

ORWELL TOWN BOARD
Regular Meeting
Orwell Town Hall
June 11, 2024
6:00 PM

Members Present:
Supervisor William Potter
Council members: David Lake, William Garvin,
Also Present:
Highway Superintendent-Jon Roser
Oswego County Legislator-Herb Yerdon
NOCA Representative-Bob Trainham
Tug Hill Commission Representative-Paul Baxter
Town Clerk-Amber Wilson
Public present-Shirley Downes, Sayles VanRy, Jim Condon

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

REPORTS:

- A) Water Operator Eric Pappa did not attend. Supervisor Potter read his report.
- B) CEO John Howland did not attend. He submitted a list of permits issued.
- C) Highway Superintendent Jon Roser gave his report. Hogback Road and Tar Hill Road have been paved and sealed. All seasonal roads have been maintained and may need to be done again. All town roads have been mowed twice.
- D) Oswego County Legislator Herb Yerdon gave his report.
- Submitted Oswego County EMS, Public Safety Committee, Probation Department and Fire Coordinators Office reports.
 - Oswego County Office for the Aging will be hosting their annual “The Longest Day” event at the Oswego Farmer’s market on Thursday June 20th with a presentation at 5pm
 - Oswego County Office for the Aging will be hosting a senior picnic on Wednesday August 14th at the Mexico VFW
- E) NOCA representative Bob Trainham gave his report. There have been 49 less calls this year verses last year. During EMS week NOCA hosted a celebration dinner for its EMS personnel. During the dinner, calls came in pulling off duty personnel from the dinner to work. NOCA is looking into getting a new ambulance possibly by the end of the year.
- F) Tug Hill Representative Paul Baxter read his report as written.

DISCUSSION: The phone number for the Town of Orwell Offices has changed. 315-634-2246.

- A. Water Project payment application # 3 resolution to pay Edge Civil Corporation \$210,709.82 : The CDBG Grant has released some of the funds awarded to the Town of Orwell.

-A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve Resolution #11-2024 Authorizing Supervisor to sign payment application #3 for the water project. (3 ayes) motion carries.

**Resolution #11-2024
Authorize Supervisor to sign payment application # 3 for water project.
Town of Orwell
Town Board**

WHEREAS, the Town of Orwell Town Board will authorize the Supervisor of the Town of Orwell to sign payment application #3 for the water improvement project.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Orwell Town Board assembled this 11th day of June 2024, in the Town of Orwell, New York, to authorize the Supervisor of the Town of Orwell to sign the payment application # 3 to pay Edge Civil Corporation \$210,709.82 for work done on the water improvement project

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	ABSENT
Councilwoman Jessica Steele	ABSENT
Councilman William Garvin	AYE
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 the resolution is duly adapted by the Board Members of the Town of Orwell at an open meeting of such Board held on June 11th, 2024. In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said Town this 11th day of June 2024.

Amber Wilson, Orwell Town Clerk

B. Comprehensive Plan/Planning Board:

- i. Planning Board Members: At the May 14th, 2024, meeting the Town Board asked for volunteers for a Planning Board. Art Macri, Jim Condon, Sayles VanRy, Bob Trainham, and Jeff Graham have all volunteered.
- ii. ZBA Members: The Town Board is also looking for volunteers for a ZBA (Zoning Board of Appeals) If you would like to volunteer, please contact Supervisor William Potter or Town Clerk Amber Wilson at 315-634-2246.
- iii. Comprehensive Plan Development: The Town of Orwell has a comprehensive plan that was developed and filed in 2001 and it needs to be updated. The cost to update the comprehensive plan is \$50-\$100,000, however there is grant money available. Jay Grasso with G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing can apply for the grant on behalf of the Town. The deadline for this round of funding is the end of July. Supervisor Potter would like approval from the board to allow Jay Grasso to start the funding application.

– A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman William Garvin to approve Jay Grasso and G&G Municipal Consulting and Grant Writing to start the funding application. (3 ayes) motion carries

C. Review Draft for Local Law #3-2024- Orwell solar and wind energy law: Supervisor Potter has requested to table this until the next meeting due to two board members being absent and one board member recusing himself. Bob Trainham asked Councilman Garvin why he is recusing himself. Councilman Garvin responded that he works for National Grid and felt it could be considered a conflict of interest to provide his opinions and vote on a Local Law about energy regulations. Mr. Trainham said he would still like to hear Councilman Garvin's opinions on the Local Law even if he recuses himself from the vote.

D. Water Rates: The Town Board previously discussed and voted to raise water rates for the second billing of water bills. Supervisor Potter proposes leaving the rate at \$175.00 per unit bi-annually and increasing the bill next year. The operating budget for the water department is going to go from \$39,000/year to \$61,000/year starting in January. Jim Condon asked how many more customers were added to the water district. Supervisor Potter responded that per the contract with the Town of Richland, the Town of Orwell is unable to add any new users to the water district. The Town Board is hopeful that the Town of Richland will be open to renegotiating the contract after the water project is completed. Supervisor Potter proposed two options for increasing the water bills. Option 1: increase the bills from \$175 to \$300 /unit semiannually. Option 2: bill quarterly with the amount being \$150/unit every three months. Jim Condon suggested a partial payment option with semiannual billing.

– A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman William Garvin to leave the water rates as they are until January 2025. (3 ayes) motion carries

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 William Garvin and seconded by Supervisor William Potter to approve the May 14th, 2024; Public Hearing minutes as written. (3 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Supervisor William Potter and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the May 14th, 2024; Regular meeting minutes as written. (3 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve the Town Clerk's report for May 2024. (3 Ayes) Motion carries.

-A motion was made by Councilman William Garvin and seconded by Councilman David Lake to approve payment of the following claims. (3 Ayes) Motion carries.

General Fund Abstract #06	Claims #68-84	\$ 10,990.52
Highway Fund Abstract #06	Claims #50-59	\$ 65,104.69
Water Fund Abstract #06	Claims #25-30	\$1,151,085.50

-A motion was made by Councilman David Lake and seconded by Councilman William Garvin to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 PM. (3 Ayes) Motion carries.

Submitted June 18, 2024