

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY
June 8, 2021
7:00PM

Members Present:

Supervisor William Potter

Councilmen: Jeffrey Graham, David Lake, Jessica Steele

Also Present:

CEO- John Howland

Oswego County Legislator-Herb Yerdon

Highway Superintendent-Doug Henry

NOCA Representative-Bob Trainham

Tug Hill Commission – Vern Sundet

Barton & Loguidice – David Powers

Water Board – David Potter

Town Clerk-Amber Wilson

Public present-Shirley Downes

Supervisor Potter opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance. David Powers from Barton & Loguidice went over Resolution # 12 Authorizing the Town of Orwell Town Board to schedule and hold a public hearing at the July 13th 2021 public meeting at 7pm for the CDBG funding application as well as the public hearing letter sent to the local newspaper to run in the first week of July edition.

Resolution # 12-2021
Town of Orwell
Town Board
Authorizing the Town of Orwell Town Board to schedule and hold a public hearing

WHEREAS, the Town of Orwell (Town) is proposing the Town of Orwell Water Systems Improvement Project (project), located in the Town of Orwell, Oswego County, New York; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Town of Orwell Town Board to schedule a public hearing to discuss applying for a Community Development Block Grant for the Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the Town Board may authorize a Public Hearing to discuss community development needs, and to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for the 2021 program year.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Councilman David Lake	AYE
Councilwoman Jessica Steele	AYE
Councilman Jeffrey Graham	AYE
Councilman Ryan Jones	ABSENT
Supervisor William Potter	AYE

I, Amber Wilson, Town Clerk, of the Town of Orwell, Oswego County, New York, do hereby certify the preceding resolution was duly adopted, at a regular Town Board meeting of the Town of Orwell held on June 8th, 2021 and will be included in the minutes of said meeting.

Amber Wilson, Orwell Town Clerk

Steve Cronk head of the Oswego County ATV club presented the town with a sample of a break away post. They are designed to bend and snap back up in the event of being struck instead of breaking and/or causing damage. The Oswego County ATV club is purchasing said posts and working with neighboring towns to have them installed. The Town Board agreed to work with the ATV club and have Superintendent Henry install a few around town on road shoulders in places that four wheelers tend to ride and fling gravel and rocks into the roadways.

REPORTS:

A) CEO John Howland had no report. 4 building permits have been issued in the last month, 17 all year. He is almost done with his mandatory classes for the year.

B) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon gave his report

- As of June 7th 2021, 226,543 COVID-19 tests were done in Oswego County since March 2020.
 - 8,090 were positive
 - 215,593 were negative
 - 29 are currently still active positive
 - 7,970 have recovered
 - 91 deaths reported by the NYSDOH
 - 154 in mandatory isolation
- Detailed information can be found online at health.oswegocounty.com/covid-19 or call the hot-line at 315-349-3330 weekdays from 8:30am-4pm and weekends from 8:30am-noon.
- People age 12 and over are now eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Mr. Yerdon presented the Oswego County Soil and Water 2020 Annual Report. They are celebrating 75 years serving Oswego County.
- Camp Zerbe will be hosting a STEAM Quest camp in July 2021. Informational signs can be found in front of Camp Zerbe and around the Williamstown area.
- Oswego AmeriCorps is recruiting to fill several positions in Oswego County this summer. Applications are currently being accepted for 300-hour summer positions to work with youth and/or adult volunteers. Applicants must be at least 17 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, or working to achieve either. For more information or for an application go to the Oswego County AmeriCorps website at youthbureau.oswegocounty.com/amicorps
- Mr. Yerdon shared a news article about a woman from Jupiter, Florida who caught 2 world record salmon in September 2020 in the Salmon River. The first salmon was caught on September 15th 2020 and weighed 15lbs 12 oz. The second was caught on September 17th 2020 and weighed 20 lbs 1 oz. The total number of world record fish caught in Oswego County is 10.

C) Assessor – No report

D) Water Board – No report. David Powers from Barton & Loguidice expects test boring for ground water investigations to begin next week.

E) Highway Superintendent Henry read the bills and repair and maintenance costs for the month of June.

- The Town Highway barn needs to replace the floor drain grates. Superintendent Henry is requesting to replace one out of the five 40ft drains. The cost is \$2,500 for one 40 ft drain from Steel sales.

