

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
1999 County Route 2, Orwell, NY
September 14, 2021
7:00PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Councilmen: Jeffrey Graham, David Lake, Jessica Steele, Ryan Jones
Also Present:
Assessor- David Roach
CEO- John Howland
Oswego County Legislator-Herb Yerdon
Highway Superintendent-Doug Henry
NOCA Representative-Bob Trainham
Tug Hill Commission – Paul Baxter
Water Operator – Eric Pappa
Water Board: David Potter, James Ellis
Town Clerk-Amber Wilson
Public present-Shirley Downes

Supervisor Potter the meeting at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance. Assessor David Roach spoke about the reassessment project proposed for 2022. He asked the board to support him in the decision to put off the reassessment project for at least one year. Due to COVID the scarcity in the housing market is creating a selling point per square inch unlike anything that has ever been seen before. Due to that if the town were to continue with the reassessment project it is possible that in another six months to a year the town would have to reassess again. Normal maintenance assessments will still be done. A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to hold off on the 2022 reassessment project. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

REPORTS:

A) CEO John Howland had no report. 1 building permit has been issued in the last month.

B) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon gave his report

- As of September 13th 2021, 263,821 COVID-19 tests were done in Oswego County since March 2020.
 - 9,853 were positive
 - 250,682 were negative
 - 516 are currently still active positive
 - 95 deaths reported by the NYSDOH
 - 1,144 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, weekends 8:30am-12pm.
- NYSDOH informed OCHD that 3 cases of EEE were detected in a mosquito pool collected at a trap in the Towns of Palermo, Hastings, and West Monroe. One sample from West Monroe also tested positive for West Nile.
- Hillside has a part time and full time position for a Family Peer Advocate available for a parent or primary care giver of a special needs child. If you have experience navigating the child service systems and interested in the position, apply at www.hillside.com/work
- The Oswego County Solid Waste Department is sponsoring a free paper shredding event Saturday October 16th from 8-11am at the Oswego County Transfer Station, 700 E. Seneca St. County residents are allowed 5 bankers boxes full of documents.

C) Highway Superintendent Henry read the bills and repair and maintenance costs for the month of August.

- The tractor is finally fixed and should be ready to be picked up by the end of the week.
- Batteries and cables have been found missing presumably stolen out of the fork truck.
- The pit the town got sand from last year is empty. Amboy has a pit they have been working on getting a permit for but it doesn't look like they will get it in time to get the sand in before winter. The Town of Boylston has a pit with a permit that may provide the sand needed. The price would be about what the town paid last year for sand. Superintendent Henry and the Boylston highway Superintendent Mike Stacey are going to investigate it this week. The county is the last resort for getting sand due to their high price. The town does have some sand leftover from last year.

D) Tug Hill Representative Paul Baxter read his report as written.

E) NOCA representative Bob Trainham gave his report. The Town of Orwell received their proposed budget. There is only a 2% increase from last years budget. Calls are 300 ahead of last year and \$1,700 worth of medications they are mandated to have on hand had to be destroyed.

DISCUSSION:

A) The Town highway garage needs new outside lights. Currently The lights on the building and grounds are 30-40 year old mercury vapor lights that either don't work or are too dim to be of use. Sova's put a proposal together for 4 150watt LED dusk to dawn lights for around the building and 1 200watt LED dusk to dawn flood light for the front corner of the parking lot where the \$2,000 worth of equipment that was stolen is stored. The cost for all the fixtures, wiring and labor is \$4,400. All the fixtures are in stock so he should be able to start soon. He is also going to put together some options and pricing for security cameras. The best option would be something that records to a dedicated device with at least 14 days worth of memory. A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve the lighting project for the town highway garage. (5 ayes) Motion carries.

B & C) Supervisor Potter went over a water systems improvement update from Barton & Loguidice. Currently the project is on hold due to nitrate levels from the bordering farm. Discussion was had about how to enforce the current Well Head Protection law however the farmer is within the mandatory 500 feet distance from the well. The problem is that the well is down hill from the field being fertilized. Supervisor Potter proposed the option of possibly buying 20-25 acres of the farm land in question. The Town budgeted money to acquire property for a new well if a site proved viable. That was not needed as a viable water source was found on the town's existing property. The new well is producing 100 gallons per minute with the potential to be more than that once it is developed, however it can not be developed until the Oswego County DOH signs off on it and they will not until the nitrate levels are in a more acceptable range. The nitrate levels will not be within that range until that field is no longer being fertilized. Water Operator Pappa said he will contact the land owner and ask him to ask the farmer the land is leased to to not spread fertilizer this fall. The Town board would like to have Barton & Loguidice draw up a proposal to purchase the acreage.

D) The town's current assistant water operator is in need of certification and is unable to attend the classes needed to become certified. The town water board suggested reaching out to Mike Faulkner in the town of Albion as he used to do it and is certified. David Potter and Jim Ellis will reach out to him and see if he is interested in the job.

E & F) There will be a public hearing on Tuesday September 28th at 7pm for adopting Local Law # 2-2021 to override the tax level limit. The tentative budget will also be presented on this date following the public hearing.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

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 Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the regular meeting minutes for August 10th 2021. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to approve the Town Clerks report for the month of August 2021. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve the Supervisor's report for the month of August 2021. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

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

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|---------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| General Fund Abstract #09 | Claims # 129-141 | \$ 4,175.64 |
| Highway Fund Abstract #09 | Claims #90-104 | \$ 19,655.40 |
| Water Fund Abstract #09 | Claims #39- 45 | \$ 73,130.81 |

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted September 21, 2021