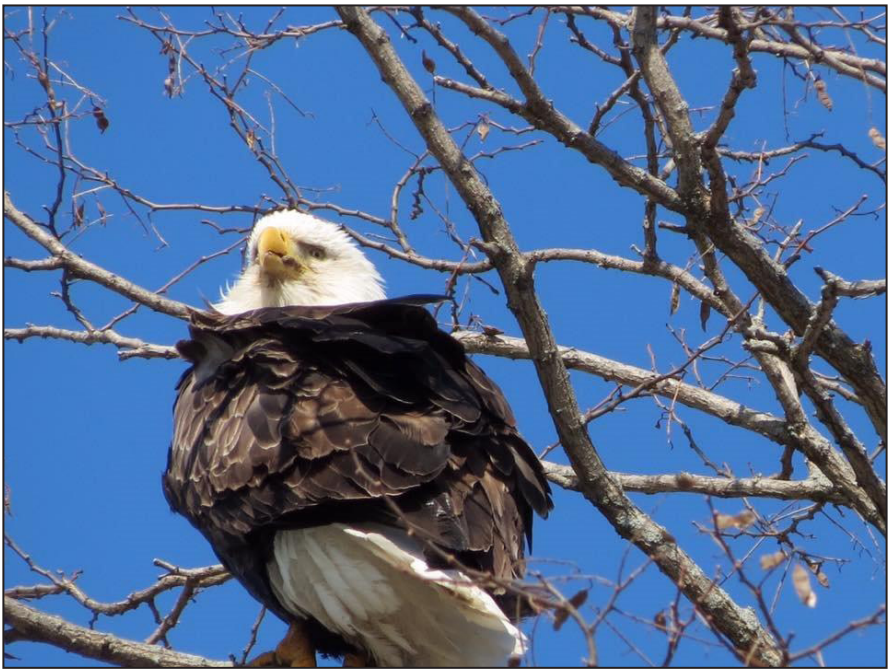

Photo courtesy of Cindy Leazer

Please have the report on hand
for the informational meeting on Feb. 23

Town of Orwell Voting
◆ Tuesday, March 2, 2021 ◆ 10:00 a.m. ◆

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

FIRE/FIRST RESPONSE - 911 **POLICE - 911 or 388-4919**

Animal Control – Sean Seguin – 948-2912 *** ***Health Officer*** – Kent Anderson – 948-2156

Forest Fire Warden - Allen R. Alger, Sr. - 948-2212

IMPORTANT ORWELL DATES

FEBRUARY 22, 2021	**SVUUSD School Meeting – Virtual 7:00pm**
FEBRUARY 23, 2021	**Information Town Hearing – Virtual 6:00pm**
(FEBRUARY 25, 2021)	**Rain Date for Info Town Hearing (due to technical difficulty)**
MARCH 2, 2021	**Town Meeting Australian Ballot Voting -** 10:00 a.m. to 7:00pm
**********	**Rabies Clinic – This service is not being offered again this year.**
APRIL 1, 2021	***ON OR BEFORE - 2021 DOG LICENSE REQUIRED***
April 30, 2021	Liquor/Tobacco Licenses expires
May 1, 2021 M-F 8 to Noon Sat 9-noon	**Green-Up Day** **Hazardous Waste Center at ACSWMD in Middlebury** Business hazardous waste by appointment
May 23, 2021	**Orwell Memorial Day Parade (To Be Determined)**

2021 Report for Mount Independence State Historic Site
497 Mount Independence Road Orwell, Vermont (802-948-2000
www.historicsites.vermont.gov/mount-independence
$5.00 for adults, free for children under 15

As of the time of this Orwell Town Report, the opening date and days of operation for the Mount Independence State Historic Site are not yet know due to the uncertainties of the pandemic. Thank you to those of you who supported the site in 2020. Many people enjoyed being able to walk the trails all year.

The site hopes to have some special programs. Please check event listings later at www.historicsites.vermont.gov or www.mountindependence.org.

When the site does open, remember that if you are a Mount Independence Coalition member you receive free admission to Mount Independence and all other Vermont State-owned Historic Sites. See www.mountindependence.org for information. Holders of Green Mountain Passports also receive free admission-available for all Vermont veterans and those 62yrs. and older from your Town Clerk's office for a one-time $2.00 fee.

The Mount Independence book, Strong Ground: Mount Independence and the American Revolution, continues to be available through the site when it opens and online at (www.mountindependence.org). This fascinating and beautifully illustrated book shows the importance of this historic place to our nation.

NOVEMBER 10, 2021 PROPERTY TAXES DUE
PLEASE PAY TOWN TREASURER AT THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF ORWELL

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March 2, 2021

Town Meeting Polls will be open
10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Orwell Town Hall

Orwell Voters,

By vote of the Orwell Select Board on January 11, 2021, as authorized by the Vermont Legislature in Act 162, all voting, for all Town Meeting business, will be done by Australian ballot.

No Town Meeting assembly will be held on March 2, 2021.

- An Informational Hearing for the Orwell Town Meeting business will be on:

February 23, 2021 @ 6:00 pm

(due to technical difficulties an alternative meeting date will be February 25, 2021 @ 6:00 pm).

Join via Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4976813002
Or by calling: 1-929-205-6099 Use Meeting ID # 497 681 3002
(or click on the link on the Orwell website homepage @ townoforwellvt.org)

Questions addressing the Articles for the Informational Hearing can be submitted through the Orwell email address @ tckorwel@sover.net or by calling 948-2032 **prior to the meeting**.

- The Town Meeting warning is printed in the Annual Report and will also be posted on the Orwell Town Clerk's website.

The Annual Report will be mailed to all Orwell households before February 20, 2021.
If you did not receive one please call the Orwell Town Clerk's office @ 948-2032.

- The March 2, 2021 ballots will include:
  Candidates for Local Offices and **all** Town Meeting Articles. Sample ballots will be posted in the community, along with the Town Meeting warning and the voter checklist.

Absentee ballots can be mailed upon voters request and for those who would rather vote in person on March 2, 2021, this is still an option, from 10:00 am – 7:00 pm at the Orwell Town Hall. **Masks are required in all school buildings which includes the Orwell Town Hall.**

Auditors' Report

Feb. 3, 2021

The undersigned, Auditors of the Town of Orwell, Vermont, have examined the accounts and reports of the various town officers and organizations for the 2020 calendar year. We declare them to be correct to the best of our knowledge and belief.

The financial statements submitted herewith represent fairly the financial positions of the Town of Orwell for the year ended December 31, 2020. The Town of Orwell prefers to operate on a cash rather than an accrual basis. To the best of our knowledge there are no outstanding expenses or receipts unaccounted for.

The reports and projects presented by various social service agencies have been accepted as is without further consideration or inspection. We view the requests by the 60 Plus Club and St. Paul's Cemetery similarly. Copies of the various agency reports are available at the Town Clerk's office.

We thank all the people who have helped make our town government work over the years and especially wish to honor Barbara LaDuc for her years of service to the town: 29 years as cemetery commissioner, 23 years as an election official and 22 years as a Justice of the Peace! Last year we neglected to mention the years of service that Ted Simmons gave to the town other than that as a selectman: he also served for 7 years on the rescue squad and 7 years as an auditor!

2020 was a year full of changes and challenges for all of us…loss of loved ones, on-line schooling, Zoom meetings, loss of jobs, no parade, no Green-Up Day, no holiday celebrations and this year's Town Meeting will certainly be unique. Stay well, stay safe!

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Michel
Karen Rowland
Robin Severy

TOWN OFFICERS 2020

MODERATOR	Michael R. Audet
TOWN CLERK	Elizabeth "Betty" Walker
TOWN TREASURER	Bryan S. Young
TOWN AGENT	
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS	Bryan S. Young
SELECTMEN	
Thomas Audet - 3 year	Term Expires 2021
Bill Goddard - 2 year	Term Expires 2021
Robert Barnes - 2 year	Term Expires 2022
Dave Larsen - 3 year	Term Expires 2022
Rex D. Corey - 3 year	Term Expires 2023
AUDITORS	
Karen Rowland	Term Expires 2021
Theodore Michel	Term Expires 2022
Robin Severy	Term Expires 2023
LISTERS	
Jean Audet	Term Expires 2021
Stephen James	Term Expires 2022
Cheryl Tudhope	Term Expires 2023
LIBRARY TRUSTEES	
Cindy Werner	Term Expires 2021
Emily Casey appointed 2020	Term Expires 2022
Regina Charron	Term Expires 2022
Joan Osterhaudt	Term Expires 2022
Virginia Wilson	Term Expires 2023
Karen DeMoy	Term Expires 2023
Rae Anne Barry	Term Expires 2024
Loretta Lee	Term Expires 2024
Anna "Kathy" Buxton	Term Expires 2025
CEMETERY COMMISSIONERS	
Barbara LaDuc	Term Expires 2021
Stephen Buxton	Term Expires 2022
Stephen James	Term Expires 2023
Joanne Hornbeck	Term Expires 2024
Diane Jackson	Term Expires 2025

GRAND JUROR	Walker James
FIRST CONSTABLE	Diane Jackson
SECOND CONSTABLE	Allen R. Alger
ORWELL EMERGENCY MANAGER	Sandy Korda
ASSIST. EMERGENCY MANAGER	Robert G. Arnebold
ASSIST. TOWN CLERKS	Sharon Macedo Susan Ann Arnebold
ASSIST. TREASURER	Mark S. Young
TAX COLLECTOR	Bryan S. Young
DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR	Diane Jackson

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

Robert G. Arnebold	Richard O. Buxton, Jr.	Walker James
Michael R. Audet	Stephanie Corey	

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR	Wayne L. Weseman
ASSIST. ZONING ADMINISTRATORS	Roland "Ted" Simmons Thomas J. Purdy, Sr.
LIBRARIAN	Kate Hunter
LIBRARIAN'S ASSISTANTS	Ramona Akpo-Sani Michelle Goddard
HEALTH OFFICER	Kent Anderson
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR	Edward Tracey
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER	Sean Seguin
TOWN SERVICE OFFICER	Virginia S. Wilson
TREE WARDEN	Allen M. Alger
ORWELL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT CHIEF	Dan Gosselin
FIRST RESPONSE RESCUE SQUAD	Peter W. Ochs Liz Orr

PLANNING COMMISSION/DRB MEMBERS

Robert Bogdan, Chair	Dave King	Stephanie Corey	Joe Andriano
Sharon Macedo, Sec.	Dave Larsen	Ken Carpenter, Vice Chair	Rex Corey

WARNING

TOWN OF ORWELL
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Legal Voters of the Town of Orwell, Vermont, are hereby warned and notified to meet remotely on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 6:00 PM, for an Informational Hearing on the following business:

Virtually connect by going to: **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4976813002**
(or click on the link on the Orwell website home page @ townoforwellvt.org)
Or by calling: **1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID # 497 681 3002**

The Hearing shall then be closed to Tuesday, March 2, 2021, between the hours of 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, at the Orwell Town Hall, for the purpose of voting upon the following Articles of business:

1. To Elect all Town Officers, required by law, as follows by Australian Ballot:

1 Town & School Moderator for one year	Michael R. Audet
1 Town Clerk for one year	Elizabeth "Betty" Walker
1 Town Treasurer for one year	Bryan S. Young
1 Trustee of Public Funds for one year	Bryan S. Young
1 Select Person for three years	Thomas Audet
1 Select Person for two years	Bill Goddard
1 Auditor for three years	Karen S. Rowland
1 Lister for three years	Jean F. Audet
1 Library Trustee for five years	Cindy Werner
1 Library Trustee for one year	Emily Casey
1 Cemetery Commissioner for five years	Jeff Wachelka
1 Delinquent Tax Collector for one year	Diane Jackson
1 First Constable for one year	Allen R. Alger
	Rebecca Heibler

2. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the Town Officers report submitted by the Auditors?

3. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the report of the Board of Trustees of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library, Inc?

4. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to appropriate $15,000.00 for the operating expenses of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Building for 2021?

5. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to appropriate $4,000.00 for the purchase of books and materials by the Orwell Free Library?

6. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to appropriate $200.00 for St. Paul's Cemetery in order to defray a portion of the 2021 maintenance costs?

7. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to appropriate $2,200.00 for the 2022 operating expenses of the Orwell Parade Committee?

8. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell authorize the purchase of a 1.06 acre piece of property next to the Firehouse, for the purpose of facilitating drainage and run-off issues, in the amount of $26,000, to be paid for in two years?

9. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell authorize the refinancing of $350,000, into a 20 year note at a 2.25% interest rate, to pay for the improvements that were made to the Sewer Plant in 2019 and 2020?

10. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to replace the Gazebo on the Town Green at a cost not to exceed $20,000?

11. Shall the Town of Orwell vote to have the Treasurer collect taxes on real property on or before November 10, 2021, by delivery to Treasurer postmarked on or before that date?

12. Shall the Town of Orwell vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month added from the due date?

13. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to conduct the next annual municipal meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 1, 2022, per 17 VSA §2640? (Election of Town Officers by Australian ballot will be on Tuesday, March 1, 2022.)

14. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell vote to accept the proposed 2021 Town Budget in the amount of $1,134,700.89, of which $675,618.97 shall be raised by taxes and $459,081.92 by non-tax revenues?

15. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell accept the proposed 2021 Sewer Budget in the amount of $176,743.22, such amount to be raised by user rents and dumping fees?

16. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for End of Life Services, Inc. f/n/a Hospice Volunteer Service **$500.00**, funds to be used to provide volunteer care to terminally ill patients in the Town of Orwell?

17. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Age Well (formerly CVAA) **$1,000.00**, funds to be used for Meals on Wheels, Case Management, Transportation and toll-free Senior Help Line?

18. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Parent/Child Center **$1,250.00**, funds to be used to support classes, transportation, infant care, and family education services used by town residents?

19. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc. **$1,500.00**, funds to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing mental health care to town residents?

20. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for H.O.P.E., Inc. **$1,750.00** funds to be used to help defray part of the cost of providing housing, fuel, food, clothing and other essential items?

21. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Addison County Women Safe, Inc. **$1,250.00**, funds to be used to support their mission to work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change?

22. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc. **$1,650.00**, funds to help defray costs for providing home health care services to infants, children and adults referred by their physicians, regardless of their ability to pay?

23. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for RSVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program **$320.00**, funds to support RSVP?

24. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Tri-Valley Transit (formerly ACTR) **$775.00**, funds to maintain and improve transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities, and the general public?

25. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Addison County Readers, Inc. **$350.00,** funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under five years of age?

26. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for Addison County Restorative Justice Services Inc. (formerly ACCD) Inc. **$370.00**, funds to provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record?

27. Shall the voters of the Town of Orwell appropriate funds for John W. Graham Emergency Shelter **$1,000.00**, funds to be used to provide shelter, food and services to homeless families and individuals?

Signed and dated at Orwell, Vermont on this 26 day of January 2021.

Orwell Select Board

Thomas Audet, Chair

Robert Barnes

Rex Corey

Bill Goddard, Vice Chair

Dave Larsen

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NOTICE TO VOTERS

FOR HELP OR INFORMATION CALL
THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE
1-800-439-8683
(Accessible by TDD)

BEFORE ELECTION DAY:

CHECKLIST POSTED: January 31, 2021
(No later than 30 days before election - 17:2141, 2501.

Please make certain that your name is on the checklist. If it is not,
Register to Vote. Same Day Registration (17:2144[a]). There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the Town Clerk's Office or going online to **olvr.sec.state.vt.us.**

SECRET PARTY CHOICE. You do not register by party in Vermont.

EARLY OR ABSENTEE BALLOTS:

When - Voters, no later than **3:30 p.m.** on the day before election, in the Orwell Town Clerk's Office on **MONDAY, March 1, 2021** (17:2531[a], 2532[a][1]).

How – Request either in person, in writing, or by telephone.

Who - Voter or family member may apply all three ways. Non-family member with written authorization by the voter may apply in person.

ONLY A VOTER SHALL TAKE A BALLOT OUT OF THE TOWN OFFICE. (17:2537)
On ballot requests by other than a voter, ballots must be **MAILED** to voter.

EARLY OR ABSENTEE VOTING -

1. Vote in the Town Clerk's office before the deadline.
2. **Voter** can have ballots mailed or may take **their** ballots out of the clerk's office and then either return in person, via someone else or by mail to the Town Clerk before ***7:00 p.m. on Election Day.***
3. If ill or disabled request that two Justices of the Peace bring a ballot to you at your home on the day before or the day of the election.

ONCE VOTED AND RETURNED, AN ABSENTEE BALLOT CANNOT BE RETURNED TO THE VOTER FOR ANY REASON.

POSTING OF SAMPLE BALLOTS: On or before **February 20, 2021**
(No later than 10 days before election - 17:2522[a]).

AT THE POLLS:

If your name was dropped from the checklist in error, explain the situation to your Town Clerk and ask that it be put back on.

If the problem isn't cleared up to your satisfaction, have the Town Clerk or a Select Person or other member of the Board of Civil Authority call an immediate meeting of the members of the board who are present.

If you are still not satisfied, you may appeal to a judge who will settle the matter that day. Call the Secretary of State's Office at 1-800-439-8683 for more information.

If you know voters who cannot get from the car into the polling place, let them know that a ballot may be brought to their car by two election officials.

If you know voters who have physical disabilities, are visually impaired, or cannot read, let them know they may bring a friend or relative who is a registered voter to help them to vote.

DO NOT:

A. *Knowingly vote more than once, either in the same town or in different towns.*
B. Mislead the Board of Civil Authority about your own or another person's eligibility to vote.
C. *Leave campaign materials in the voting booth or building containing a polling place.*
D. Socialize in a manner that will disturb other voters.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS FOR
PAPER BALLOTS AT
TOWN MEETING

If you have any questions after reading the following, or at any time during the voting process, ask your Town Clerk or another Election Official.

CHECK IN:

1. Go to "**ENTRANCE**" checklist table.
2. **GIVE YOUR NAME**, and if asked, your residence to the Election Official in a ***clear audible voice.***
3. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the Election Official.

ENTER:

1. Take your ballot(s) from the election official and enter a voting booth. Mark a cross (X) to the right of the name of the candidate(s) or issue(s) you want to vote for. Follow the directions on the ballot as to how many to vote for (Example- "Vote for not more than two").
2. To vote for someone whose name is not printed on the ballot, use the blank line labeled "WRITE-IN" on the ballot.

IF YOU SPOIL YOUR BALLOT ask an Election Official for another ballot.
The limit is three ballots.

CHECK OUT:

1. Go to the "**EXIT**" checklist table.
2. **GIVE YOUR NAME** to the Election Official in a ***clear, audible voice.***
3. Wait until your name is repeated and checked off by the Election Official.
4. VOTE by placing your voted ballot(s) in the "VOTED BALLOTS" box(s).
5. Leave the voting area by passing outside the guardrail.

Thank you for your help.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth "Betty" Walker, Town Clerk
Sharon Macedo, Assistant Town Clerk

ABSTRACT OF GRAND LIST
2020 Tax Rate

Total Listed Value of Real Estate	$ 150,204,500.00
TOTAL GRAND LIST	**$ 1,502,045.00**

VOTED AMOUNTS TO BE RAISED BY TAXES

Wright Memorial Library	$ 15,000.00
Orwell Free Library	4,000.00
St. Paul's Cemetery	200.00
Orwell Parade Committee	2,200.00
Sixty Plus Club	750.00
Mower Tractor Purchase	17,500.00
Wright Memorial Library Roof (Year 1 of 2)	27,500.00
Select Board Budget	578,280.00
End of Life Services, Inc.	500.00
Age Well	1,000.00
Elderly Services, Inc.	900.00
Parent Child Center	1,250.00
Counseling Service of Addison County	1,500.00
H.O.P.E.	1,750.00
Addison County Women Safe, Inc.	1,250.00
Addison County Home Health & Hospice	1,650.00
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	320.00
Addison County Transit Services	775.00
Addison County Readers, Inc.	350.00
Addison County Restorative Justice Services	370.00
John W. Graham Emergency Shelter	1,000.00
TOTAL TAXES TO BE RAISED BY TOWN	**$ 658,045.00**

$$\textbf{TAX RATE} = \frac{\textbf{AMOUNT TO BE RAISED BY TAX BILLING}}{\textbf{TOTAL GRAND LIST}} = \frac{658{,}045.00}{1{,}502{,}045.00} = 0.4381$$

Municipal Rate Set by Select Board	**= 0.4381**
STATE SET HOMESTEAD TAX RATE	**= 1.4206**
STATE SET NON-RESIDENTIAL RATE	**= 1.5944**

Grand List 2020	**1,502,045.00**
Grand List 2019	1,496,963.00
Grand List 2018	1,498,323.00

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young, Treasurer

TOWN OF ORWELL
2020 STATEMENT OF FUNDS

Balance December 31, 2019	$ 232.45	
Agency of Natural Resources	5,771.00	
Beer & Tobacco Licenses	140.00	
Book Restoration Fees	4,439.00	
Borrowings		
Line Items	405,500.00	
Tax Anticipation	365,500.00	
Collector/Collected Taxes	105,900.07	
Penalties	8,370.84	
Warrant Interest	7,787.00	
Copier Fees	1,785.00	
Current Use Recording	405.00	
Dog Licenses	3,449.00	
Clerk Fees	13,826.00	
Grant Receipts	20,204.00	
Interest Income	33.72	
Kennel	62.00	
Miscellaneous Income	412.00	
PILOT Payment State Property	6,873.60	
Refunds	170.00	
Rental Income, Old Town Garage	2,400.00	
Sale of Equipment	24,500.00	
Speed Control	6,941.88	
State Highway Aid	176,196.32	
State Hold Harmless	99,447.00	
Tax Adjustments- State, School	101,462.20	
Tax Receipts Total	2,305,865.20	
Zoning Fees	3,560.00	
Tax Paid to Slate Valley USD		1,795,130.53
Payment of Borrowings		455,474.75
Payment of Select Board Orders		843,131.13
Line Items Paid		482,570.95
Bank Fees		59.00
Balance December 31, 2020		94,866.92
	$ 3,671,233.28	$ 3,671,233.28

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young
Town Treasurer

TOWN OF ORWELL
SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS 2020

	Balance 12/31/19	Borrowed	Paid	Balance 12/31/20
Town of Orwell				
Town Truck	94,025.25	-	31,341.75	62,683.50
Town Pickup Truck	34,667.00	-	17,333.00	17,334.00
Fire Truck	-	378,000.00	37,800.00	340,200.00
Library Roof	-	27,500.00	-	27,500.00
Tax Anticipation 2020	3,500.00	365,500.00	369,000.00	-
Sewer Fund				
Lagoon Project	$ 105,777.37	$ 261,960.03	$ 17,737.40	350,000.00

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young
Town Treasurer

TOWN OF ORWELL
RESERVE FUNDS 2020

Reappraisal Fund

Balance December 31, 2019	$ 50,031.55	
2020 State Payment Received	6,630.00	
Interest Income	55.33	
Balance December 31, 2020		$ 56,716.88
	$ 56,716.88	$ 56,716.88

Book Restoration Fund

Balance December 31, 2019	$ -	
2019 Fees Received	3,152.00	
Interest Income	53.61	
Balance December 31, 2020		$ 3,205.61
	$ 3,205.61	$ 3,205.61

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young
Trustee of Public Funds

TOWN OF ORWELL
2020 PAYROLL

General			
	Ramona Akpo-Sani	$ 5,167.50	
	Allen R. Alger	220.00	
	Jean Audet	2,748.75	
	Thomas Audet	1,750.00	
	Paula Barnes	1,500.00	
	Robert Bogdan	325.00	
	Stephanie Corey	108.00	
	Michelle Goddard	1,020.00	
	William Goddard	1,500.00	
	Kate Hunter	22,606.50	
	Diane Jackson	11,849.66	
	Stephen James	909.00	
	David Larsen	1,825.00	
	Sharon Macedo	24,276.00	
	Theodore Michel	648.00	
	Raymond Papandrea	108.00	
	Thomas Purdy	138.00	
	Karen Rowland	972.13	
	Robin Severy	378.00	
	Roland Simmons	1,500.00	
	Cheryl Tudhope	3,339.88	
	Elizabeth Walker	51,938.25	
	Wayne Weseman	951.52	
	Bryan Young	21,558.65	
	Mark Young	1,500.00	$ 158,837.84
Highway			
	Allen M. Alger	76,045.85	
	James Booska	2,106.13	
	Peter Parent	53,409.68	$ 131,561.66
Sewer			
	Diane Jackson	122.40	
	Edward Tracey	21,550.00	
			$ 21,672.40

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young
Town Treasurer

Orwell Select Board Report 2021

During 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic affected many town operations and events. Roadwork became a challenge due to availability of sand and salt. Fortunately, we were able to secure adequate supplies to meet our needs. Our highway crew was considered essential and went to work every day. We had replacements ready if needed. Despite the difficulties, our road work employees did a great job and we thank them for their service to the Town of Orwell.

Road Maintenance continued throughout the year with some modifications. We accomplished fewer ditching projects but were able to complete a project on Hemenway Hill Road with a grant of $9,390.00. Fisher Road, another road project, was done with town funds. We also received a grant of $6,000.00 to help with the purchase of a roadside ditch Hydro Seeder. Other projects and road surfacing were delayed and eventually postponed to fiscal year 2021.

Phase II of the Sewer Project was completed in 2020. This included new aeration equipment installed by Dundon Plumbing. It was completed within budget and is performing well.

Select Board meetings were held via phone conference and were also accessible to the public. The Town Clerk's office was physically limited to the public following Covid-19 precautions. However, town business continued uninterrupted. The Select Board wishes to express their thanks and gratitude for all the efforts of the Town Clerk and Staff, as well as to the public for respecting and adhering to Covid-19 protocols.

Other projects and events had to be cancelled or delayed. The Town-wide Clean Up Day and the Memorial Day parade were cancelled as group gatherings were discouraged. The Town Clock project was postponed until 2021. The Selectmen will propose replacing the Gazebo on the Town Green in 2021. This needs to be addressed because the physical condition of the Gazebo presents a serious safety issue. Your support for this project will secure its place in the park for future generations.

