

TOWN BOARD  
Regular Meeting  
September 9, 2020

A regular meeting of the Oneonta Town Board was held on September 9, 2020 via Zoom with the following members present:

Councilman: Brett Holleran  
Councilwoman: Patricia Jacob  
Councilman: Randy Mowers  
Councilwoman: Patricia Riddell Kent  
Supervisor: Robert Wood  
Town Clerk: Sara Robinson

Others present: Rob Panasci; Town Attorney

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**PETITIONERS-** Tina Winsted from the Huntington Memorial Library approached the town board with a budget request. Supervisor Wood stated that the budget looks ugly this year but, he plans on supporting the library as much as we can.

Highway/Water & Sewer –

Motion was made by Riddell Kent to accept the bids for the following surplus items. Seconded by Jacob.

Generator- \$1625

80 gallon air compressor- \$370

Wood Furnace- \$82.50

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Change Order on well contract SS Water- Riddell Kent stated that it is not up for discussion this month. Paperwork is not yet prepared. Supervisor Wood stated that it came in around \$1,000.

One well had to be drilled 5ft deeper than the other one. The other one required more screening. It was something that could not have been anticipated. We will have the paper work next month.

Proposed change order to pour floor in the cold storage area- Supervisor Wood stated that Highway Superintendent Hurtubise sent information on a quote for pouring the cold storage area in the new highway garage. No action was to be taken at this time. Mowers stated that we could probably do it in house and save money.

Highway Garage- Mowers stated that the town got a 40 ft. storage container to store stuff so that we don't have to drive on that new floor until we can get moved.

The old garage is set to be demoed on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Supervisor Wood stated that the water has to be shut off for the demo of the old building because that supplies the water to the town hall. It all comes in through the highway garage. When it is demoed we won't have water at the town hall we are anticipating no water on sept 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Paul Neske doesn't want employees in the building because they won't have adequate bathroom facilities. Supervisor Wood asked for

the board to make a decision on how they want to handle that. Discussion followed. Riddell Kent made a motion for employees to use their paid time off that the town already grants. Seconded by Mowers. Wood stated that they can use the form that they want.  
VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Public Safety – Did not meet.

Facilities, Technology, Parks-

Human Resources and Public Benefit-

Legislative- did not meet.

**Attorney-**

Local Law #2 of 2020 requiring face coverings- Wood stated he has had several people contact his office stating that they were seeing people not wearing a mask in stores. Cooperstown has passed a similar law. This law would give store managers and other businesses authority when they have to approach customers not wearing a mask. They can tell people that the town passed a law stating that you have to wear a mask in these times and situations. Holleran asked if it was already a state law. Wood stated it is a law however, there is no enforcement unless you get the Department of Health involved. The Governor is requiring localities to enforce the rule. Wood proposed a change that says any law enforcement officer could enforce it. Jacob stated that she thinks that if you are playing a sport you should wear a mask or not play. If they are healthy enough to play a sport, they can wear a mask. That is the cohort that spreads. They are not symptomatic and these are the people that spread this.

Jacob stated that the other thing she was concerned about was if we were we overstepping, private property. Should we exclude residences, Panasci stated that private property including but not limited to public areas of residential property. Think of someone having a party at their house with 50 people that would be the scenario.

Wood stated that in conversation with Police Chief Brenner, he indicated that they have been assisting in the Otsego County Health Dept. in patrolling about 75 properties who were off campus students who are quarantining because of exposure. He said something to the effect of narrowing it down to about 40 because some other ones are outlying areas. Wood asked if he meant the town and he stated yes. Wood stated that there are house parties occurring in the town. We don't have control over student population that lives in the town. They are a resident like anyone else. Whether they are a student or not they have the same rights as any other person. If they were to come to a party and were not wearing a mask, they could be ticketed just like anyone else.

Wood stated if we want to pass this, it has to be on the desk for seven days. Motion made by Jacob, seconded by Riddle-Kent to set a public hearing on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:30pm.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

**CODE ENFORCEMENT-**

**MISCELLANEOUS-**

The court has asked the Town hire a person to sanitize courtroom and bathrooms after court. The board asked if we were better off with an employee or a private contractor? Wood said he would look into both options.

Motion was made by Jacob for Trish Riddell Kent to attend accounting school. Seconded by Mowers.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

Discussion of local law to override tax cap-

Supervisor Wood stated that he got the fire contract from the city of Oneonta and our cost increase for this year is up approximately \$130,000. Overtime and equipment purchases drove up the cost. Under the tax cap we could increase our tax levy by \$73,000 and that’s because we had a \$50,000 roll over from last year. He stated that it will be very difficult to stay under the cap next year. He wanted the board to be aware of this fact.

Supervisor Wood stated that the Town received the funds from the Bond Anticipation Note to finance the new Highway Garage.

**PETITIONERS-** None.

**MINUTES-** Motion was made by Mowers. Seconded by Jacob to approve the minutes from August 12<sup>th</sup>.

VOTE – Ayes 5, Nays 0      Motion Carried

**BILLS** Motion was made by Riddell Kent to approve the following bills. Seconded by Mowers.

<b>Clerk: Abstract #9</b>		
<b>Voucher Numbers</b>		632-695
	General	\$ 41,559.56
	Highway	\$ 13,040.13
	Street Lighting	\$ 2,262.54
	Highway Garage	\$246,285.15
	Fire Protection	\$ -
	WESD	\$ 1,065.66
	WSSD	\$ 303.30
	SSD	\$ 363.63
	WWD	\$ 1,187.88
	PWD	\$ 49.28
	SSWD	\$664,261.30
	T&A	\$ 1,954.77
		<u>\$972,333.20</u>

Meeting adjourned at 8:09PM

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Robinson  
Town Clerk