

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
March 11, 2014

Members Present:

Supervisor-William Potter

Councilmen: Robert Crossett, Nicholas Marshall, Jeffrey Graham, James LaCelle

Also Present:

Water Operator-Marvin Levack, Hwy Supt-Doug Henry, Co Leg-Milferd Potter

NOCA Rep-Robert Trainham, CEO-John Howland, THC Rep-Paul Baxter

Town Clerk-Traci LaVeck

Public Present:

MaryAnne Heath, Shirley Downes, Laurie Sheltra

Supervisor Potter opened the meeting at 7:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORTS:

A) CEO Howland gave his report for February, no building permits were issued. CEO Howland has finished up his state reports.

B) County Legislator Potter gave the March Legislator's Report: The entire County agenda can be found on the Oswego County Website.

- Resolution authorizing Oswego County to file application to enter into State Contract for a State Grant-in-Aid for Household Hazardous Water Collection Programs
- Resolution supporting an alternative to the Property Tax Freeze which will lead to permanent and historic property tax reductions by eliminating the cost of NYS mandated spending imposed on County Property Taxpayers
- Resolution transferring cemetery accounts owned by the Os Co Treasurer to cemetery owners on certain terms
- Resolution adopting an Os Co Investment Policy and Designating Banks as Depository of County Funds
- Resolution to amend the Agricultural District Plan Boundaries by permitting additional areas of inclusion, pursuant to Agriculture and Markets Law Section 303-b, as amended

C) Dog Control Officer: Had one call this past month which was resolved, he did not need to get involved.

D) Assessor's Report: None

E) Water Operator's Report for February:

- The latest bacteria test came back satisfactory
- All of the equipment continues to be operating properly
- The water tower is full, the pump house well is full, and there is water going out the overflow

- Water Operator Levack and Supervisor Potter met with Eric Pond from B&L Engineering. B&L Engineering is going to send Orwell a proposal to utilize their help locating a shallow well near the spring house, as well as, evaluating the existing water system and funding (grants, etc.) available for additional water sources in the future
- Water Operator Levack called Bill Havener from the Health Department to let him know what progress is being made regarding additional water sources for Orwell
- No Water Board Meeting in February or March, not enough members present

F) Highway Superintendent's Report:

- Hwy Supt Henry gave the Equipment Repair Cost Report for February
- Hwy Supt Henry gave an updated list of vehicles in use at the Highway Garage
- Asked town clerk to have a legal notice posted: roads closed to vehicles with a gross load in excess of 5 tons per axle until May 1st.
- The highway garage employees need to attend a mandatory "Right to Know" class. Hwy Supt Henry would like to have one in April or May, the Sandy Creek Central School will put on a class at no charge
- The hwy garage employees will be starting day shifts this week
- New truck: issues with the air controls, the repairs fell under warranty and it has been repaired
- The Town Board Members signed the Agreement to Spend Town Funds for the Hwy Garage

G) NOCA Representative Trainham gave his report. The training center at NOCA is up and running.

H) Tug Hill Commission Representative Paul Baxter was present to discuss:

- Updates that he is making to the Town of Orwell's official Website, the monthly meeting minutes are now being posted
- Mr. Baxter gave information collected by the County Administrator Mr. Church who has done an analysis of the Governor's Property Tax Freeze Proposal, there is a workshop on this subject during the Tug Hill Local Government Conference being held in March.
- Tug Hill Aquifer Study Meeting- Monday, April 7th at 7:00 pm. it's being held at the Adams Municipal Building.

DISCUSSIONS:

A) Town Hall Clock Repair-Updates:

- Supervisor Potter has received an updated proposal from White's Clock and Carillon Services: \$11,950.00, the first year of preventative maintenance will be included
- The new proposal is valid for 60 days from March 1, 2014
- The new proposal covers removal of all existing equipment that needs to be replaced with new equipment, adding four new clock movements with brass gearing for long term use, new electromagnetic striker for the bell to do hour strikes, tolling of the bell, a simulated swing feature that duplicates the swinging action of the bell, as well as, a new

digital bell and clock controller with a 10 year battery back up.

- Warranty: standard is three years for all parts and labor. With the purchase of a maintenance agreement, the warranty is extended to five years from date of install
- A 50% deposit is required with the placement of the order and the balance is due upon completion of installation
- The town will need to pay for a lift for the work to be done, as well as, any added expense for electrical updates that need to be performed by an electrician
- The Town Board discussed using the timber harvest money from the property on Hogback Road, which totaled roughly \$21,500, to cover the cost of clock repairs
- Supervisor Potter will check to make sure that the total for the clock repairs falls within the Procurement Policy limits

B) Downstairs Office Air Quality Updates:

- Concerns with relocating the offices to 2nd floor: it is used for many community events, as well as, the second floor is not structurally sound enough to withstand the weight of file cabinets, desks, etc.
- The third floor is not an option due to the weight issue and the fact that it is not handicap accessible, it would be too costly to make it handicap accessible
- Supervisor Potter is going to check with R Factor for the results of the air quality testing that was done previously before he talks to Healthway to find out what can be done to improve the air quality and air circulation in the downstairs offices
- Supervisor Potter is also going to ask the County Health Department about having Radon Testing done downstairs

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

The public present inquired as to why the large increase two years ago in the property taxes mainly involving the town highway funds. It was explained that the large fund balances that had been used to compensate over the years had dwindled and that there was very little surplus left, so taxes needed to be increased. The public commented as to why taxes were not increased 2-3% each year instead of 25% all in one year. Councilman Graham explained that when the PILOT program ended for National Grid the revenues were supposed to go up from them for the town and that didn't happen.

CORRESPONDENCE: Supervisor Potter read the correspondence received since last month's meeting.

-A motion was made by Councilman Crossett and seconded by Councilman Graham to approve the February Regular Meeting Minutes as written. (5 Ayes) motion carries

-A motion was made by Councilman Graham and seconded by Councilman Marshall to approve the Town Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2014. (5 Ayes) motion carries

-A motion was made by Councilman Graham and seconded by Councilman Crossett to approve the Supervisor's Monthly Report for February. (5 Ayes) motion carries

-A motion was made by Councilman Graham and seconded by Councilman LaCelle to approve payment of the following claims: (5 Ayes) motion carries

General Fund Abstract #3	Claims #29-39B	Amount \$ 5,925.81
Hwy Fund Abstract #3	Claims #20-35B	Amount \$23,656.66
Water District Fund Abstract #3	Claims #05-06	Amount \$ 784.71

-A motion was made by Councilman Crossett and seconded by Councilman Graham to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 pm. (5 Ayes) motion carries

Submitted
March 30, 2014

Traci S. LaVeck
Orwell Town Clerk