By late summer, the Select Board considered a second look at our budget. We recognized many items approved at Town Meeting were not going to be spent by the end of 2020. Therefore, at a September Select Board budget meeting, a reduction of $175,000.00 was approved. This dropped the town municipal tax rate from .53 cents to .44 cents, a significant savings to Orwell taxpayers.

The Town was approved for a grant to study water run-off from town properties housing Fire and Rescue and Highway facilities. Run-off from the salt shed, sand and gravel piles, and drainage from the driveways is a serious concern. This grant provides $15,000.00 to hire an engineering firm. The Addison County Regional Planning Commission and the Town of Orwell will work together with the engineering firm to find solutions. The firm will be selected by early 2021. We anticipate purchasing a parcel of land on the west side of the property which will be an integral part of the solution.

A grant of $1,814.00 was used to cover extra material costs required due to Covid-19. These materials include plexiglass, hand sanitizer, and medical supplies for the Fire Department, Town Office and Rescue Squad.

Earlier in the year, we received a VLCT grant for $3,000.00; combined with some local tax dollars we were able to purchase surveillance equipment for the Fire/Rescue and Highway Department areas. These grants provide valuable assistance by lowering local costs.

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. Your patience and respect for protocols are much appreciated as we strive to make our community safer for all. Continued vigilance is needed as we move into 2021.

Respectfully submitted by the Orwell Select Board:

Thomas Audet, Chair | Bill Goddard, Vice Chair | Dave Larsen
Robert Barnes | Rex Corey

****GREEN UP DAY IS SATURDAY MAY 1, 2021****

MANY THANKS TO ALL the Green Up helpers/organizers for 2020
Cindy Watrous and Barbara Young - another great job of service for Orwell

The Select Board cannot succeed with this project without your help.
In order to keep our Town looking beautiful, we continue to need volunteers for the 2021 Town-wide and State Road-side cleanup.

This Year Cindy Watrous and Barbara Young will be organizing again.
Please remember to look for the Posted Fliers giving details for this year.

TOWN OF ORWELL - INCOME

CATEGORY	2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
Balance Forward	232.45	232.45	94,866.92
Agency of Nat'l Resc-F&W	7,000.00	5771.00	6,000.00
Beer /Tobacco Licenses	140.00	140	140.00
Better Roads Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
Book Restoration Fees	500.00	4439.00	1,000.00
Borrowings - Tax Anticipation	0.00	365,500.00	0.00
Borrowings - Line Items/Capital		405,500.00	0.00
Clean-up Day	2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Copier Fees	2,000.00	1,785.00	2,000.00
Current Use Rel/App Recordings	0.00	405.00	400.00
Delinquent Penalties	0.00	8,370.84	0.00
Delinquent Tax Collected Past Yrs	75,000.00	76,653.40	75,000.00
Delinquent Tax Current Yrs	0.00	29,246.67	0.00
Delinquent Tax Interest	7,000.00	7,787.00	7,000.00
Dog Fees/Kennel	4,000.00	3,511.00	4,000.00
Fees	9,000.00	13,826.00	10,000.00
First Response and Fire Grant	0.00	3,000.00	0.00
Grand List- Act 60-Reappraisal State	772.00	0.00	775.00
Grant - Highways	0.00	15,390.00	0.00
Grant - COVID	0.00	1814.00	0.00
Interest Income	0.00	33.72	0.00
Legal Settlement	0.00	0.00	0.00
Lister Training	0.00	0.00	0.00
Misc. Income	0.00	412.00	0.00
Pilot Payment	5,000.00	6,873.60	5,000.00
Refunds	0.00	170.00	0.00
Rent, Old Town Garage	2,400.00	2,400.00	2,400.00
Sale of Equipment	0.00	24,500.00	0.00
Sheriff Contract	11,000.00	6,941.88	7,500.00
State Highway Aid	134,000.00	176,196.32	134,000.00
State Hold Harmless Payment	85,000.00	99,447.00	85,000.00
State Paving Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tax Adjustment w/State, School	22,000.00	101,462.20	22,000.00
Tax Receipts	753,204.80	433,663.72	675,618.97
Zoning Fees	2,000.00	3,560.00	2,000.00
TOTAL INCOME	**1,122,249.25**	**1,799,031.80**	**1,134,700.89**

TOWN OF ORWELL - EXPENSES

CATEGORY		2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
Ambulance		12,500.00	0.00	25,000.00
Animal Control		700.00	600.00	1,000.00
Bank Service Charge		60.00	59.00	60.00
Better Back Roads Exp		0.00	0.00	0.00
Borrowings - Tax Anticipation		3,500.00	369,000.00	0.00
Borrowings - Line Items/Capital		0.00	405,500.00	0.00
Cemeteries		9,000.00	9,500.00	15,000.00
Clean-up Day		11,000.00	100.00	100.00
Dues and Fees		16,000.00	15,684.41	16,000.00
Election Fees		800.00	725.00	250.00
Emergency Services Dispatch		2,000.00	113.23	2,000.00
Fire Truck	Principal	37,800.00	37,800.00	37,800.00
	Interest	5,670.00	4,064.79	8,505.00
Fire Department				
	ACFA/VSFA Dues	600.00	250.00	600.00
	American Tower Rent	1,100.00	1,007.03	1,100.00
	Building Maintenance	2,000.00	15,186.30	12,000.00
	Electricity	1,300.00	1,313.00	1,300.00
	Equip Vehicle Repair	10,000.00	5,644.35	10,000.00
	Equip Purchase	10,000.00	28,968.83	10,000.00
	Fire Extinguisher	500.00	0.00	500.00
	Heat-Propane	2,000.00	1,376.32	2,000.00
	Hose Test	4,000.00	0.00	4,000.00
	Hydrant & Pond Maint	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Insurance	9,237.00	8,562.00	9,665.00
	Radio Repair	3,000.00	173.00	1,500.00
	Sewer Rent	250.00	270.00	300.00
	Telephone	600.00	274.70	400.00
	Training	1,000.00	190.50	1,000.00
	Turnout Gear - 3 sets	7,500.00	0.00	7,500.00
	Total Fire Department	54,087.00	63,216.03	62,865.00
First Response				
	American Tower Rent	1,100.00	1,006.99	1,100.00
	Building Maintenance	500.00	1,729.75	500.00
	Dues	200.00	0.00	200.00
	Electricity	600.00	440.00	600.00
	Equip Vehicle Repair	600.00	154.38	600.00
	Equip Purchase	1,850.00	1,534.90	1,850.00
	Heat - Propane	2,250.00	1,376.32	2,000.00
	Insurance	1,182.00	1,182.00	1,518.00
	Oxygen	100.00	0.00	100.00
	Personnel - Health	300.00	0.00	0.00
	Radio Purchase	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Radio Repair	1,000.00	2,580.25	1,000.00
	Sewer Rent	250.00	270.00	300.00
	Supplies	2,400.00	2,515.59	2,400.00
	Telephone	600.00	274.67	1,200.00
	Training	1,500.00	401.80	1,500.00
	Total First Response	14,432.00	13,466.65	14,868.00

CATEGORY			2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET		
First Response Vehicle Note							
		Principal	0.00	0.00	0.00		
		Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00		
Fuel			26,000.00	16,365.14	20,000.00		
Gasoline			2,000.00	1,347.76	1,500.00		
GMC Pickup 2017		Principal	17,333.00	17,333.00	17,334.00		
		Interest	1022.68	1,005.63	511.35		
Health Insurance			18,828.57	16,474.92	18,000.00		
Highway Improvements							
	Chloride		20,000.00	24,763.34	25,000.00		
	Contracted Services		25,000.00	17,267.50	25,000.00		
	Culverts		13,000.00	5,421.00	10,000.00		
	Ditching		3,000.00	562.48	2,500.00		
	Ditching Grant		0.00	0.00	0.00		
	Equipment Rental		2,500.00	0.00	4,500.00		
	Gravel		110,000.00	56,427.93	75,000.00		
	Paving		60,000.00	308.76	60,000.00		
	Salt, for Winter		55,000.00	55,680.98	55,000.00		
	Sand, for Winter		70,000.00	74,101.86	70,000.00		
	Signage/Guard Rails		1,000.00	2,088.25	1,000.00		
	Snow Removal		1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00		
	Stone		5,000.00	5,202.46	5,000.00		
	Training/Other		500.00	0.00	500.00		
	Total Highway Improve.		366,000.00	241,824.56	334,500.00		
Highway, Equipment Maintenance							
	Shoes,Edge,Plow		4,000.00	2,640.00	5,000.00		
	Chains		4,000.00	2,732.00	4,000.00		
	Equip Purchase		2,500.00	15,756.00	7,000.00		
	GMC Pickup 2017		1,000.00	270.00	2,500.00		
	Grader		3,000.00	506.78	3,000.00		
	Loader		4,000.00	2,382.08	4,000.00		
	Mack Truck 2017		7,000.00	5,062.80	10,000.00		
	Mack Truck 2019		4,000.00	1,266.61	8,000.00		
	Miscellaneous Parts		2,500.00	1,791.34	2,500.00		
	Oil, Grease, Filters		3,000.00	1,968.09	3,000.00		
	Road Side Mower		1,000.00	1,496.92	6,000.00		
	Small Equip Repair		500.00	0.00	500.00		
	Sundries		250.00	98.70	250.00		
	Tools		2,000.00	1,159.30	1,500.00		
	Wetland Permit		0.00	0.00	1,800.00		
	Total Equip Maint		38,750.00	37,130.62	59,050.00		
Listers							
	Dues		175.00	488.96	300.00		
	Education		500.00	372.50	0.00		
	Equip Purchase		0.00	745.00	900.00		
	Lister Maps		2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00		
	Postage		100.00	284.92	250.00		
	Supplies & Licensing		2,175.00	292.50	750.00		
	Total Listers		4,950.00	2,183.88	4,200.00		
Insurance			22,956.00	25,557.00	20,347.00		
Interest on Borrowings			4,500.00	4,991.81	4,000.00		
Legal Fees			2,500.00	2,357.92	2,500.00		

CATEGORY			2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
Library Roof Note		Principal	0.00	0.00	27,500.00
		Interest	0.00	118.66	640.00
Mack Truck Note 2019		Principal	32,645.22	31,341.75	31,341.75
		Interest	2,592.78	2,493.59	1,723.79
Mileage			1,500.00	298.71	500.00
Misc. Exp			0.00	314.67	350.00
Payroll			310,000.00	290,399.50	300,000.00
	Payroll Retirement		7,500.00	7,586.89	10,000.00
	FICA + MCARE		23,000.00	22,215.58	22,950.00
	Total Payroll		340,500.00	320,201.97	332,950.00
Planning Commission/DRB			3,500.00	580.08	3,500.00
Payroll Discrepancies			0.00	0.00	0.00
Property Appraisal			2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Property Tax Adjustment			1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Street Lights			4,000.00	3,828.73	4,000.00
Sundries/Rental Unit			720.00	720.00	720.00
Sheriff Contract			11,000.00	17,399.42	20,000.00
Town Clock			6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Town Green					
	Bandstand		5,000.00	0.00	0.00
	Grounds		0.00	0.00	1,000.00
	Mowing		2,000.00	1,470.00	2,000.00
	Electricity		300.00	215.31	215.00
Town Garage					
	Electricity		2,300.00	1,960.08	2,100.00
	Heat - Propane		1,500.00	1,566.38	1,500.00
	Repairs		3,000.00	6,616.47	3,000.00
	Sewer Rent		500.00	540.00	600.00
	Waste Removal		800.00	720.00	720.00
	Total Town Garage		8,100.00	11,402.93	7,920.00
Town Office					
	Book Restoration Reserve Transfer		3,152.00	3,152.00	3,000.00
	Book Restoration		500.00	0.00	500.00
	Books - Land Records		1,000.00	1,001.33	1,000.00
	Books - Microfilm		1,500.00	664.00	1,500.00
	Building Repair		3,000.00	2,331.70	2,500.00
	Copier		2,150.00	1,702.63	2,150.00
	Electricity		1,300.00	1,053.61	1,300.00
	Equipment Purchase		2,200.00	2,489.50	2,000.00
	Equipment Repair		1,900.00	2,255.00	1,500.00
	Heat		1,200.00	1,040.00	1,200.00
	Postage		2,500.00	2,147.54	2,000.00
	Sewer Rent		500.00	540.00	600.00
	Supplies		2,500.00	3,408.81	4,000.00
	Telephone		3,200.00	3,158.59	3,200.00
	Total Town Office		26,602.00	24,944.71	26,450.00
Town Report & Ballots			1,400.00	2,433.00	1,500.00
TOTAL ORDERS BUDGETED/PAID			**1,122,249.25**	**1,704,164.88**	**1,134,700.89**
Returned Check					
Borrowings Paid					
Balance 12/31/20				94,866.92	
TOTAL				**1,799,031.80**	

Town of Orwell
Taxes Billed vs. Collected 2020

Total Taxes Billed	2,892,903.56
Less State Payments	470,859.96
Net Taxes Due	2,422,043.60
Less Uncollected 2020 Taxes Due in 2021	26,341.78
Less Taxes Collected	2,305,865.20
2020 Tax Warrant	89,836.62
Delinquent Taxes Collected	29,246.67
2020 Delinquent Taxes Due as of 12/31/20	60,589.95

