

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Town board/Water board Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY
August 3, 2020
7:00PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Councilmen: Jessica Steele, Jeffrey Graham, David Lake
Water Board: James Ellis, Dave Potter
Water Operator: Eric Pappa
Deputy Water Operator: Nicholas Marshall
Public Health: William Havener
Town Clerk- Amber Wilson

A water board meeting with town board members was had to discuss the letter sent to the Town of Orwell citing its violations of the New York State Sanitary Code due to the drought. The meeting started at 7:00pm with an open discussion with Mr. William Havener from Oswego County Public Health about said violations, current water supply, options for accessing auxiliary water, and the long term plan for the water district.

- Supervisor Potter opened the discussion asking Mr. Havener for clarification on said violations. Essentially the Town of Orwell must have a back up water source that produces the amount of water produced in the spring house as well as the other water sources.
- The only temporary solution approved by the health department is to have water hauled in from a certified source. Sugar Shack delivered the town 88,000 gallons of water over a period of five days.
- Water Operator Pappa said the town is currently using about 17,500 gallons per day. The water tower currently has about 60 ft of water in it and is holding their own.
- The failed pump is back up and running. It is unclear whether the pump not working hindered the spring house from being able to recover. So far since the pump has been fixed the town has been holding their own and have not needed any more water brought in.
- Mr. Havener posed the scenario of what if the hot, dry weather continues and the spring house goes dry again, what does the Town of Orwell have for auxiliary water? He asked the Town of Orwell if they were opposed to connecting with the Town of Richland for emergencies.

Discussion then turned to accessing auxiliary water and long term plans for the water district that would satisfy the requirements of the NYSDOH.

- Mr. Havener recommends having the engineering plan through Barton and Loguidice updated before exploring any options, however he does recommend having a registered well driller come in and evaluate the existing wells before jumping into any big plans.
- Deputy Water Operator Nick Marshall asked Mr. Havener if we could dig a well. Mr. Havener responded with no it has not been allowed to dig a well since 2005 in NYS by DEC or the Sanitary Code.

- Supervisor Potter expressed concern over the price of any large project and the time needed to complete it in regards to satisfying the requirements set forth by the NYSDOH. The Town of Orwell will need grant money to be able to afford any major upgrades or changes to the water district.
- Water Operator Pappa said upgrades to the water system are a definite must regardless of any other plans made to the water district.

It was concluded that an updated engineering report from Barton and Loguidice is necessary to move forward and in fact something does need to be done for auxiliary water. Said updated engineering report will appease the NYSDOH in regards to the violations the Town has against them

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Supervisor William Potter to adjourn the meeting at 7:35PM. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted August 13, 2020

Amber Wilson, Town Clerk