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and Seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve the purchase of one 40ft floor drain. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

- Superintendent Henry presented to the board an opportunity to buy a road chipping machine on an inter-municipal agreement with 8 other towns; Sandy Creek, Boylston, Redfield, Williamstown, Albion, Amboy, Parish and Orwell. Cayuga County has the chipper for sale for \$20,000. Split between 8 towns the cost would be around \$2,500 per Town. The one we currently use with the Town of Albion is old and is in need of repair more often than it is able to be used. Superintendent Henry rented one this year to use already and has more to do later in the summer. The cost to rent one is \$2,400 per day. So far Williamstown, Parish, and Amboy have all voted aye on it. It is undetermined which town will hold the inter-municipal agreement. The neighboring towns all work together on chipping and sealing roads currently so sharing a machine will not be a problem.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and Seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Highway Superintendent to pursue an inter-municipal agreement with the aforementioned towns. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

- Gay Drive, ½ mile of Beech Road, and Durgee Road were all chip sealed once and will be done again later in the summer.
- Next week road sides will begin being mowed and dirt roads will be graded.

F) Tug Hill Representative Vern Sundet read Paul Baxter's report as written.

G) NOCA – No real report as their meeting is next week. Financially NOCA is holding their own however they are still short staffed.

DISCUSSION:

A) Supervisor Potter spoke with the Town Attorney about the Stone Quarry Drive issue and she recommended the Town do a qualified abandonment of the dirt trail at the end of Stone Quarry Drive. Highway law 205-B states:

1. Abandonment of town highways which are access roads to state forest preserve lands or lands now owned or hereafter acquired by the state and held under the jurisdiction of the department of environmental conservation shall be qualified abandoned in the following manner and shall have the following effect:

a. upon written notice to the department of environmental conservation, the town shall follow the procedure provided for in subdivision two of section two hundred five of this chapter;

b. the resolution of abandonment shall provide that even though the responsibility of maintenance of the road by the town shall cease, there shall remain a public easement over such road in perpetuity;

c. the department of environmental conservation shall have the right to maintain such road if it so desires;

d. no one, including the owner of adjoining land, may fence any portion of such road, with or without gates;

e. the town, at any time, shall have the right to resume jurisdiction over such road for any purpose;

f. the title to such road shall remain with the town.

2. For the purposes of this section, access roads to state forest preserve lands or lands under the jurisdiction of the environmental conservation department shall mean roads which are the only practical means of ingress or egress to such state lands.

3. In no event shall the provisions of this section be construed so as to require the maintenance or abandonment of roads within the state forest preserve lands or lands now owned or hereafter acquired by the state.

B) The Town of Orwell is proposed to receive \$216,000 from the American Rescue Plan. Supervisor Potter will be attending a Supervisor's meeting on June 22nd and will receive more information.

C) Association of Towns is hosting a webinar on June 10th on Utility Moratorium. The Town Clerk plans to attend this webinar.

D) Harlan Electric approached Superintendent Henry about leasing a part of the lot at the Town Highway barn. They are offering \$1,400 per month with use of electricity. They anticipate only leasing for 3-4 months, however it does not impact the Town or the Highway department in anyway.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve entering into a lease agreement with Harlan Electric. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

E) Final State Equalization Rate of 2021 Assessment roll. The town is currently at 94%. Some properties will be adjusted. More information to come.

F) The Town Board discussed the Cannabis Legislation and chose to opt out.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to initiate the process of opting out of allowing Cannabis to be distributed or publicly consumed in the Town of Orwell. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

G) NYMIR is hosting a webinar on cyber security.

H) The Public Employer Health Emergency Plan has been tabled until the July 13th 2021 meeting.

I) Supervisor Potter proposed a rate increase to \$14.50 per hour for the BAR members.
- A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve the rate increase for BAR members to \$14.50 per hour. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Shirley Downes commented how nice all the Town crews were to the property owners while paving Gay Drive.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

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

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the regular meeting minutes for May 11th 2021 as written. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Town Clerks report for the month of May 2021. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

-The Supervisor's Monthly Report for May 2021 was not completed due to technological malfunction.

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve payment of the following claims. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

General Fund Abstract #06	Claims # 78-93	\$ 2,943.68
Highway Fund Abstract #06	Claims #53-62	\$ 25,933.83
Water Fund Abstract #06	Claims #27-29	\$ 655.55

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 PM. (4Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted June 15, 2021