TOWN OF ORWELL- DELINQUENT TAX COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2020

Balance December 31, 2019	$	8.51		
Delinquent Taxes Collected		105,900.07		
Warrant Interest Collected		7,787.00		
Penalties Collected		8,370.84		
Savings Interest Earned		9.71		
Payments to Town				122,057.91
Balance December 31, 2019				18.22
	$	122,076.13	$	122,076.13

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Jackson
Delinquent Tax Collector

Town of Orwell
Delinquent Tax Report 2020

Tax Year	Balance 12/31/19	Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/20
2017	13,755.74	-	6,073.22	7,682.52
2018	23,601.24	-	6,294.63	17,306.61
2019	81,365.48	-	64,285.55	17,079.93
2020	-	89,836.62	29,246.67	60,589.95
Totals	118,722.46	89,836.62	105,900.07	102,659.01

Town of Orwell
Delinquent Tax List- December 31, 2020

2017	Sears, Olga	
	Subtotal	**$ 7,682.52**
2018	Kenney, Donald	
	Sears, Olga	
	US Bank and Trust	
	Wist, John Joseph et al	
	Subtotal	**$ 17,306.61**
2019	Kenney, Donald	
	Sears, Olga	
	US Bank and Trust	
	Wist, John Joseph et al	
	Subtotal	**$ 17,079.93**
2020	57 Sanford St, LLC	
	Baker, Ronald & Eric	
	Begnoche, James & Wendy	
	Benard, Thomas	
	Christian, Shirley	
	Danahy, John & Julie	
	Fortier, Kenneth & Viktoria	
	Johnson, Daniel	
	Kenney, Donald	
	Lamontagne, David & Deborah	
	Marshall, Sarah E.P.	
	Phelps, Hester (Estate)	
	Phelps, Louis D, IV	
	Sears, Olga	
	Sherman, Leona (Estate)	
	Shultz, Samantha	
	Ugval, Anthony	
	US Bank and Trust	
	Wist, John Joseph et al	
	Subtotal	**$ 60,589.95**
	Total	**$ 102,659.01**

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Jackson, Collector

TOWN OF ORWELL
TRUSTEE OF PUBLIC FUNDS
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Cash and Securities December 31, 2019	$	143,179.56		
Gain on Eaton Vance Fund		5,206.09		
Interest Earnings- Munger Fund		381.34		
Perpetual Care Added		1,100.00		
Interest Earnings to be distributed in 2021		63.51		
Cash and Securities December 31, 2020				
Combined CD				
School Fund				2,989.75
Lake View Cemetery				1,000.00
Coates Cemetery				1,084.18
Town- McQuade Fund				214.50
Wright Memorial Library				22,961.25
Orwell Free Library				1,000.00
Mountain View Cemetery				45,541.77
Accrued Unallocated Interest				63.51
Mountain View Cemetery- Munger Fund				29,374.74
Mountain View Cemetery- Eaton Vance				45,700.80
	$	149,930.50	$	149,930.50

Dividends Received- Eaton Vance	$	487.93		
Interest Earnings		1,080.81		
Paid to:				
SVUSD for benefit of Orwell School			$	43.84
Town of Orwell- fbo Lake View Cemetery				14.67
Town of Orwell- fbo Coates Cemetery				15.90
Town of Orwell				3.15
Wright Memorial Library				336.77
Orwell Free Library				14.67
Mountain View Cemetery				1,139.74
	$	1,568.74	$	1,568.74

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan S. Young
Trustee of Public Funds

TOWN OF ORWELL
STATEMENT OF THE TOWN CLERK
December 31, 2020

Dog Registration:	# of Dogs	Fee/dog	Total	
	1	$7.00	$7.00	
	238	$9.00	$2,142.00	
	0	$11.00	$0.00	
	40	$13.00	$520.00	
	36	$17.00	$612.00	
	8	$21.00	$168.00	
Totals	323		$3,449.00	
	1 Kennel & Special License		$62.00	
	6 Replacement Tags		$0.00	**$3,511.00**
323 Dogs and 1 Kennel/Spec Registrated				

Money to the Town Treasurer:

1 Kennel & Special License	$62.00	
Dog Fees	$1,834.00	
State Rabies & Spay/Neuter Program	$1,615.00	
Total		**$3,511.00**

Respectfully submitted

Elizabeth "Betty" Walker
Town Clerk

The VT Spay Neuter Incentive Program (VSNIP), under VT Economic Services, helps income challenged care-providers of cats & dogs neutered for $27.00. The balance is paid ONLY by a $4.00 fee added to the licensing of dogs, and put into a designated account.

VSNIP is now at "0" funding due to dogs not being registered at least by six months of age. Required by law, a rabies vaccination enables your dog to be licensed. While town offices may not be open to the public, dogs *can* be licensed. Call, provide the rabies certificate, include a check for that amount, and a SASE. **Rabies IS in Vermont and IS deadly.** Tractor Supply Stores are now holding monthly rabies clinics again! Call for their schedule.

Licensing a dog: 1) identifies your dog if lost, **2)** provides proof that your dog is protected from rabies in the event your dog is bitten by a rabid animal {but would still need immediate medical attention}, **3)** bites another animal/person, which could result in the quarantine of your dog or possibly euthanasia to test for rabies if your current vaccination isn't proven, **4)** helps support VSNIP to address the over-population of cats and dogs in VT, and **5) §3590. List of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed states, in part** ... "the municipal clerk shall notify the owners or keepers of all dogs and wolf-hybrids named on the list that have not already been licensed or inoculated, and after May 30 shall furnish to the legislative body a list of dogs and wolf-hybrids not licensed or inoculated as required by law. **Owners shall also be notified that unlicensed or uninoculated dogs or wolf-hybrids may be destroyed."** (No one want this, so vaccinate & register – for the protection of your animals and people!

For an application for VSNIP, send a SASE to: VSNIP, PO Box 104, Bridgewater, VT 05034. Indicate if this is for a cat/dog or both. 802-672-5302

Orwell Planning Commission
Annual Report 2020

The Orwell Planning Commission (PC) is made up of citizens of the community who are appointed by the Select Board. The PC is responsible for developing and revising the Orwell Town Land Use Regulations as well as the Orwell Town Plan. It works with the Addison County Regional Planning Commission in keeping abreast of state regulations and programs that effect the town's regulations and plans.

The Planning Commission made progress in updating the Orwell Town Plan. We have been working with members of the Addison County Regional Planning Commission. The Covid-19 has made it difficult to arrange for meetings but we should finish a draft over the next few months."

The PC/DRB welcomed 2 new members, Rex Corey and Joseph Andriano.

The Orwell Planning Commission meets regularly on the third Wednesday of each month after the Development Review Board meeting. Meetings are open to the public.

2020 Orwell Planning Commission:
Joseph Andriano, Member
Robert Bogdan, Chair
Ken Carpenter, Vice Chair
Rex Corey, Member
Stephanie Corey, Alternate
David King, Member
Dave Larsen, Alternate
Sharon Macedo, Secretary/Member

Orwell Development Review Board
Annual Report 2020

The Development Review Board (DRB) is made up of citizens of the community who are appointed by the Select Board. In compliance with the procedures and regulations in the Orwell Town Land Use Regulations, the DRB considers applications for property subdivisions, boundary changes, waivers and variances, and other issues related to land use.

In 2020 the DRB granted 2 waivers, 2 subdivisions (1 subdivision on hold).

The DRB meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7:00pm. The public is always welcome.

2020 Development Review Board Members:
Joseph Andriano, Member
Robert Bogdan, Chair
Ken Carpenter, Vice Chair
Rex Corey, Member
Stephanie Corey, Alternate
David King, Member
Dave Larsen, Alternate
Sharon Macedo, Secretary/Member

TOWN OF ORWELL
ZONING ADMINISTRATOR

2020 REPORT

Zoning activity of 2020

Permits:

3	New Houses
1	Additions to House
7	Accessory Structures or Additions Thereto
8	Decks and Porches
2	Farm Structures
1	Building Permit Extension
27	Certificates of Compliance
2	Boundary Line Adjustments

Denials:

1

Violations of Land Use Regulations:

1

Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne L. Weseman

Wayne L. Weseman

LISTER'S REPORT OF 2020

The Orwell 2020 equalization study resulted in a common level of appraisal (CLA) of 98.7% and a COD (coefficient of dispersion) of 6.64%. It has been ten years since Orwell has done a reappraisal. A reappraisal is mandated by the State of Vermont when the CLA falls below 85% or is above 115%, and/or if the COD is above 20%, as this indicates inequity. The Real Estate market is much more active and this will be reflected in future Grand Lists. The listers will do their best to update the Grand List by visiting property improvements from a distance. There will be no interior inspections at this time until the Covid virus has subsided.

Cheryl S. Tudhope, Jean F. Audet, Stephen James

TOWN OF ORWELL
VERMONT
TOWN MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 3, 2020

Town meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Moderator, Michael R. Audet, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements: The Moderator recognized Barbara LaDuc, who is stepping down after her 20 plus years as an Election Official. Barbara LaDuc received a round of applause. Thomas Audet, Select Board Chair, wanted to recognize Roland "Ted" Simmons for his 21 years on the Select Board and Paula Barnes for her 20 years on the Select Board, they are both stepping down. Thomas Audet stated that we are losing a lot of years experience. They both received a standing ovation.

1. As per the Warning, Town Officers were elected by Australian Ballot. The polls were open from 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Results of the Australian Ballot follow these minutes.

2. Gerry Audet **moved** to accept the reports of the Town Officers submitted by the Auditors. Mark Young **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

3. Paul Stone **moved** to accept the report of the Board of Trustees of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library, Inc. Christine Pouliot **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

4. The voters of the Town of Orwell voted on the following town projects separately:

   A. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate $15,000.00 for the operating expenses of the Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library Building for 2020. Sheri Young **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

   B. Virginia Wilson **moved** to appropriate $4,000.00 for the purchase of books and materials by the Orwell Free Library. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. Arlene Batschelet stated that the Library is such a gem. It is wonderful to have this in our town. Thank you to the Library Board and its supporters. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

   C. Gerry Audet **moved** to appropriate $200.00 for St. Paul's Cemetery in order to defray a portion of the 2020 maintenance costs. Douglas Dwy **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

   D. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate $2,200.00 for the 2021 operating expenses of the Orwell Parade Committee. Stephanie Corey **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

   E. Gerry Audet **moved** to appropriate $750.00 for the Sixty-Plus Club of Orwell, funds to be used to defray the costs of operating said club for the Senior Citizens of the Town of Orwell. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

5. Peter Stone **moved** to authorize the purchase of a 1995 Ford New Holland Mower Tractor, Model 8160 with cab, 2 Wheel Drive, with 6' Ditch Bank Mower Model 106, in the amount of $17,500. Rex Corey **seconded** the motion. Miles Tudhope asked the Select Board if they budgeted money for someone to run this mower tractor. The Select Board stated that this will be driven by the Road Crew. Miles Tudhope stated that they are a two man crew and have enough of their own work to do. This has always been contracted out. Discussion ended The **motion passed** by voice vote.

6. Paul Stone **moved** to authorize the installation of a standing seam roof, not to exceed $55,000, for the repair of the Wright Memorial Library Building main roof, with a 2 year note. Francis Bradish **seconded** the motion. Joanne Hornbeck asked why did it take so long to come to the conclusion to fix it, now costing $55,000. Robert Martin said there were serious small leaks that had been repaired by Sbardella Slate, Inc. who made the comment that the roof should be replaced. A quote was requested for replacing it with slate and for a standing seam. Robert Martin said the slate is bad and something needs to be done. Elizabeth Frank asked how many bids did the board get and from who? Elizabeth stated that she had Sbardella Slate give her a quote and it was twice as much as another. Have you considered solar to heat the building? Bob Martin said the bids were from Fontaine Roofing & Siding, Inc., in Castleton, at $55,000 for slate and $46,000 for standing seam, Middlebury Roofing Corp at $56,300 for slate and $42,300 for standing seam and Sbardella Slate at $80,000 for slate and $48,300 for standing seam, upped to $55,000 for possible underlying roof repair/replacement, which won't be known until the slate is removed. The other companies did not give a quote for replacing the underlayment. Paul Stone stated that we have talked about doing this for a long time now. Sharon Fletcher said that a standing seam would cost less and still fit into the town's esthetics. Wayne Hall asked if there is no rot found will the cost be less? Bob Martin stated no. Bob Martin said that the $55,000 is only $7,000 more than the highest quote and includes a high temperature and water shield. Elizabeth Frank asked if the roof will be insulated. Peter Stone reminded her that the Article is for a new roof not insulation. The insulation can be put in after on the inside. Robert Arnebold said the building is worthless without a roof and called the question. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

7. Peter Stone **moved** to have the Treasurer collect taxes on real property on or before November 10, 2020. John Sullivan **seconded** the motion. John Sullivan stated that it cost him over $18.00 a day to live in this state and it increases every year. Get the education tax off the backs of the taxpayers. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

8. Mark Young **moved** to vote delinquent taxes and delinquent sewer rents to have an 8% penalty charged against them and a 1% interest per month added from the due date. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

