

The Otsego Town Board held a regular monthly meeting on the 9th day of January, 2013 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00 PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Anne Geddes-Atwell	Supervisor
Bennett Sandler	Councilman
Julie Huntsman	Councilwoman
Carl Wenner	Councilman
Thomas Hohensee	Councilman

Also Present:

Michelle Kennedy	Town Attorney
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell called the meeting to order and asked all those in attendance to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to accept the minutes of December 12<sup>th</sup>, December 27<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup> as presented.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell asked for discussion.

Councilwoman Huntsman requested a minor change in one of the MOTIONS in the December 12<sup>th</sup> Minutes. There was no objection from the Board members or Town Clerk.

MOTION CARRIED. All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for public comment.

Fly Creek resident Sheila Ross, referenced an article she saw in a local paper stating that the Village of Cooperstown is putting to a permissive referendum the dissolving of the Village Court. The Village fines would then be processed by the Town Court. She felt that if this comes to pass it would only be fair that the Village be obligated to pay half of the Town Justices salaries.

Councilman Wenner was opposed to the Town Board thanking members resigning their spot on the Town's Planning Board of Zoning Board of Appeals for past service. He was opposed to the Town Board expressing their gratitude because he believes the only reason people want to serve on these Boards is so they can control what their neighbor does or wants to do. He takes offense of anyone who tries to control his or his family's life.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell gave a financial report. Balances are as follow in the various accounts:

General Savings: \$ 4,671.30	General Checking: \$ 660,590.22
Highway Savings: \$ 7,789.00	Hwy Checking: \$ 447,203.57
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,468.44	Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 107,029.32

Councilman Wenner and Councilwoman Huntsman pointed out discrepancies shown in accounts DA-5152.4, DB-5130.4 and B-3610.1.

MOTION by Councilman Sandler, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman to approve the financial report subject to the disputed accounts being corrected.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman to pay the following invoices and make the necessary transfers:

GENERAL:	#1-#19	\$19,092.19
HWY:	#1-#4	\$15,615.23

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board discussed four options laid out by the Town Assessor at a previous meeting readjusting Town assessments. It was the consensus of the Board to see what the Village of Cooperstown's opinion was before rendering a decision.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported responding to one stray dog call since last meeting. Steele also informed the Board that he has also been recently hired by the Town of Hartwick to act as their Dog Control Officer.

In the event a resident complains of a howling dog or dogs Town Attorney Michele Kennedy instructed Steele not to fill out and sign the complaint form but to direct the individual to the Town Court Clerk. The Town Board has decided that the Town does not want to prosecute these cases. The Town Board is willing to prosecute more serious cases such as dog bites. It was the consensus of the Board that Steele will consult with Kennedy on complaints before acting.

Town Attorney Michele Kennedy stated that she has reviewed the 2013 SPCA contract and pointed out significant changes from the 2012 contract. She recommended that the Board place a cost limit on urgent medical treatment during the statutory holding period for each dog. Councilwoman Huntsman agreed to consult with her colleague Veterinarians and be prepared to suggest a cost limit at the February monthly meeting.

Town Attorney Michele Kennedy reported on Planning Board activity. She felt the Planning Board made a very nice impression. They were respectful and maintained a congenial atmosphere. A majority of the Planning Board members do not feel their communications have not been respected by the Town Board such as their recommendation of reappointing Paul Lord. Some of the members are concerned with the continued absence of Planning Board member Joseph Galatti and the constant use of the Planning Board alternate as a result of Galatti's ongoing absence. They also voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Board re-appoint John Phillips to the Planning Board. Before adjourning the Planning Board requested that Chairman Donna Borgstrom write a letter to the Town Board requesting a joint meeting. The Town Board agreed this might serve to be very productive.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell stated that former Planning Board member Paul Lord has asked for an Exit Meeting with the Town Board. After a short discussion the Town Board scheduled to meet with Lord at 6:00PM prior to their monthly meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup>.

Councilwoman Huntsman reported for the Highway Committee. Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan would like to purchase a 1 ton pickup truck to replace the current pick-up truck he is driving. He would also like it made clear how much money in the budget he has to work with. Councilman Wenner explained that Mulligan thinks that unspent 2012 highway money should roll over into the 2013 budget. Councilwoman Huntsman, Supervisor Geddes-Atwell and Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan will meet and collectively sort out what money, if any, was carried over from last years budget.

Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan's written report showed fuel expenses for this month as follow:

FUEL	GALLONS	TOTAL COST/MONTH	YTD GALS	YTD EXP.
Gas	-0	\$ -0-	-0-	\$ -0-
Diesel	-0-	\$ -0-	-0-	\$ -0-
Heating	-0-	\$ -0-	-0-	\$ -0-
Svc.		\$ -0-		\$ -0-

Councilman Sandler reported for the Building and Grounds Committee. He plans to meet with a CSEA representative and let them know that the Town Board has decided to follow PESH's advice on handling the ventilation issue which is to crack the doors approximately 10 inches and let the radiate heat act as a vacuum drawing the fumes from the trucks and machinery outside.

Councilman Sandler plans on meeting with Zoning Enforcement Officer Tavis Austin and Planning Board member Doug Greene to discuss ways to get applications to Planning Board and ZBA members electronically.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell entertained discussion with regards to the ZBA appointment. After a short discussion the following MOTION was made.

MOTION by Councilwoman Huntsman, seconded Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, to appoint Michael Pelcer to the 5 year ZBA member term and Chris Voulo to the alternate position.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilmen Hohensee and Sandler, and Councilwoman Huntsman voted yes. Councilman Wenner voted no.

The Board reviewed the Surplus, Procurement and Ethics Policies. Councilman Wenner proposed that there be a change to the Ethics Policy whereby there should be no nepotism in the Town Offices. As far as appointments to any Boards controlled by the Town Board, there should not be any relatives of the Town Board appointed.

It was the consensus of the Board to make only clerical changes to the existing proposed policies. There was no support for Councilman Wenner's proposed change to the Ethics Policy.

Town Attorney Michele Kennedy submitted final Road Preservation Agreement which the Board reviewed.

MOTION by Councilwoman Huntsman, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to designate the Town Board as Lead Agency for the proposed adoption of the Local Road Use Preservation Law.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilmen Hohensee and Sandler, and Councilwoman Huntsman voted yes. Councilman Wenner abstained.

MOTION by Councilwoman Huntsman, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to designates this action an unlisted action under SEQRA.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilmen Hohensee and Sandler, and Councilwoman Huntsman voted yes. Councilman Wenner abstained.

Town Attorney Michele Kennedy reviewed and completed the SEQRA Full Environmental Assessment Form, along with the SEQR Negative Declaration Form.

MOTION by Councilwoman Huntsman, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to adopt a Negative Declaration for the proposed adoption of the proposed Road Preservation Local Law.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilmen Hohensee and Sandler, and Councilwoman Huntsman voted yes. Councilman Wenner abstained.

It was the consensus of the Board to table voting on the proposed Road Preservation Local Law until the February monthly meeting.

MOTION by Supervisor Geddes-Atwell to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9.25PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk