

The Otsego Town Board held a regular monthly meeting on the 14th day of March 2012 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
Langhorn Keith	Councilman

Also Present:

Shawn Mulligan	Highway Superintendent
Michelle Kennedy	Town Attorney
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell introduced Barbara Thomas from NY D.O.T. Thomas outlined the steps and procedure for the Sidewalk Project Grant awarded to the Town of Otsego in 2005. The Federal Funding remains available up to 10 years. The engineer study that was done in 2003 showed the estimated cost of the project to be \$134,000.00 of which the Federal Government has promised to fund \$107,000.00. Since the engineering estimate was done nine years ago the project may go over \$134,000.00 but the amount promised by the Federal Government will stay at \$107,000.00. The project requires a Sponsor and an Applicant. The Town of Otsego is listed as the sponsor for this project and the Farmer's Museum is listed as the applicant. Thomas stated that the Sponsor is responsible for a majority of the work and making payments for work done. The sponsor then submits receipts for re-imbursement to Thomas and a re-imbursement check is sent. Estimated turnaround time is one month. The Applicant's role is to assist the Sponsor in financing and or implementation of the project.

Steps that need to be taken are as follow:

- Select & hire a consultant
- Design and approve the document
- Acquire the property
- Prepare Contract Documents
- Bid and Award the Project
- Construct and Inspect the Project
- Operate and Maintain Project
- Close Project Agreement

Farmer's Museum representative Joseph Siracusa, stated that the sidewalk will provide safety to visitors by keeping them off the shoulder of State Hwy. 80.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell thanked Barbara Thomas and Joseph Siracusa for their time.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to accept the minutes of February 8th and 28th, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting. Among the correspondence were announcements of liquor license renewals from Porabello's in Fly Creek, Cooperstown Country Club, Inc., Black Ash Holdings, Inc., and RoJo's Stock Market, LLC. The Town Board had no objections.

Councilwoman Huntsman submitted a draft listing Protocol for Town Board Meetings which the Town Board reviewed and discussed. Town Attorney Michelle Kenney encouraged that discussion be limited to the Town Board's scope of duties and power. Further discussion was tabled for the April meeting.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for Public Comment.

Fly Creek resident John Phillips pointed out that on the average only 2 or 3 people ask to speak during the Public Comment period. Phillips raised the question "Doesn't the Town Board have time for us?" Phillips felt that if something isn't broken don't try to fix it and that there is no need for a time limit on public comments.

Phillips stated that he has not heard back from the Town Board concerning a complaint that he lodged two months ago, against the manor interviews were conducted for the Planning Board vacancies.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell told Phillips that no action has been taken on his complaint because neither the Town nor the County has a Code of Ethics Board at the moment.

Fly Creek resident Craig Faurot, asked that additional gravel be put on the north end of Buck Road. The road now is extremely muddy making it difficult to keep his car on the road while traveling home. He pointed out that the south end of Buck Rd. is paved. He is only asking for some gravel.

Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan replied that all the dirt town roads are in the same condition. He will see what he can do.

Councilman Wenner left the conference table and joined the audience to direct a comment to the Board. Wenner stated that he understood why people may not want to hear him rattle on month after month sharing current events on what the latest reckless and irresponsible decision our government has done but continued to do this every month because he didn't think the former Town Board was giving him a chance to express himself during the meeting. He gave credit to the newly elected and appointed Town Board for allowing him to express his opinions. He plans to continue to speak during Public Comment when he feels it necessary, as an ongoing effort to try to make people understand that they should not always rely on government for a solution.

Fly Creek resident Ed Hobbie informed the Town Board that he was familiar with Federal Grants and forewarned the them that the paperwork for the proposed sidewalk in front of the Farmer's Museum will be unreal and not sure the project is worth the aggravation.

Former Town Board Councilman Bill Michaels, stated that as a Town resident and attending Town Board meetings for approximately 20 years found it disappointing that a newly elected Supervisor and three newly elected and appointed Council People determine and control the limiting of public comment to be the topic of discussion and consideration within 3 years of Public Office.