9. Stephanie Corey **moved** to conduct the next annual municipal meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 2, 2021, per 17 VSA §2640. (Election of Town Officers by Australian ballot will be on Tuesday, March 2, 2021. See Article One.) Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. Linda Hutchins asked if it is dead in the water to have the Town Meeting on Monday night? There was no second to the amendment. Arlene Batschelet said we have tried this before and the turn-out is almost the same. There were some different faces but this did not increase the attendance. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

10. Thomas Audet **moved** to accept the proposed 2020 Budget for the Town in the amount of $753,204.80, such amount to be raised by taxes. Susan Arnebold **seconded** the motion. Jean Audet wanted an explanation of why if you subtract the Statement of Funds of 2018 from the budget it doesn't even out. Bryan Young stated that the Grand List is an evaluation of properties in town and is not related to Slate Valley. Slate Valley is a state calculation given to us directly from the State. William Holt asked why the insurance was so high. Thomas Audet explained that this is insurance for the town and it was paid twice in one year but we are back on track now. Paul Stone stated that the gravel budget needed to be doubled. Thomas Audet said that the Select Board tried to anticipate the gravel amount. We don't want to do some wild budget. Peter Stone agrees we need more gravel, maybe not doubled. Miles Tudhope asked if there was a short term or long term plan for upgrading the back roads. Thomas Audet stated there is a State funded study that prioritized the roads. Ted Simmons stated that the State plan covers water quality, culverts and hydraulic studies. Ted Simmons stated there is nothing in the plans for a short or long term plan for the roads. Gerry Audet said that the $60,000 for paving could be used to upgrade the roads instead. Thomas Audet said we wait for a grant from the State and

try to stay on top of the paving. This $60,000 is to do paving on our own without a grant. Wayne Hall said the Road Crew does a great job. However, when Ed Booska was Road Foreman he would take the gravel out of the ditches and put it back on the roads. Wayne doesn't remember having washouts like we do now. Let's get the gravel out of the ditches and back on the roads. Thomas Audet understands this is a concern and will talk with the Road Crew. Fran Bradish asked why there is an amount in the budget for repairs on the new 2019 Dump Truck. This is for the Extended Warranty on the truck. Arlene Batschelet asked if the $6,000 is for repairs or maintenance on the Town clock? Russell Young said that last year the estimate to repair the clock was $5,000. The $6,000 is a combination of clock repair and a lift for guests with mobility challenges. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

11. Sheri Young **moved** to accept the proposed 2019 Sewer Budget in the amount of $48,600.00, such amount to be raised by user rents. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. Paul Stone has concerns about the Sewer Budget that went from $105,000 to $251,000 and how this is to be paid back. Thomas Audet explained that this was a major project. Phase #1 used the $123,000 Sewer CD to clean out the pond. The sewer plant hadn't been cleaned in 18 years. We were only able to clean out one pond. The sewage was dewatered and trucked to Coventry. The aeration system was the original one and needed to be replaced. The Treatment Plant Operator, Edward Tracey, who also runs Castleton's Treatment Plant, has a lot of experience and did his best to keep costs down. The plant takes in extra sewage from Dundon's but had to put this on hold as the plant could no longer handle it. This has been able to start up again. The Select Board will have to adjust Dundon's rates and the user rents. There are 90 plus users. The user rates will be going from $90 to $150 per quarter. These rates have not increased since 1999. Gary Murdock said the sewer system benefits the whole town, why does the town not kick in some? Thomas Audet explained the users are not funding this alone. Dundon's dumping fees help along with the Churches, Town Office, Fire House, Buxtons Store and the School. Jim Dougherty asked if the system can be expanded after the upgrade. Ted Simmons said the line has been expanded a few times, but it is expensive. It is at around 2/3 capacity. Ted Simmons also stated that Orwell is lucky as our stormwater and wastewater are separate systems, so we don't have all that stormwater running into the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Paul Stone asked why we are only voting on user rents not the total budget? This vote is only on the user rents not the total budget. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

12. The following articles for funds for Social Services and other requests by petition were voted on separately. ***[When requested, people knowledgeable about a specific service gave brief outlines of services provided to Orwell citizens, through funds for the following Social Services.]***

A. Bill Goddard **moved** to appropriate **$500.00**, for End of Life Services, Inc. f/k/a Hospice Volunteer Service, to be used to provide volunteer care to terminally ill patients in the Town of Orwell. Pat Ullom **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

B. Stephanie Corey **moved** to appropriate **$1,000.00**, for Age Well (formerly CVAA) to be used for Meals on Wheels, Case Management, Transportation and toll-free Senior Help Line. Karl Thomsen **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

C. Sheri Young **moved** to appropriate **$900.00**, for Elderly Services Inc. to be used for Project Independence Elderly Day Care Center scholarship fund, to provide care for frail elders and respite for their families. Rex Corey **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

D. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate **$1,250.00**, for Parent/Child Center to be used to support classes, transportation, infant care, and family education services used by town residents. Virginia Wilson **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

E. Peter W. Ochs **moved** to appropriate **$1,500.00**, for Counseling Service of Addison County, Inc. to be used to help pay part of the cost of providing mental health care to town residents. Virginia Wilson **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

F. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate **$1,750.00**, for H.O.P.E., Inc to be used to help defray a part of cost of providing housing, fuel, food, clothing and other essential items. Virginia Wilson **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

G. Virginia Wilson **moved** to appropriate **$1,250.00**, for Addison County Women Safe, Inc. to be used to support their mission to: work toward the elimination of physical, sexual and emotional violence against women and their children through direct service, education and social change. Paul Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

H. Diane Jackson **moved** to appropriate **$1,650.00**, for Addison County Home Health and Hospice, Inc. that provides home health care services to infants, children and adults referred by their physicians, regardless of their ability to pay. Sheri Young **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

I. Stephanie Corey **moved** to appropriate **$320.00**, for RSVP Retired & Senior Volunteer Program to support RSVP in 2020. Virginia Wilson **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

J. Christine Pouliot **moved** to appropriate **$775.00**, for Addison County Transit Resources to maintain and improve transportation services for elders, persons with disabilities and the general public. Peter Stone **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

K. Bryan Young **moved** to appropriate **$350.00**, for Addison County Readers, funds for the purpose of improving literacy skills for children under 5 years of age. Sheri Young **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

L. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate **$370.00**, for Addison County Restorative Justice Services, Inc. (formerly ACCD), to provide restorative justice projects for offenders who have potential to learn from their mistakes and avoid incarceration and a criminal record. Rex Corey **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

M. Paul Stone **moved** to appropriate **$1,000.00** for the John W. Graham Emergency Shelter, funds to be used to provide shelter, food and services to homeless family and individuals. Stephanie Corey **seconded** the motion. The **motion passed** by voice vote.

Information of these Social Services can be found on the Orwell website. For free health and human services information & referral services Dial 2-1-1.

13. To transact any other business which may legally come before the Town.

Senator Chris Bray, Chair on the Natural Resources & Energy Committee, spoke very briefly earlier in the meeting. What's going on at the Vermont State House? We are operating in the Vermont way and working hard at getting things done to make Vermont a better place. We have to make sure we manage what we already have, make sure money is spent wisely and productively. There are environmental and energy issues. Everyone knows climate change is real with many impacts. How do you deal with something with such an impact. There are programs to reduce emissions. There are ways we can work together to protect our economy, environment and water. Senator Bray said he will let us get back to our Town Meeting. He has other Town Meetings he is going to try and make it to. He will take questions at the back of the room. Thanked all for the honor of serving the Town.

Representative Terry Norris joined us today and thanked everyone for trusting him to be their representative. Representative Norris still serves on the Agriculture and Forestry Committee. Bill H.934 (an act relating to Renter Rebate reform) was read but will likely be ignored with only 4 days before the House bills go to the Senate. Representative Norris mentioned five bills that merit attention. H.107 Paid Family and Medical Leave. The Governor vetoed this bill explaining that he is working on a voluntary family leave program at the State level which would offer similar benefits. S.23 Increasing the Minimum Wage. Vetoed by the Governor, passed by the House, this would increase wages to $12.55 in 2022. The governor felt this increase would decrease jobs and close stores. Rising costs to our elderly on fixed incomes are also a concern. H.688 Relating to Addressing Climate Change. This bill sets up requirements on the reduction of greenhouse gas. S.54 Regulation of Cannabis. Cannabis tax and regulation was passed last week. There are restrictions to sales to under 21 year olds and advertising. Law enforcement would receive Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement training, no roadside saliva testing without a warrant. H.926 changes to Act 250. The Natural Resources Committee worked on this bill for a year and a half and Representative Norris believes it's not yet ready for prime time. Terry Norris heard that Route 22A from Orwell to Vergennes would be repaved in 2020 and from Orwell south in 2021 as it is also to be widened. Terry Norris thanked all for their support.

Thomas Christian expressed the need for a PA system and also that all cell phones should be turned off.

Paul Stone said today we have the opportunity to vote on a $26,623,041 School Budget and a $59,500,000 bond Vote. He has heard a lot of discussion on the Town Hall. Nothing has been set in stone about the Town Hall. Even if the bond passes it can be used for the Town Hall or the new school building. Louis Hall stated it doesn't matter, the State will do what they want. Richard O. Buxton, Jr. mentioned the Middle School and stated that we don't need it. We have other options. Benson School is losing students. Use this as the new Middle School. Possibly split Benson students between Orwell and Fair Haven. The buses run from Orwell to Fair Haven. Michael Audet said he attended the February 24th meeting in Fair Haven and a lot of questions were answered. Peter Stone spoke about the $59,500,000 bond. This is to do renovation and repairs at Fair Haven High School, construction of the Middle School, construction, renovation and repairs to Orwell Village School and an elevator system for Fair Haven Grade School. Benson School is not big enough for a Middle School and there is not enough land for sports. At the High School the teachers can be utilized better. The 7th and 8th graders are ready to go, they need to be with other kids. The Orwell principal is extended way out with issues and if these students are moved it will alleviate a lot of stress. Right now we don't know if the Town Hall can be taken down, need to read the deeds. At the 2019 Town Meeting the Town voted to spend $20,000 to replace the building. When we merged it all became Slate Valley Unified Union School District (SVUUSD). Need to get a plan in place and will come to the Town. The $6,000,000 was to build a new gym/cafeteria and to do work to the existing school building. Vanessa Almony asked if we don't vote for the bond we get nothing. It was quite vague. The Town Hall needs a lot of work. If it reverts back to the Town, what plans are there to maintain it? Thomas Audet stated there are no plans. We are waiting for the results of the bond then we will include the whole community. Seigrid Stone said she has been waiting 8 years for something to be done to the Town Hall. If we don't vote for the bond we will then have to wait to get anything. The High School needs work. She hears that it's hot in one room and cold in another. Gerry Audet stated that he attended an earlier informational meeting at the High School and he was appalled when he walked through. The Science Lab is 1940's. We are way behind on these kids getting an education, not spending it on a new gym or cafeteria. Pat Ullom said there was a petition going around to save the Town Hall with over 175 signatures on it so far. When people have a problem with their homes do they just tear their house down? Let's get more estimates. Joanne Hornbeck attended the latest meeting where they stated attendance was going down by five students per year and they also didn't have a lot of answers to questions. Why not just fix a little at a time? Peter Stone stated that they put a lot of time into the $60,000,000 plan. We cannot go further without the bond passing. Don't know at this time if we are tearing the Town Hall down. Do you want money to rebuild the Town Hall or fix the school? We need new estimates. I know people complain about taxes, but now we don't have a choice. We need to replace boilers and leaking pipes at the High School. It's not a simple thing. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. There is a new Director of Operations whose job is if he sees something that needs to be fixed, it's put in the budget. Handicap access is a big issue. Elizabeth Frank said a

lot of people didn't know a lot about the plan Slate Valley had. We need a committee meeting with ideas from everyone. A lot more conversation and communication needs to be done. Mark Young said what bothers him is some of the facilities are now administrative offices. Do we really need artificial turf on the football field? Your design has two cafeterias with two kitchens. Does this make sense? Why can't you have one kitchen that can serve both cafeterias? Peter Stone replied that they moved the offices to the school from downtown Fair Haven to save money on rent. This plan/bond is not an open ended dollar amount. Ron Mullins asked what if we took all the houses in Orwell and divided that into $60,000,000. What would that cost be? Thomas Audet said after the election there will be a new Select Board. We will regroup and have a new Informational Meeting.

Cindy Watrous reminded people that there is a sign-up sheet for Green-Up Day and they will be having Swap Day again.

Wayne Hall wanted to thank the Fire Department and the 1st Response for all they do.

Mark Young **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 11:49 AM. Thomas Audet **seconded** the motion. The motion **passed** by voice vote.

Attest: Elizabeth Walker Date: 4/13/2020

Orwell Select Board

Thomas Audet

Bill Goddard

Paula Barnes

Dave Larsen

Roland Simmons, Chair

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60 Plus Club

The Sixty Plus Club met only twice during 2020 due to the pandemic. It was important that each of us stayed home to prevent getting the COVID-19 virus as we are in the age group that should be extremely careful. Wearing masks and social distancing became the norm.

