

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Special Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY
April 23, 2020
6:30PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Councilmen: Ryan Jones, David Lake, Jeffrey Graham, Jessica Steele
Highway Superintendent Douglas Henry
Town Clerk Amber Wilson

Supervisor Potter called the Special Meeting to order at 6:30PM

Due to COVID-19 and unclear directives as to whether highway personnel are essential or not, a meeting was held to determine whether we should keep our town highway department working and at what capacity. Supervisor Potter discussed information received from the Cornell local roads program via letter and a zoom meeting. Superintendent Henry said at this time the town had not received CHIPS money and there is no clear answer to if CHIPS money would be received by anyone thus affecting what work could be done. Councilwoman Steele expressed her concerns about providing the department with masks, gloves, hand sanitizer, and wipes. Supervisor Potter is getting masks and sanitizer for the department. Superintendent Henry said he has already provided gloves for the department. She also asked if there was enough essential work to keep the workers busy so they aren't spending unnecessary time in close contact with one another or involving neighboring towns. Superintendent Henry assured her that they had plenty of work to do as they are currently a month behind do to COVID-19. Councilwoman Steele also asked what would happen if one person ended up sick and then all of the department had to be quarantined. No solid plan has been made at this time. NYS has ruled that accrued sick time is not to be used if an employee contracts COVID-19 or has to be quarantined do to possible exposure. Councilman Graham asked that all highway personnel be asked if they have any pre existing health conditions that put them at a higher risk. Councilman Jones expressed his opinion that as long as the members of the highway department wear masks, use the sanitizer and practice social distancing they should be fine to perform their duties. Supervisor Potter has also requested one guy per truck to help limit the exposure to each other.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to resume work by the town highway department on April 29th. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

The cemetery association has plans to demolish the derelict vault building in the cemetery. It is proposed that the building will be torn down and buried in place. The cemetery association has asked the town highway department for gravel to help bury the building once it is demolished. Superintendent Henry said the highway department will donate the gravel needed to bury the building. (5 Ayes)

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Steele and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to adjourn the meeting at 6:55PM (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted April 28, 2020
Amber Wilson
Orwell Town Clerk