

Village of Oriskany

708 Utica Street/P. O. Box 904
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315-736-3512
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Oriskany Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes for December 8, 2020

The Oriskany Village Board of Trustees hosted their monthly meeting via Google Meet teleconference on Tuesday, December 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in pursuance with the emergency suspension of in-person meetings by the Oneida County Executive on December 7 and moved to teleconference in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order 202.1. In attendance were Mayor Clifford O'Connor, Jr.; Village Trustees Paul Rieben, Christopher Burtch, Sean Fortnam and John Kasprzyk; Treasurer Peggy Nugent; Clerk Alexis Albright; Officer Mike Colangelo representing the Oriskany Police Department; Fire Chief Jeff Burkhart; Highway Superintendent Brian Moulton; and County Legislator Bob Koenig.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. The meeting minutes from November were submitted. The Mayor asked that the minutes be amended to reflect that the solid waste contract will be advertised in January and bids will open in February. Trustee Kasprzyk seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben asked if we were still receiving sales tax money from the county; Treasurer Nugent confirmed that we are still receiving sales tax money in monthly increments. Rieben motioned to approve. Trustee Burtch seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Police Chief's report was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried.

The Fire Chief's was submitted. Trustee Rieben motioned to approve. Motion was clarified to include the expense for new jaws of life. Motion was seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried. The Museum Curator's report was submitted. The museum is currently closed to visitors. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to accept the report, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried. The Code Enforcement Officer's report was submitted. Trustee Burtch motioned to accept the report. Seconded by Trustee Rieben. Motion carried.

The meeting entered public comment. County Legislator Bob Koenig said that the sales tax revenue will continue on monthly payments at least until the New Year. (These payments were quarterly before the pandemic.) No other public comment.

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The mayor next went around the table. Trustee Rieben said his topics were already later on the agenda. Trustee Burtch said that FEMA applications are moving forward. Trustees Fortnam and Kasprzyk had no new business.

Officer Colangelo said he would speak to COVID testing under new business. Fire Chief Burkhardt said the fire department has elected new officers. Highway Supt. Moulton said things are well, just waiting on FEMA funding. Curator Albright said that the museum is getting research requests despite being closed. The Oriskany Public Library did not have a meeting this month.

The large scale moratorium was submitted to the village board. The proposed local law must have a public hearing. The board agreed to host the hearing at 6:45 p.m. before their next meeting on January 12, 2021. The village clerk will work with the village attorney's office to arrange the hearing.

As the FEMA application has neared completion, the village learned that the funds will only cover 75% of the repair cost for damages done during the Halloween 2019 flood. The state may cover up to 12.5% but that is a separate application process. The mayor asked the board if the village should apply for a Bond Anticipation Note for \$45,000 to \$50,000, which is roughly 25% with a small margin for unexpected costs. Any overage from the Note would be reapplied to the balance. Trustee Burtch motioned to file for a Bond Anticipation Note for \$50,000 to supplement the FEMA funds. The motion was seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. Motion carried.

The mayor requested a motion to accept the bid from Murphy Excavating for the FEMA work/2019 Flood damage. A motion to this effect was made by Trustee Rieben and seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

The Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority is working on the paperwork for the upcoming trash contract. No new information on the generator maintenance at the municipal building. Trustees have been asked to read the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy and Incident Reporting Policy. They will stop by the village office to sign the acknowledgement form. The village pandemic plan was discussed. The state has asked local governments to have PPE on hand for all essential employees, compile a list of essential roles, and address leave policies for quarantines. These guidelines should be applicable for the current situation and future public health crises.

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The police reform committee has to move forward to meet the state timeline. This will probably have to proceed through virtual meetings for public input. The village will need to send representatives.

Moving on to new business. On-site rapid COVID-19 testing for essential village employees will begin on Monday, December 14 and continue at two week intervals as available from Upstate Family Health Center. Essential workers have had difficulty getting appointments for testing.

The Oriskany Fire Department submitted their new slate of officers. Trustee Rieben made a motion to accept the officers, seconded by Trustee Kasprzyk. All in favor. Motion carried. They also submitted two membership status change requests, for information only. Julianna Behr will shift from Active Member to Associate Member. Lorraine Block will move from Active Member to Life Member.

Whitestown has offered to renew the annual contract with the Oriskany Fire Dept. to cover some of the unincorporated areas of the township. Trustee Kasprzyk motioned to approve the contract, seconded by Trustee Fortnam. Motion carried.

The annual membership for the NY Planning Federation is due. The Treasurer asked if this membership is being used. Trustee Burtch suggested we renew the membership, which provides training and materials for zoning and planning board members. The mayor concurred.

The planning board resignation of Gary Kraeger was submitted. Trustee Burtch motioned to approve the resignation, seconded by Trustee Rieben. A thank you letter will be sent for years of dedicated service.

The next meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the hearing for Local Law #1 of 2021 at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis W. Albright
Oriskany Village Clerk
January 12, 2021