Ordinarily each month members serve as hosts for the day. They set up the room with decorative center pieces and plan for a door prize. It is their responsibility to help to clean up after lunch. They arrange for a program or entertainment for after lunch as well. A pot luck lunch is shared as we visit with our neighbors and friends. Anyone 55 or older is welcome.

With the hope of a vaccine being available this year, maybe we'll be able to gather safely. We will spread the word when it is safe to get together. In the meantime, reach out to your neighbors and friends by phone, email, zoom or whatever method you use. Let them know you care.

Loretta Lee, Treasurer

Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility
Calendar Year 2020

The Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility has enjoyed another year of permit compliance and excellent treatment of the wastewater entering the facility. The Facility continues to improve in compliance and operations. The Facility strives for the efficient and reliable treatment of incoming waste.

With the foresight and proactive approach by the Town select board the Facility has undergone major improvements to the treatment process. After the initial sludge removal from the primary lagoon in late 2019 a complete upgrade to the process was conducted. The aged, outdated and inefficient aeration equipment was replaced. An upgrade to the electrical service, blower system and aeration equipment was replaced with new positive displacement blowers, variable frequency drives and modern aerators. This allows for an efficient and effective process that will service the existing lagoons for many years to come.
Sludge removal from the secondary lagoon is slated for the year 2021. These factors will further augment the treatment process and extend the life of the 1970's vintage system.

The users of the Town of Orwell Wastewater Treatment Facility and the Town in general are fortunate to have a Select Board that supports the efforts to provide a well-maintained Town and Facility. Their commitment to a proactive approach has provided a Facility that the Town can be proud of.

As always the staff of the Wastewater Treatment Facility welcomes visitors and will be more than happy to conduct a tour of the Facility to any interested parties.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward Tracey

TOWN OF ORWELL - SEWER REPORT

CATEGORY		2020 BUDGET	2020 ACTUAL	2021 BUDGET
INCOME				
Balance Forward		3,924.04	3,924.04	2,453.22
Borrowings		251,741.00	261,960.03	105,000.00
Delinquent Collector Penalty			187.46	0.00
Delinquent Rents Collected			2,423.79	0.00
Interest - Warrant			109.08	0.00
Sale of Compressors			1,600.00	0.00
User Rents		48,600.00	46,819.20	55,290.00
Dumping Fees		14,425.96	7,981.13	14,000.00
TOTAL INCOME		**318,691.00**	**325,004.73**	**176,743.22**
EXPENSES				
Bank Fees		24.00	24.00	24.00
Insurance				
	Property & Liability	397.00	397.00	591.00
	Workers Compensation	1,589.00	1,589.00	1,513.00
Laboratory		800.00	913.56	800.00
Lab: Sludge Testing		0.00	0.00	900.00
Lab: WET Test		0.00	0.00	2,500.00
Lagoon Reserve		0.00	0.00	0.00
Loan Payment	Principal	17,750.00	17,737.40	21,225.22
	Interest	6,750.00	4,320.29	9,000.00
Payroll		21,550.00	21,672.40	18,240.00
Payroll expenses		0.00	0.00	0.00
	FICA & MCARE	1,600.00	1,657.94	1,400.00
Postage		150.00	0.00	150.00
Project Costs		251,741.00	261,960.03	105,000.00
Repairs	Building	500.00	129.22	500.00
	Equipment	2,000.00	361.94	1,000.00
	Other	250.00	33.59	250.00
Lagoon Sludge Testing		0.00	0.00	900.00
Mileage		500.00	139.16	250.00
Misc Expense		40.00	0.00	0.00
Sundries		200.00	200.00	200.00
Supplies	Chlorine	800.00	626.43	800.00
	Equipment	1,500.00	1,159.92	1,000.00
	Lab Chemicals	100.00	81.13	100.00
	Other	100.00	79.00	100.00
Training & License		250.00	36.00	200.00
Utilities, Electricity		10,000.00	9,251.06	10,000.00
Propane		100.00	182.44	100.00
TOTAL EXPENSES		**318,691.00**	**322,551.51**	**176,743.22**
Balance December 31, 2020			2,453.22	
TOTALS		**318,691.00**	**325,004.73**	

TOWN OF ORWELL- DELINQUENT SEWER COLLECTOR
STATEMENT OF FUNDS 2020

Balance December 31, 2019	$ 0.74	
Delinquent Rents Collected	2,423.79	
Warrant Interest Collected	109.08	
Penalties Collected	187.46	
Savings Interest Earned	1.12	
Payments to Town		2,720.33
Balance December 31, 2020		1.86
	$ 2,722.19	$ 2,722.19

Town of Orwell
Delinquent Sewer Report 2020

Tax Year	Balance 12/31/19	Additions	Payments	Balance 12/31/20
2018	$ 360.00	$ -	$ -	$ 360.00
2019	1,440.00	-	1,080.00	360.00
2020	-	2,920.80	1,343.79	1,577.01
Totals	1,800.00	2,920.80	2,423.79	2,297.01

Town of Orwell
Delinquent Sewer Rents- December 31, 2020

2018	US Bank and Trust	360.00	
	Subtotal		**$ 360.00**
2019	US Bank and Trust	360.00	
	Subtotal		**$ 360.00**
2020	Danahy, John & Julie	300.00	
	Madison, Danielle	162.50	
	Minyati, Maurice & Solange	172.01	
	Sanderson, John & Jennifer	12.50	
	Sherman, Estate of Leona	150.00	
	US Bank and Trust	540.00	
	Zauli, Kelli	240.00	
	Subtotal		**$ 1,577.01**
	Total		**$ 2,297.01**

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Jackson, Collector

ORWELL FREE LIBRARY

2020 Town Report

After a challenging year, let us celebrate our successes and mention what was lost during this time mired in shut downs and precautions.

Our 2020 view, pickups, cleaning supplies, and quarantined returns.

During the COVID-19 closure, Orwell Library lost the shuffling of foot traffic dirtying the floors, the sound of voices singing at Story Time, and the ruckus created by the Teen Advisory Group. We cancelled our annual Keynote Speakers Series and all scheduled programming. We paused outreach to local childcare providers and OVS Middle School. Some of our patrons struggled with our browsing restrictions, and some turned to their own bookshelves for solace. March to December of 2020 was a difficult time.

And yet, when we shut our doors to in-person services in March, within the week we had an extensive online order form available for pickup or delivery of library materials. Within a month we had 2 more online libraries of eBooks, audiobooks, TV series, and more. We reached out to some patrons who weren't able to access our online resources and began receiving phone orders – and having wonderful chats with our shut-in community members.

We put together a Reopening Plan to help guide our response throughout the pandemic. Procedures, like quarantining returns and safely handling requests, were created.

As the year continued, we hosted our 14th Annual Plant Sale by creating a store on our website. This proved successful, albeit challenging. Our Harvest Sale in late September was also a successful fundraiser and community event amidst masks and social distancing.

Programming looked different. During July we teamed up with the Platt Library and offered 4 weeks of virtual trivia. That month we also created and distributed 72 grab and go activity bags for kids, ages 2-10. Since Story Time was no longer taking place, we created story time kits for families and put together kits for kids, ages 6-12 to encourage curiosity in science. In July, we put up Story Walks. Then, on Halloween, we installed a spooky Story Walk on the town green, solicited candy donations, and had our Teen Advisory Group host a socially distanced, fully masked, outdoor, family trick or treat adventure.

We ended our 2020 programming with a 3-part virtual conversation where librarians and community members worked through the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad.

In July, we reopened to in-person browsing until November at which time we switched to offering appointments, pickup, and delivery.

At the end of the year, we received a WiFi Access Point from the Vermont Public Service Department. Our WiFi signal now stretches down through our parking area and across the town green. Orwell Library networks are always available, no password necessary.

Other updates of note, during the spring, we joined the Vermont Homecard Program. Orwell residents can now use libraries in our region for free with their Orwell Free Library Card. Also, using the funds from a generous 2019 donation, we installed a locally built bench and storage seat in the children's room.

Ken Van Hazinga

One loss the library folk felt acutely was the sudden and peaceful death of our long-time friend and trustee, Ken Van Hazinga. He dedicated time, energy, wisdom, and hay many times over the years and we are thankful to have known him.

Library Resources:

- free & open WiFi connection & public computers
- computer, device, and internet help
- projector and Kindle to lend
- meeting place for local groups
- public gallery for local artists to display their work
- access to an online library of informational databases
- access to online libraries of eBooks, audiobooks, movies, and more
- puzzles for all skill levels
- free passes to some regional attractions
- place to donate used, in good condition, books and media
- new and emerging technologies to experience, like VR

OFL extends recognition to the Wright Memorial Library Board for their dedication to the upkeep of our building and grounds.

We thank the First National Bank of Orwell for the generous annual donation that supports our Keynote Speakers Series and all others who supported us during 2020.

Orwell Free Library is ever grateful to local taxpayers for their continued support.

2020 Circulation and Usage Totals

1210 adult books, 2685 juvenile books, 295 media items, & 1320 online books
1377 library visits, 458 program attendees/takers
261 pickups and deliveries
679 items added to the library collection

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Hunter, Librarian

ORWELL FREE LIBRARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
2020

Opening Balances January 1, 2020			
Checking	$ 2,698.91		
Savings	7,187.55		
Total Opening Balances		$ 9,886.46	
Receipts			
Town Appropriation	4,000.00		
Trustee of Public Funds	14.67		
Interest on Savings	7.53		
Grants	200.00		
Donations - General & Memorial	1,023.29		
Fundraising:			
Book/Plant/Bake Sales	8,426.00		
Adopt An Author	160.87		
Bottle Returns	1,044.81		
Artists' Donations	30.00		
Copier Fees	69.17		
Misc.	60.00		
Purchase Returns	187.38		
Total Receipts		$ 15,223.72	
Total Opening Balances and Receipts			$ 25,110.18
Disbursements			
Books/eBooks/DVDs/CDs	$ 5,465.20		
Magazines	318.95		
Post Office	310.80		
Backpack Project	263.94		
General Supplies	345.97		
Book Supplies	141.44		
Program Supplies	958.74		
Office Supplies	291.27		
Computer Supplies	351.92		
STEM Kits	146.23		
Electronics/Technology	1,322.21		
Furniture/Equipment	1,196.46		
Programs	665.00		
Librarian/Asst. Librarian Bonus'	850.00		
Library Memberships	1,397.47		
Advertising	331.42		
Professional Development	54.99		
Gifts/Donations	240.97		
Total Disbursements		$ 14,652.98	
Closing Balances December 31, 2020			
Checking	$ 2,911.12		
Savings	7,546.08		
Total Closing Balances		$ 10,457.20	
Total Disbursements and Closing Balances			$ 25,110.18

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Buxton, Treasurer

GFWC Orwell Fortnightly Club 2020

This year has certainly been an unusual year. The Fortnightly Club does not meet in January and February. In March the pandemic struck and everything was shut down as we wer encouraged to stay home to stay safe. Activities for the club were on hold and still are.

We were unable to hold our usual bake sale in the spring and fall. We did however purchase 35 wreaths from Red Sky Farm to put up in December. Trey Lee helped to hang them. Shelly Baker and Loretta Lee worked with Trey. The flower gardens across from the bank and next to the Congregational Church were maintained by the club. It was a lot of watering as it was so hot and dry last summer. Thanks to Rita Swogger, Margaret Korda and Shelly Baker for all their work.

Although we were not actively meeting contributions were made to the following: Project Graduation, Warmth, HOBY, Barbara Jean Barker Scholarship, Kind News subscription for the elementary school, and the local Memory Tree. In December as the club was not able to fill and give out gift bags to the elderly in the community we decided to ask our members for a contribution to give to the Whiting Food Shelf. Thanks to their generosity we contributed a total of $400.

Women have continued to gather together all around the globe to work for the betterment of themselves and their communities. The Orwell Fortnightly Club usually meets every fortnight beginning in September and ending in May skipping January and February. In lieu of meeting in person, we began holding zoom club meetings in December.

Our volunteer activities amounted to over 459 hours in 2020, We are proud to be part of the GFWC. New members are always welcome. If you are interested to join, please contact any club member or call 802-989-4850.

Loretta Lee

President

Ethan M. & Eliza T. Wright Memorial Library
Annual Report 2020

Balance as of Dec. 31, 2019	$12,079.19		
		$12,079.19	
Receipts:			
Town appropriations	$15,000.00		
Trustee of public funds	$336.77		
Insurance payment	$0.00		
Donation	$0.00		
Total receipts		$15,336.77	
Total opening balance plus receipts			**$27,415.96**
Disbursements:			
Cleaning & supplies	$1,080.00		
Telephone/Internet	$1,085.63		
Sewer	$540.00		
Insurance	$2,040.00		
R&R Specialties	$4,799.12		
Green Mountain Power	$1,147.82		
Repair & Maintenance	$1,384.48		
Fuel Oil	$1,198.86		
Equipment	$453.61		
Misc.	$120.99		
Total disbursements		$13,850.51	
Ending balance as of Dec. 31, 2020		$13,565.45	
Total Disbursements and Closing Balance			**$27,415.96**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert J. Martin
Treasurer

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic we were able to complete our two major projects. The new standing seam roof was installed by Sbardella Slate, Inc in early summer. In addition to the roof itself, considerable work was necessary to repair/replace wood decking, soffits, eaves, etc, and to re-pointing the east chimney. The project came in under budget.

