

**ORWELL TOWN BOARD**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Orwell Town Hall**  
**August 9, 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  
CEO-John Howland  
Assessor-David Roach  
Tug Hill Commission-Paul Baxter  
NOCA-Bob Trainham  
Water Operator-Eric Pappa  
Town Clerk-Amber Wilson  
Public present-Shirley Downes

Supervisor Potter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the pledge of allegiance. Supervisor Potter opened the floor to Assessor David Roach to discuss the 467 senior additional exemption and low-income disability exemption for property taxes. Currently the Town allows the 467 senior additional exemption, but not the low-income disability exemption. Oswego County just increased the income cap limit for both, and the Town has the option to adopt a Local Law to match the County. The Town Board discussed the options and decided to contact the Town Attorney to draft a Local Law.

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman David Lake to have the Town Attorney Courtney Hills draft a Local Law to increase the income cap limit for the 467 senior additional exemption and to allow low-income disability. (5 ayes) Motion carries.

**REPORTS:**

A) CEO John Howland submitted his report of building permits for the month. He also included a violation summary. Chris Dobbs called John Howland asking for an extension on his violation deadline. The Town board would like to see major improvement before allowing an extension. CEO Howland agreed to give him until the end of the month and if he has not made substantial progress then he will send the case to the Town Judge. Ron Gibbs has not responded to any letters or made any court appearances. CEO Howland requests the Town Board to send him to the State Supreme Court to get the mess resolved.

- A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman Jeffrey Graham to send Ronald Gibbs of 92 and 94 Lester Rd to State Supreme Court for continued violation of the Town's junk law. (5 ayes) Motion carries

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

- Two cases of EEE were reported in Palermo. One on July 22 and one on August 4, 2022
- The National Association of Counties (NACo) President Denise Winfrey appointed Oswego County Clerk Terry Wilber as Chair of the Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
- 218 residents tested positive for COVID-19 from July 25 through July 31. 14 residents were hospitalized. The Oswego County Health Department is reminding people to stay up to date on vaccinations, stay home when you are sick, and if you test positive to reach out to your health care provider to discuss treatment options.
- The Oswego County Transportation Advisory Committee worked with Oswego County Public Transit to provide residents with transportation to the Oswego, Fulton, and Pulaski farmers' markets. For transportation routes and details call OCO at 315-598-1514

C) Highway Superintendent Henry was absent. Supervisor Potter read the bills and repair and maintenance costs for July 2022.

D) Tug Hill Representative Paul Baxter arrived at 7:20pm and read his report as written

E) NOCA- NOCA Representative Bob Trainham gave his report. NOCA is still within budget and maintaining personnel. The current struggle is keeping the ambulance bays in the garage cool enough with the hot temperatures lately. Medication stored in the ambulances must be kept within a certain temperature and with as hot as it has been the last few weeks it has been difficult.

F) Water Operator Eric Pappa gave his report. There was a water main break on Sunday on County Route 2 losing 30,000-35,000 gallons of water. It was repaired in a few hours. Bill Havner with the Oswego County Health Department cleared the Town from testing the water for nitrates bi-weekly back to quarterly. It is expected he will officially rescind the nitrate violation within the week.

### **Discussion:**

A. Speed sign: Supervisor Potter talked with Deputy Ramsey 3 weeks ago about obtaining a speed sign on loan from the Sheriff's office. He has heard nothing further from the Sheriff's office. With further research, Supervisor Potter found a battery-operated speed sign that can be mounted to a pole for around \$3,500. Councilman Graham and Councilwoman Steele both volunteered to change the battery every 3 weeks or as needed. Councilwoman Steele also added that she would like to see it mounted to a pole that could be moved to various locations a couple times a year.

- A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to purchase the speed sign for the Town of Orwell. (5 ayes) Motion carries.

B. In response to questions asked at the last meeting about the EV charging station, National Grid offers a program that will reimburse the Town for some of the cost of the electricity. Another option is to charge the user directly.

C. Supervisor Potter requests a temporary secretary. He is falling behind and needs an extra set of hands to get caught up for the end of the year. He would like someone for 4-6 weeks, no more than 10 hours per week, starting ASAP.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman David Lake to allow a temporary secretary position for the Supervisor for a max of 6 weeks. (4 ayes, 1 nay) Motion carries.

Councilwoman Steele voted nay because she would like to see the position filled by an application process instead of appointment. Supervisor Potter responded that he needs someone to fill this position ASAP and it would take the 4-6 weeks to vet then train someone for the position. The person he would like to appoint is already familiar with the office and the work that needs to be done.

D. Custodial worker Rick Halsey submitted his resignation for retirement effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. He will be reappointed effective August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

- A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman David Lake to accept Rick Halsey's resignation effective August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. (5 ayes) Motion carries

-A motion was made Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to reappoint Rick Halsey as custodial worker on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for the remainder of 2022. (5 ayes) Motion carries.

**Public Comment:** None

**CORRESPONDENCE:** There is a Congressional Primary on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

**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 Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the July 12, 2022; Regular meeting minutes as written. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the July 20, 2022; Public Hearing minutes as written. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to approve the Town Clerk's report for July 2022. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

- A motion was made by Councilman Jeffrey Graham and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve of the Supervisor's report for June 2022. (5 ayes) Motion carries.

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

General Fund Abstract #08	Claims # 123-133	\$ 5,678.96
Highway Fund Abstract #08	Claims # 73-79	\$ 15,898.00
Water Fund Abstract #08	Claims # 35-44	\$ 20,652.43

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to adjourn the meeting at 8:25PM. (5 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted August 11, 2022