

**ORWELL TOWN BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Orwell Town Hall**  
**June 14, 2022**  
**7:00 PM**

Members Present:  
Supervisor William Potter  
Council Members: Jeffrey Graham, David Lake, Jessica Steele, Ryan Jones  
Also Present:  
Oswego County Legislator-Herb Yerdon  
Highway Superintendent-Doug Henry  
CEO-John Howland  
Water Operator-Eric Pappa  
Tug Hill Commission-Paul Baxter  
NOCA-Bob Trainham  
Barton & Loguidice-David Powers  
Town Clerk-Amber Wilson  
Public present-Shirley Downes, David Potter, Jim Horth, Sheriff Don Hilton, Elizabeth Gondek

Supervisor Potter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance. Supervisor Potter opened the floor to Oswego County Sheriff Don Hilton who introduced himself and asked what questions anyone had for him. Supervisor Potter asked about the new speed sign the Sheriff's office just purchased and how the Town could purchase one. Sheriff Hilton responded with different options for signs available and which ones would suit our town best. Councilwoman Steele asked Sheriff Hilton about the multiple requests to the Sheriff's office to have a deputy radaring for speeders and getting no response. Sheriff Hilton explained that they are currently understaffed and the deputies they do have are going from call to call with little down time if any in between. Councilwoman Steele also asked about a situation that happened over the winter regarding a couple of the Town's highway employees and a resident who made physical threats to them as well as refusing to keep the road clear of vehicles and debris for plowing. Superintendent Henry added that he was told to call the Lieutenant on duty who never returned his calls. Sheriff Hilton's response was for Superintendent Henry to call dispatch. Superintendent Henry responded that he did, and dispatch told him to call 911. After explaining the situation in more detail, the Sheriff said to call him directly next time and he will make sure a car responds. CEO John Howland asked about a contract the Town of Minetto had with the Oswego County Sheriff's Office that had a deputy sitting with radar for four-hour blocks at a time. Sheriff Hilton responded that it may be something the Town could do but there would be a cost to the Town.

David Powers from Barton & Loguidice gave a quick recap on the progress of the water project. The Town of Orwell received the WIIA grant which helps make the Town eligible for the CDBG grant. The Town's water project also qualifies as a type of community project that Congresswoman Claudia Tenney's office is funding. While waiting for more information, the Town will continue to apply for the CDBG grant.

- A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve Resolution # 6-2022 Authorizing the Town of Orwell Town Board to schedule and hold a public hearing.

**Resolution # 6-2022**  
**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 2022 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	AYE
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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and will be included in the minutes of said meeting.

Amber Wilson, Orwell Town Clerk

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve Resolution #7-2022 Establishing the Certifying Officer for the water project's ERR

**Resolution # 7-2022**  
**Town of Orwell**  
**Town Board**  
**Establishing the Town of Orwell Supervisor as the Certifying Officer for**  
**the Town of Orwell Water Systems Improvements Project's**  
**Environmental Review Record**

**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**, the Town must prepare an Environmental Review Record (ERR) in support of a funding application to the NYS Office of Homes and Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town must appoint an Environmental Certifying Officer to be responsible for the activities associated with the preparation of the ERR;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Supervisor of the Town of Orwell is hereby designated as the Certifying Officer for the Town's ERR; and be it further

**RESOLVED AND DETERMINED**, that the Supervisor is authorized to sign all necessary certifications leading to the completion of the ERR

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	AYE
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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and will be included in the minutes of said meeting.

Amber Wilson, Orwell Town Clerk

**Water Project Update:** Negotiations with the Town of Richland are ongoing. It has come to the attention of the Town of Richland that they have not raised their water rates in quite some time and are severely undercharging. Once the Town of Richland decides how much to raise their water rate then they can continue negotiations with the Town of Orwell. Supervisor Potter will call William Havner at the Oswego County Health Department and ask for another extension on the deadline for having a signed contract.

## **REPORTS:**

A) CEO John Howland submitted his report of building permits for the year to date. He also included a violation summary.

B) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon shared information of interest. All informational packets are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

- The Oswego County Legislation passed a Resolution to award funding to health care facilities, services and programs, small businesses, nonprofit organizations, and community development and infrastructure initiatives through ARPA. Applications can be found online or through a County Legislator. For more information about ARPA contact the Oswego County Office of Strategic Initiatives 315-349-8260
- Oswego Paddlefest will host its 8<sup>th</sup> annual event on Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup>. Kayakers and canoeists can participate in the long course which is approximately 13 miles long starting at 8:30am and 10am or the short course which is approximately 5.5 miles long starting between 8 and 10 am. Minors aged 4-11 must be accompanied by an adult. There are 400 slots available, and the registration cost is \$35. To register online go to <https://paddlefest2022.cheddarup.com>
- Oswego County Legislature approved a cap on sales tax for gasoline and diesel fuel. Starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, the County will collect 4% sales tax up to \$3 per gallon but not on any costs greater than \$3 per gallon. This will remain in effect until December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The Oswego County Office of the Aging (OFA) is resuming the Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (HIICAP) with office hours in multiple local locations. For more information call OFA 315-349-3484

C) Highway Superintendent Henry read the bills and repair and maintenance costs for May 2022. The Town received \$201,000 from Pave over Potholes, CHIPS, and PAVE NY.

D) Tug Hill Representative Paul Baxter arrived at 8pm and read his report as written.

E) NOCA- NOCA Representative Bob Trainham gave his report. NOCA is ahead of last year in calls. Due to the change in the billing company, NOCA has been made aware that the rates they are charging are extremely low. They will be raising rates to get up to average. NOCA is over budget on fuel costs and PPE has tripled in price. Compared to neighboring ambulance companies they are in as decent shape as they are.

F) Water Operator Eric Pappa gave his report. The water tower is full of water and holding. The recent rain the Town has received is helping. The Nitrate levels are dropping.

**Discussion:**

A. David Potter from the Water Board submitted a letter to the Town Board asking for a pay raise for Water Operator Pappa for going beyond his scope of duties as well as milage for the times he drives water samples to the lab in Watertown. The Town Board discussed the requests in the letter and decided to revisit the pay raise request during budget time however they would pay milage when submitted.

B. Funds in the amount of \$4,838.00 have been received from NYSERDA to cover the lighting project.

**Public Comment:** Orwell’s Librarian Liz presented some information on a grant to do renovations to the library. Not much information was provided, and the Town Board asked her to gather more information before a discussion could be had.

Jim Horth the Village of Lacona’s Treasurer presented a contract for the Town of Orwell to sign for the summer recreation program. Supervisor Potter refused based on the fact the Town did not budget for the summer recreation program as they were unaware there was even going to be one. No information had been submitted to the Town at budget time as it had in years past. Two residents with children of age to attend summer recreation also commented that they only correspondence they received regarding summer recreation was a text message sent the night before the last day of signups.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There was no correspondence since last month's meeting.

**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 Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to approve the May 5, 2022; Public Hearing meeting minutes as written. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the May 14, 2022; Regular meeting minutes as written. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Town Clerk’s report for May 2022. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Supervisor’s report for April 2022. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the Supervisor’s report for May 2022. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

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

General Fund Abstract #06	Claims # 83-107	\$ 8,279.65
Highway Fund Abstract #06	Claims #46-61	\$ 140,312.19
Water Fund Abstract #06	Claims #26-29	\$ 9,947.10

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to adjourn the meeting at 9PM. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted June 29, 2022