The second major project was the installation of three heat pumps donated by Green Mountain Power. Installation costs were the responsibility of the Wright Memorial Library Board. The project was completed in early March and has received favorable reviews for both the air conditioning and the additional heat the systems provide.

Additional projects completed were the repair and insulation of the hot water system in the basement, repair of the front doors, replacing faulty front porch lights, and responding to several issues found during a VOSHA inspection.

For 2021 we plan to redo the front porch which is tilting and has significant wood issues. We had planned to initiate this project this year but could not obtain the materials required, mainly due to the pandemic. Additionally, if we have sufficient funding available, we will replace the porch roof once the porch is leveled. During the replacement of the building roof, we were informed that the porch roof had significant problems.

Additional projects for 2021 are the cleaning and sealing of the access ramp and the installation of a new basement door, which we have on hand.

The Board has issued guidelines to its two tenants, the Orwell Free Library and the Orwell Historical Society, for the use of the Wright Memorial Library building. The purpose of these guidelines is to ensure the safety and security of the building for both tenants, and to preclude any misunderstandings. As overseers of the building, the Board desires the smooth, professional running of this community asset.

Once again, we offer our most sincere thanks to George and Jill Helmer, and to Hamilton Helmer, for their continuing and generous financial support of the library. Without their support, the library would not function anywhere near the level it does today.

We wish to thank Karl Sbardella and his crew for their efforts in replacing the main roof. The work was done in some of the hottest and most humid weather of the year. The project was impacted by the large amount of rotten wood which had to be removed and replaced in order to ensure the longevity of the new roof. Work was accomplished quickly and professionally, with minimum impact on the operation of the library.

The Board wishes to acknowledge, once again, Francis Bradish for his pro bono work on our electrical issues.

Respectfully submitted,
Wright Memorial Board:
Sharon Fletcher, Co-Chair
Laura Coro, Co-Chair
Anne Nichols
Robert Martin

Orwell Fire Department
2020 Annual Report

Balances, Dec. 31, 2019		
Checking	$13,029.40	
Savings	$24,086.59	
CD	$5,363.23	
Sub-Total		**$42,479.22**
Income		
To Checking		
Fund Drive	$2,495.00	
Orwell First Response Reimbursement (P.O.Box)	$46.00	
To Savings		
Private Donations	$700.00	
Burn Piles	$150.00	
In Memory of (Parry, D.)	$300.00	
In Memory of (Christian, T.)	$1055.00	
In Memory of (Frazier, D.)	$235.00	
In Memory of (Euber, C.)	$265.00	
Roger Young's Memorial Training Fund	$100.00	
Truck Accident Donation	$3,500.00	
Interest	$22.50	
CD Interest	$111.28	
Sub-Total		**$8,982.78**
Beginning Balance + Income		**$51,462.00**
Expenses		
From Checking		
AFCA Meetings	$81.00	
Fundraising	$147.03	
Donations	$50.00	
P.O. Box Rental	$92.00	
Used Pumper/Tank Truck	$5,000.00	
Grant Writer	$1,500.00	
Reimb. To Orwell 1st Response-Donations	$120.00	
From Savings	$.00	
Sub-Total		**$6,989.03**
Balances, Dec. 31, 2020		
Checking	$8,581.37*	
Savings	$30,417.09	
CD	$5,474.51	

* Check #3907 dated 12/31/2020 for $32.50 (outstanding)

Sub-Total	$44,472.97
Ending Balances + Expenses	$51,462.00

Respectfully Submitted
Susan M. Hauck
Treasurer
Orwell Fire Dept.

Champlain Large Animal Technical Rescue

c/o Orwell Volunteer Fire Department

January 1, 2020 Opening Balance		343.60
	Interest	.36
December 31, 2020 Closing Balance		343.96

Respectfully Submitted
Susan M. Hauck

Orwell Volunteer Fire Department
2020 Report

Line Officers:
Chief Dan Gosselin
1st Assistant Chief Mark Gebo
2nd Assistant Chief Allen Alger
Captain Paul Metcalf

Administrative Officers:
Chairman David Carpenter
Treasurer Susan Hauck

Training Officer: Dave Carpenter

Trustees: Allen Alger Sr
Louis Hall
Robert Arnebold

Members:

Daryl Gebo	Jim Booska	Peter Ochs	Ben Alger
Amanda Kolva	Jay Wist	Sean Seguin	Jeremiah Nolan
Seth Gero	Jessica Lee Krol	Alexander Kansky	Sandy Korda

2020 Calls

Structure Fire - 6	Chimney Fires-1	Vehicle Fire -3
Mutual Aid-13	Downed Trees/Power Lines-5	Medical Assist-4
Water in Basement – 3	Grass/Brush Fire-2	Fuel Smell/CO_2-3
Fire Alarm Activation - 2	Motor Vehicle Accidents-16	

The Orwell Volunteer Fire Department is very appreciative of the new Engine we received in May. The department is eagerly waiting to be able to have a time for viewing of the new engine when COVID restrictions are lifted. This new Engine was a well needed replacement of an old year 2000 engine. We are able to carry a lot more equipment to a scene and it provides a great deal of lighting for those late-night calls. The department purchased an extractor and dryer for our bunker gear. The extractor is a special washer to remove cancer causing toxins, debris, and disease carrying pathogens that we are exposed to when fighting fires. This extractor also takes care of COVID. We have been trying to actively train but with COVID restrictions it has proven to be a challenge. We continue to update equipment and trucks as we are finding it difficult to obtain replacement parts for the age of the equipment. As the years pass and technology continues to be at the center of everything, we find this to be true even in the Fire Protection Services. Whether it be new trucks, extrication equipment, bunker gear or thermal cameras, it all comes at a cost. It can be a challenge for a small Town like ours to keep up. We continue to try and grow the department with new members and would encourage anyone that is interested to reach out to a Member for more information.

ORWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND MUSEUM

Annual Report 2020

Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the museum doors remained closed to the public throughout 2020. While the Society didn't meet in person or hold zoom meetings, there was a bit of activity in the acquisition of donated and "on loan" antiquities, among them being:

- a "Jubilee Crawford" cookstove now residing in the museum's kitchen;

- a locally made 1860's Calice Bessette pony sleigh, which was festively decorated for the holiday season on the library lawn for all to enjoy;

- the Army Signal Corps uniform of D. Kenneth Macfarlane;

- geneology on the Joseph LeDuc Family of Orwell, Vermont compiled by descendant, John Viens;

- old photos donated by Linda Brown Raiola who used to live on the farm Ron and Maryann Mullins currently own;

- old Fortnightly Club programs belonging to Beatrice Rolfe donated by daughter, Gene Rolfe Danforth;

- a wonderful collection of early 1800's letters from the Pepper/Phelps family tree, donated by Claudia Blackler, of Cambridge, NY;

- and, a fine collection of Orwell printed matter from the early 1920's through 2007, donated by Mr. & Mrs. Barry Trutor, of Burlington.

While our hope is to be able to welcome the public to the museum as of April 1st, the reality is the status of the pandemic will likely dictate when that reopening will occur.

New members are always welcome and donations, whether of time, resources, or money are greatly appreciated. To carry on the mission of the Society, "...to discover, collect and preserve any materials which establish or illustrate the history of the Town of Orwell...", both members and the various donations are necessary and vital to the museum.

Please feel free to contact me at any time at 948-2049. Thank you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Buxton, President

Orwell First Response Squad
604 Main Street/ P.O Box 124
Orwell, Vermont 05760

Opening Balance January 1, 2020				
	Checking		2332.11	
	Savings		40378.06	
	Total Opening Balances			**42710.17**
Reciepts				
	Donations	3642.50		
	Interest Income	40.72		
	Total Reciept		3683.22	
Total Reciepts/Opening Balance				**46393.39**
Expenses	Equipment	6595.13		
	Squad Reimbursements	31.00		
	Fall Prevention donations	906.40		
	Supplies	11.05		
	Donations	50.00		
Total Expenses			7593.58	
Closing Balance December 31, 2020				
	Checking		711.03	
	Savings		38088.78	
	Total		38799.81	
Total Expenses and Closing Balances				**46393.39**

Respectfully Submitted

Peter Ochs, Co-Treasurer

Mary Miller, Co-Treasurer

Orwell First Response
604 Main Street/P.O. Box 124
Orwell, Vermont 0576

2020 showed to be a challenging year for us all.

COVID has increased our training and education and we are needing to do all this with social distancing. We are hoping 2021 will bring some normalcy to our meetings and trainings.

We currently have 2 members enrolled in an EMT class. If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please contact a member listed below.

Current Members 2021

Peter Ochs, President
Mary Miller, Captain
Kori Mitchell, Secretary
Sandy Korda
Joe Miller
Alex Kansky
Jessica Krol
Louis Hall
Paul Metcalf

The Members of Orwell First Response would like to Thank You all for your continued support.

Please Stay Safe & Healthy

Mary Miller, Captain

Mountain View Cemetery Association

Annual Report 2020

Beginning Balance- December 31, 2019			
Checking	$353.51		
Savings	$10,189.18		
CD	$15,149.48		
Total Opening Balances		$25,692.17	
Receipts:			
Town of Orwell	$9,500.00		
Trustee of Public Funds	$1,139.74		
Lot Sales	$1,200.00		
Perpectual Care	$1,100.00		
Markers	$700.00		
Misc	$0.00		
Interest Savings	$14.69		
Interest CD	$192.48		
Total Receipts		$13,846.91	
Total Opening Balance & Receipts			**$39,539.08**
Disbursements:			
Mowing- Mountain View	$6,000.00		
Mowing- Other Cemeteries	$3,000.00		
Tree Removal - Mt. View	$1,300.00		
Fall Clean Up 2019 - Mt. View	$625.00		
Vault Stonework - Mt. View	$2,600.00		
Flags	$295.64		
Brush Removal, etc @ Small Cemeteries	$928.33		
Misc	$241.38		
Deed Recording	$75.00		
Markers	$477.00		
Trustee of Public Funds	$1,100.00		
Total Disbursements		$16,642.35	
Closing Balances December 31, 2020			
Savings	$20,795.83		
Checking	$2,100.90		
Total Closing Balances		$22,896.73	
Total Closing Balances & Disbursements			**$39,539.08**

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Jackson, Treasurer

Mountain View Cemetery Association

Project Report

Mountain View Cemetery Association would like to express a heart-felt "THANK YOU" to Barbara LaDuc for her nearly thirty years of service as cemetery commissioner to the town of Orwell. Barb retired from this position at the end of 2020 and served with a steadfast, always-willing attitude that was appreciated by all. Thank you, Barb, for a job well done!

Thanks also go to the following: Francis and Joan Bradish who cut, cleared and disposed of all brush in the cedar hedge row on the west side of the cemetery; the Orwell Boy Scout troop, under the leadership of Brock and Sara Quesnel, who painted the fence at Village Cemetery and helped put flags on veterans graves for Memorial Day; Randy Jones who removed a large maple tree and Derrick Clifford who removed stumps – thank you ALL.

Mowing and maintenance in all town cemeteries was done by new personnel this year. Brian Fowler and crew and Sam James both did a fine job of keeping the cemeteries mowed and looking well-kept at all times. The cemetery board was pleased with their hard work and efforts.

Other projects completed include brush cut and removed at both Lakeview Cemetery and Hack Cemetery and the vault at Mountain View Cemetery was repointed and looks great.

In August, a daylong seminar hosted by the Association, was held at Mountain View Cemetery in collaboration with 48 State Tour! Restoring America's Cemeteries. Jonathan Appell, a man dedicated to preserving America's graveyards, demonstrated how to properly clean, repair and reset gravestones and monuments. Thank you to Dundon's Plumbing and Heating for donating the use of a porta potty for the day's event.

In December, Graham and Nancy Trudo representing the Castleton American Legion and the Wreaths across America annual tribute to veterans, brought twenty wreaths to lay on the graves of veterans, a wonderful reminder that those who served are not forgotten.

All in all, 2020 was a busy and successful year!

Respectfully submitted,

Mountain View Cemetery Association

ORWELL MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

12-31-20

Orwell Parade Committee

The 47th Orwell Memorial Day Parade was unable to be held on Sunday, May 24th, 2020.

It was with a heavy heart that the Parade Committee took the unusual step of cancelling the parade due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. This difficult decision was made to keep the citizens and participants of the parade safe and healthy. Many organizations who usually participate, could not do so because of restrictions on gatherings and travel. This also played a role in the decision to cancel.

Afterwards, it was clear, more than ever, how important the parade is to Orwell. 2020 continued and the lack of a parade just confirmed how different and difficult the year would be.

We will continue to monitor the situation and evaluate the risks of the parade, which we hope to have on Sunday, May 30th, 2021.

This year, more than ever, we will need volunteers to help plan and give a few hours of their time on parade day. If you are interested in making the comeback of the parade the best ever, contact a committee member, message us through our facebook page or stop into the Orwell town office.

We look forward to honoring the sacrifices made by our Veterans for our country.

Thank you, and stay safe and healthy.

George Macedo, Sue James, Sharon Macedo,
Ray Leonard, Angela Allard, Andrea Ochs.

