

**ORWELL TOWN BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Orwell Town Hall**  
**1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY**  
**December 8, 2020**  
**7:00PM**

Members Present:

Supervisor-William Potter

Councilmen:Jeffrey Graham, David Lake, Ryan Jones Jessica Steele

Also Present:

CEO John Howland

Highway Superintendent-Doug Henry

Tug Hill Representative-Paul Baxter

NOCA Representative-Bob Trainham

Town Clerk-Amber Wilson

Public Present: Shirley Downes, Bill Garvin

Supervisor Potter opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance.

Discussion was had about Stone Quarry Drive and the dirt trail at the end of it in regards to whether or not it is a road and owned by the town. The Garvin's would like to put a gate up to keep people off private property. Bill Garvin submitted copies of Orwell Town meeting minutes from 1989 where it stated that the road originally ended at the snow plow turn around and Mr. Garvin requested it be extended to his driveway. The minutes state that Mr. Garvin was responsible for building up the road according to the Town's specs of May 1<sup>st</sup> 1977. The minutes also state that Stone Quarry Drive ends at the pavement at the edge of the Garvin property and is only .57 miles long. The dirt trail beyond it is not a road and never has been. Bill Garvin also submitted copies of the NY consolidated highway law 205 which states if a road has not been maintained in 6 years or more it is legally considered abandoned. The Town of Orwell has never done maintenance past the pavement. Superintendent Henry, Councilman Graham, and Supervisor Potter all agreed with the minutes from 1989 that state that the dirt trail has never been a part of Stone Quarry Drive. Shirley Downes shared a story about a similar situation on the end of Gay Drive.

**REPORTS:**

A) CEO – 5 building permits were issued in the month of November.

B) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon did not come, he had the Republican caucus to attend via zoom. He submitted his report to the Town clerk and she read the report as written. He also submitted a list of COVID-19 testing sites in Oswego County. A copy is available in the town Clerk's office. The COVID-19 report as of December 7<sup>th</sup>

- Total # of tests-86,623
- Total # of positive cases-2,293
- Total # of positive cases recovered-1,718
- Total deaths-5
- Total # of active positive cases-570

- Total # of negative results-83,937
- Total # of people in quarantine-1,390

C) Highway Superintendent- Mr. Henry went over the bills for the month. The Town of Amboy is helping with the screen equipment repair costs from October. The Town just received the bill. The weather has been mild so the new plow truck has only been used twice however its working great. Due to the Bennett's Bridges being out Superintendent Henry is running three trucks during the day from 3am-11. Two trucks are running at night. Steel has been set on the bridges and rebar and concrete will be in the spring. Construction seems to be on schedule. Hopefully by June Bennett's Bridges will be completed.

D) Tug Hill Commision- Paul Baxter read his report as written. Mr. Baxter will help the town set up a zoom meeting for the annual meeting on December 29<sup>th</sup> . All of the Tug Hill Commission is available and willing to help with zoom meetings should Paul not be available. Mr. Baxter also mentioned that a public employer health emergency plan must be completed and submitted by April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021.

E) NOCA- Mr. Trainham reported that calls are above what they were at this time last year. A lot of them are COVID-19 calls. PPE is expensive. NOCA purchased a small healthway air cleaner unit for the lounge area to help protect the EMT's between calls. Mr. Trainham had a meeting with the town of Albion Monday night. They are complaining they are paying more than neighboring towns based off Paul Baxter's comparative report. Mr. Trainham explained his formula for how the cost per town is figured and Mr. Baxter explained where he gets his numbers from. According to Mr. Trainham the per person cost is the same in all towns and villages are included in the population of the towns. The complaint was also comparing against a different town and a different ambulance company therefore the comparison wasn't accurate.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

B) Supervisor Potter and Councilman Jeffrey Graham will meet with John Roser next week to discuss Highway employee contracts for 2021-2022. They want vision and dental insurance.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Shirley Downes-“Thank you for everybody's service and the town crew during this trying year and Happy Holiday's.”

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Supervisor Potter went over correspondence received since last month's meeting. Community bank sent a reminder about keeping online bank information secure. Association of Towns sent information about the annual meeting and training school. It is all virtual this year. The rest of the correspondence was junk mail.

**Approval of Minutes, Monthly Reports, Budget Adjustments, and Payment of Claims: all are on file in the Town Clerk's Office.**

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the November 10<sup>th</sup> 2020 Regular Meeting Minutes. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the Town Clerks report for the month of November 2020. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve payment of the following claims. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

General Fund Abstract #11	Claims # 167-184	\$19,682.39
Highway Fund Abstract #11	Claims #128-138	\$77,022.77
Water Fund Abstract #11	Claims #44-47	\$ 7,271.90

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman Jessica Steele to adjourn the meeting at 8:00PM. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted December 21, 2020

Amber Wilson, Town Clerk