

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
January 9, 2024
6:00PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Council members: Ryan Jones, David Lake, Jessica Steele
Also Present:
Highway Superintendent-Jon Roser
Oswego County Legislator-Herb Yerdon
CEO-John Howland
Water Operator-Eric Pappa
NOCA Representative-Bob Trainham
Tug Hill Commission Representative-Paul Baxter
Barton & Loguidice-David Powers
Town Clerk-Amber Wilson
Public present-Shirley Downes, Sayles VanRy

Supervisor Potter opened the regular meeting at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance.

REPORTS:

A) CEO John Howland gave his 2022 Annual Report, and it is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.
-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to approve CEO Howland's annual report (4 ayes) Motion carries.

B) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon gave a list of all the delinquent properties in Oswego County. Property owners have until January 26th, 2024, to pay. After that all delinquent properties will go to auction in July. All informational packets are on file in the Town Clerk's office.

C) Highway Superintendent Jon Roser gave his report.

D) NOCA representative Bob Trainham gave his report. 2,419 calls in 2023. That is up 71 calls from 2022. 1,820 transports in 2024. That is also up from 2022. NOCA had anticipated needing to spend around \$188 thousand from the fund balance however as of the year end meeting it looks like they will not need to.

E) Tug Hill Representative Paul Baxter read his report.

F) Water Operator Eric Pappa gave his report. Water usage is at 14,000 gallons per day. All tests came back good. Nitrate levels are in the 7 range. New Years Eve Day the motor in the main pump burned out and a rock was stuck in the second (back up) pump keeping it from running. The check valve also malfunctioned. The filters are now failing due to excessive sediment. Water Operator Pappa made repairs and got the pumps operational again. Total repair costs are around \$10,000. New filters are on their way and the Town water system is not in any violations with the health department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Sayles VanRy commented that he had heard a rumor about the water rate increasing and was upset there was no notice on it. Supervisor William Potter responded that yes water rates will be increased and a letter to all in the water district would be sent out in May. Mr. VanRy was also told that it had been discussed at the last two meetings and it was also in the minutes that can be found on the Town’s website. Mr. VanRy also commented that the meeting time change was not advertised. Town Clerk Amber Wilson responded that it had been put in the newspaper, mentioned in the minutes from the December meeting, was on the Town Clerk’s bulletin board, and was on the digital sign at the playground on the four corners.

DISCUSSION:

- A. Local Law #1-2024- Partial property tax exemption for persons 65 and older within income guidelines: This local law is a modification to Local Law #2-2022. Some of the verbiage has been modified from Local Law #2-2022, otherwise it is the same.

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve Resolution # 1-2024- Authorizing the passing of Local Law # 1-2024 Partial property tax exemption for persons 65 and older within income guidelines. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

B. Approve Supervisor to sign Letter of Engagement and Retainer with Barclay Damon: Barclay Damon is a law firm that specializes in bonds and will act as the Bond Counsel in connection with the financing of the proposed water system improvements for the Town of Orwell water district.

-A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the Supervisor to sign the Letter of Engagement and Retainer with Barclay Damon. (4 ayes) Motion carries.

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

Resolution #1-2024
Authorizing the passing of Local Law # 1-2024 Partial property tax exemption for persons
65 and older within income guidelines
TOWN OF ORWELL
TOWN BOARD

WHEREAS, the Board Members of the Town of Orwell have considered the comments presented at the public hearing held on January 9th, 2024, pertaining to authorizing the passing of Local Law #1-2024-Partial property tax exemption for persons 65 years of age or older, based upon certain income qualifications, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 467

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board Members of the Town of Orwell assembled this 9th day of January, 2024, in the Town of Orwell, New York, hereby authorizes the passing and filing of Local Law #1-2024- Partial property tax exemption for persons 65 years of age or older, based upon certain income qualifications, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law 467

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

CLERK CERTIFICATION:

I, Amber Wilson, Clerk of the Town of Orwell in the County of Oswego, State of New York, do hereby certify that I have compared the preceding copy of the resolution with the original thereof duly adapted by the Board Members of the Town of Orwell at a public hearing of such Board held on January 9, 2024, and the same is a true and correct copy of such resolution and of the whole thereof.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 9th day of January 2024.

Amber Wilson, Clerk
Town of Orwell

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

CORRESPONDENCE: Tughill Times

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 David Lake to approve the December 12, 2023; meeting minutes as written. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman Ryan Jones to approve the December 28, 2023; year-end meeting minutes as written. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to approve the Town Clerk's report for December 2023. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilwoman Jessica Steele and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Town Clerk's annual report for 2023. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

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

General Fund Abstract #01	Claims # 01-12	\$ 6,136.54
Highway Fund Abstract #01	Claims #01-04	\$ 5,609.56
Water Fund Abstract #01	Claims #01-03	\$ 1,713.94

-A motion was made by Councilman Ryan Jones and seconded by Councilwoman Jessica Steele to adjourn the meeting at 6:59 PM. (4 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted January 13, 2024