ORWELL PARADE COMMITTEE

Financial Report 2020

Opening Balance - January 2020

Savings	11.08
Checking	2,254.58
Total:	**2,265.66**
Interest	13.92
Town of Orwell (funds 2020)	100.00
Total:	**113.92**
Total Beginning Balance & Receipts	**$2,379.58**

Expenses

Total: 0

Closing Balance - December 31, 2020

Savings	
Checking	$2,379.58
Total:	**$2,379.58**
Ending Balance	**$2,379.58**

ORWELL TOWN REPORT: 2020

As our country faces an ever-evolving landscape of natural and man-made threats, coordinating the Town of Orwell's preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts is our sole purpose.

Most people in Orwell rely on the services of the Fire Department, Rescue Squad and Town Road Crew when a disaster or severe weather related emergency occurs, but few are aware of a fourth agency that also responds: Orwell Emergency Management. We often work 'behind the scenes' at the behest and direction of the Orwell Selectmen, and in concert with the above mentioned local agencies to assist in the coordination of manpower, supplies, and equipment - as well as the opening of a community shelter (at the Orwell Fire Station and Village School), should the need arise.

As part of the Addison county Local Emergency Planning Committee, we also work with neighboring mutual aid communities and communicate directly with Vermont Emergency Management prior to, during and after any emergent events that affect the Town of Orwell.

In the past, we have shared important weather & road conditions - as situations warrant - on posters around town and via social media on Facebook - to help keep the residents of Orwell informed and safe, both at home and while traveling. 2020 has been no different, but it also added dealing with a world-wide pandemic right here at home.

In late 2019, COVID-19 began to sweep across the globe in record speed. By early March, state-wide lockdowns and stay-at-home orders attempted to isolate the virus, to some success, but not before a half-dozen Orwellians took ill, some quite seriously. Sadly, we lost one of our town's own by mid-April.

On March 18th - within hours of Governor Scott's declaration of a State of Emergency - Tom Audet, Orwell Town Selectboard Chairman, instructed Orwell Emergency Management personnel to help spread the health directives and daily briefings that impacted our community. To that effort, we set-up signs in front of the Orwell Town Clerk's office with two Quick Response, or 'QR' codes - that are readable by a smartphone's camera app.

One code takes you to the official Orwell Emergency Management's Facebook page that addresses strictly EMERGENT issues. The other goes to the Orwell Community Network's group page - where people post things of local interest, along with updates on all-things-COVID, from what to do with kids on 'Coronavirus Break', to meal prepping/cooking/and drop-off, to online

streaming of yoga, exercise and dance classes; to working at home; to grocery shopping and medication pick-up and delivery; to local barter exchange; babysitting, childcare and eldercare; and welfare check-ins of the homebound. Just to name but a few. Posters addressing the same were displayed throughout the community.

As the lockdown shuttered many in town, a community 'call-tree' was established, with volunteer road wardens assigned portions of their neighborhood to do regular check-ins. Another group of volunteers were willing to pick-up and deliver medications, groceries and hot meals.

With concerns of the local *Meals on Wheels* services being interrupted, we organized a group of local, professional culinary staff, food suppliers, and a secure food prep location - ready to prepare meals and deliver same, if necessary.

We assisted with the free distribution of locally made face masks, and even took on the task of manufacturing hundreds of clear marine vinyl face shields for use by rescue squads, fire departments, nursing homes, hospitals, supermarkets, restaurants, and fast-food/service station personnel, throughout Addison and Rutland counties.

In late April, we were informed that a number of local families and individuals were going without food - for fear of leaving their homes, much less town. So, in May, we built and installed four Orwell Community Share Sheds, (along the same designs as the popular *Little Free Library* boxes). Conveniently located along the ramp adjacent to the Orwell Free Library's parking lot, the BLUE one is for books, the GREEN for games and puzzles, the YELLOW is our food pantry, and the RED is for personal care & hygiene items. Word spread quickly even before we had posters up. We were restocking it on a near-daily basis. Many of our neighbors have come to rely on their content!

Originally stocked with items purchased locally, the Orwell Share Sheds quickly took on a life of their own. Although we still manage them, volunteers both privately, and through community and church organizations - now make regular donations.

In August, we organized a drive-thru Free Mask Giveaway for all Orwell Residents. These masks were obtained through the Vermont Department of Health, and by the end of the afternoon, more than 150 were distributed. The rest of the supply was provided to members of the Orwell First Response Squad to distribute.

Throughout the next couple of months, as the world settled into our "new normal", most of our efforts were spent managing the contents of the Share Sheds and maintaining the informational briefings on the Orwell Community Network page on Facebook.

With the arrival of winter, dry goods and non perishable food items remain in the outdoor Pantry Share Shed, but the canned & bottled food items and toiletries were first moved - so they wouldn't freeze - into the library for distribution, but logistics made it hard for people in need (as well as those making donations).

Working with Andrew Buxton, we established *The Orwell Food Shelf*, which is currently located in the bay window area to the right as you enter Buxton's Store. All of the items displayed are available for FREE and are easily identified by a red heart sticker in place of a price tag. The food shelf's slogan, of *"Take what you need; give what you can"* leans heavily on Orwell's long history of an independent, yet community supportive mindset. The incredible participation of our friends and neighbors only proves compassion lives deep within Orwell.

We've also established a donation-funded, in-house cash account where purchases up to $25 are covered by a coupon available at the Food Shelf and can be redeemed for milk, juice, cheese, eggs, cereal, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, meat, diapers, pet food, and over-the-counter medication and hygiene items. *No candy, sodas, energy drinks, alcohol, tobacco, deli/take-out or lottery tickets.* The activity at the outdoor Share Sheds and the Orwell Food Shelf in Buxton's Store is a clear and obvious indication that there is a need for this long overdue community supported service.

As the pandemic continues to evolve, we will continue to be of assistance. Should anyone have any suggestions or requests, please feel free to contact any one of us.

Most Humbly Submitted,

Sandy Korda,
Emergency Management Director

Robert Arnebold,
Deputy Emergency Management Director

Alex Kansky,
Logistics Officer

Jess Krol,
Shelter Coordinator

To access our up-to-date postings on the Orwell Emergency Management and Orwell Community Network's Facebook pages, point your smartphone's camera or bar code reader at either of the "QR" codes and tap on your screen when instructed.

For Emergency and Weather Notices

For Non-Emergent Community Posting

Follow us on Facebook

SUNRISE LAKE MILFOIL PROJECT

Project Purpose - Control of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) on Sunrise Lake

Project Timeline:

Due to Covid, the project was delayed by approximately 2 months. The original plan had application of the herbicide in early to mid -June. The application did not occur until August 4th. The complete timeline is as follows:

6/1/2020 - The plan posted for review
7/1/20 - The plan was approved
7/22/20 - Pretreatment survey of lake
8/4/20 - 8.8 acres of the lake treated with ProcellaCOR
9/14/20 - Post treatment inspection of lake
9/23/20 - Post treatment plant survey conducted
11/23/20 - Final report prepared and submitted to DEC

Project Summary:

Initial survey of Sunrise Lake took place in September 2019 to establish the range and density of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lake. The result of the survey was that EWM was the dominate species in the lake with distribution over the entire littoral area. A plan was developed with representatives of the lake association, a representative from Solitude Lake Management, the company which would be applying the herbicide, (ProcellaCOR) and a representative from VTDEC. The plan took into consideration both the use of the littoral area as well as the natural water flow in the lake. The plan was to maximize the effectiveness of the treatment by using the natural water flow to address areas that could not be treated. The state only allows a maximum of 40% of the littoral are to be treated in one calendar year. The hope was that this and the efforts of the property owners to remove as much of the EWM prior to the treatment would result in a far larger area showing positive results than what was originally expected.

The plan was approved on July 1, 2020. On July 2nd, we posted notices of the treatment on Sunrise Lake Road and Sunset lake Road from Sunrise Lake Road to VT RT 144. Multiple notices were placed in the Benson/Orwell Front Porch Forum. Treatment of the lake took place on August 4, 2020.

The full report is available at the Town Clerk's Office and the library.

MILFOIL IN SUNRISE LAKE

Courtesy Ken Roller

ATTENTION ALL HAIL AND HARDY ORWELLIANS

THE TOWN OF ORWELL, VERMONT WAS FOUNDED IN 1763

THEREFORE IN 2013

ORWELL CELEBRATED

THE TOWN'S **250th** ANNIVERSARY
ON AUGUST 17-18, 2013

AS ONE OF THE FINAL DEDICATIONS TO THE EVENT, A TIME CAPSULE WAS BURIED AND IS TO BE OPENED ON AUGUST 18, 2063

43 YEARS TO GO !

BIRTHS

Child	Mother	Date of Birth	Place	Father
Oldenburg, Chevelle Ann	Pickett, Lacie Marion	1/26/2020	Burlington	Oldenburg, Francis Kelly
Horton, Lyra Ewing	Ewing, Heather Pratt	1/27/2020	Middlebury	Horton, James Paull
Reed, Callum William	Reed, Rachel Elizabeth Evelynn	2/20/2020	Middlebury	Reed, Brian
Desjardin, Nora Jean	Barrows, Chelsea Ann	3/23/2020	Middlebury	
Quinn, Sebastian Dakshin	Field, Rebecca Harley	4/11/2020	Middlebury	Quinn, Cian Palash
Hines, Darrius Franklyn	Sheldon, Angela Marie	6/16/2020	Middlebury	
Pierre, Lonnie Wilson	Pierre, Courtney May	7/13/2020	Middlebury	Pierre, Kesly
Jones, Cole Eugene	Warner, Rebecca Lee	7/14/2020	Middlebury	Jones, Kevin Charles
Clark, Michaela Lee	Given, Kayla Marie	8/15/2020	Rutland	Clark, Stephen Michael
Alger, Ila Mae	Crossman, Lauren Amber	11/17/2020	Rutland	Alger, Benjamin James

CIVIL MARRIAGE		Date	Place	Residence
Cano, Jane Isaga	Christian, Dwayne Lee	4/18/2020	Orwell	Orwell
Pickett, Lacie Marion	Oldenburg, Francis Kelly	7/23/2020	Orwell	Orwell
Valero-Ruiz, Sophia Caterin	Quesnel, Jr., Brock Xavier	8/1/2020	Orwell	Orwell
Spooner, Rhonda M	Booska, Brent Arthur	8/11/2020	Chittenden	Orwell
Connor, Monica Caroline	Dicks, Andrew James	8/28/2020	Vergennes	Orwell
Shultz, Samantha Rose	Racine, Dylan Jeffrey	10/11/2020	Bristol	Orwell
Field, Rebecca Harley	Quinn, Cian Palash	10/31/2020	Orwell	Orwell
Clark, Andrea J	Benard, Thomas Jason	12/1/2020	Orwell	Orwell

DEATH	Residence	Age	Date	Place
Atwood, Roberta	Orwell	94	3/10/2020	Middlebury
Christian, Thomas L	Orwell	81	4/10/2020	Burlington
Frazier Sr., Delbert C.	Orwell	82	6/26/2020	Orwell
Goddard, Mary Z E	Orwell	98	8/8/2020	Orwell
Audet, Magloire	Orwell	88	9/19/2020	Middlebury
Hutchins Jr., Ralph Gomer	Orwell	54	10/2/2020	Orwell
Supernault, Barbara Jane	Orwell	88	10/27/2020	Rutland
Euber, Mary Catherine	Orwell	84	11/10/2020	Orwell
Brown, Mary Patricia	Orwell	79	11/20/2020	Rutland

MEETING SCHEDULES

Town Boards and Organizations

Select Board: Second and fourth Monday of each month,
7:00 p.m. at the Town Office - 948-2221/948-2032

Planning Commission/DRB: Third Wednesday of each month,
7:00 p.m. at the Town Office - 948-2221

Slate Valley Unified Union School District/SVUUSD: For meeting dates and times please visit the website at slatevalleyunified.org or call 802-265-4905

Fortnightly Club: every other Tuesday from October to May [except January-February]
Meeting times/location to be determined - 948-2091

Independence Lodge #10: Second Tuesday of each month [except June, July and August],
7:30 p.m. at the Masonic Hall

Orwell Free Library: 948-2041 Hours: Tuesday-11:00am to 7:00p.m.
Wednesday-3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m. Thursday-3:00p.m. to 6:00p.m.
Friday-11:00a.m. to 4:00p.m. Saturday-9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.
Check the Orwell Free Library website for times

Orwell Historical Society: meetings date/location to be determined.
President Kathy Buxton-948-2049

Sixty Plus Club: Third Wednesday of each month, 12 noon at the Congregational Church
Meeting times to be determined

TOWN CLERK

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday - 9:30 a.m. to 12 Noon and 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
(Friday till 6:00pm postponed until further notice)
948-2032

TOWN GARAGE
948-2433

FIRE HOUSE
948-2392

CHURCHES

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF ORWELL - every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
Dr. David Anderson, Pastor 948-2900
ABUNDANT LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH-Sunday Service at 10:30a.m.
Bill Welch, Pastor 948-2130
ST. PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH - St. Paul's in Orwell - Sunday at 10:45 a.m.
Father Eric I. Ugochukwu 802-265-3135

Town of Orwell
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