Fly Creek resident Steve Purcell suggested that the Town Board be more generous than a 3 minute time limit during the Public Comment period. He understood that there needs to be guidelines but people that find public speaking difficult may need more time.

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

General Savings: \$ 4,669.04	General Checking: \$ 654,729.69
Highway Savings: \$ 7,785.25	Hwy Checking: \$ 670,573.60
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,371.04	
Hwy Equipment Fund: \$156,943.46	

MOTION by Councilman Keith, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to accept the financial report as given.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner seconded by Councilman Keith, to pay the following invoices and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL: #45-#65	\$28,915.73
HWY: #28-#47	\$44,124.31

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilwoman Huntsman reported for the Gas Committee. She submitted a draft copy of Road Use Law the Village of Cooperstown is considering.

Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan.

Fuel expenses for this month are as follow:

FUEL	GALLONS	TOTAL COST/MONTH	YTD GALS	YTD EXP.
Gas	-0-	\$ -0-	500.0	\$ 1,565.95
Diesel	1,714.1	\$ 6,462.31	2,843.7	\$ 10,710.90
Heating	-0-	\$ -0-	-0-	\$ -0-
Svc.		\$ -0-		\$ -0-

Mulligan submitted truck bid results for the Board to review. Ben Funk Inc. the only truck bid submitted, bids were as follow:

2013 International 7500 4x4 with plow	\$199,741.45
2013 International 7600 4x2 with plow	\$193,037.65

Mulligan explained that Ben Funk Inc. offers a leasing option of 60 months at 3.67% which he would like to take advantage of. If the Board agrees to purchase the trucks the first payment would not be due until January 1st of 2013. The yearly payments for 5 years for the 7500 4x4 would be approximately \$42,885.00 and the 7600 4x2

\$41,470.00. The bid price is good until the Town Boards April meeting. The Town Board tabled further discussion until the April meeting.

Mulligan submitted a proposed Resolution for Shared Services offered by the Village of Cooperstown. The sole purpose of offering Shared Services is to save taxpayers money by avoiding the necessity of purchasing certain needed highway machinery and equipment and the purchasing of a large inventory of extra materials. Mulligan strongly wanted to borrow the Village of Cooperstown's sweeper to use in Fly Creek hamlet.

After a short discussion the Board felt they needed more time to review and consider the proposed Resolution however,

MOTION by Councilman Keith, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to modify the proposed Resolution limiting the Town of Otsego Town Highway Department allowance to borrow the Village of Cooperstown's sweeper for no longer time than May 1st of this year.

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

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Book pg. 97)

Mulligan submitted an Expenditure of Highway Money proposal for the Board to review. Estimated C.H.I.P money allocated to the Town is \$122,605.00.

MOTION by Councilman Keith, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to accept the Expenditure of Highway Money as given.

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

Mulligan informed the Board that he has hired two new employees Justin Pashley and Joseph Hoag, to replace two highway employees, Daniel Bobnick and Larry Thayer.

Councilman Sandler reported that the water test at the new Highway Garage has passed but the following work still needs to be done:

- Electrical panel needs to be labeled
- There are two circuits that are running piggy back and need to be separated out.
- Water lines need to be changed.

Planning and Zoning report was given by Zoning Officer Hank Schecher. Schecher stated that there has been no recent action on the Linden Avenue Project and the County Planning Department has not had much luck producing a Town Zoning Map.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele agreed to keep mileage records for re-imbusement purposes. Supervisor Geddes-Atwell suggested that the Board cancel Steele's pager and use the monthly fee from the pager towards Steele's mileage re-imbusement.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to cancel Steele's pager and use the money budgeted for the pager for Steele's mileage re-imbusement.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell wanted the Board to be aware that the Court Clerk has found that more work is required of her than she initially expected and as a result of that the Town Judges have increased her salary by using money out of their contractual budget.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell stated that the Town of Exeter has asked for the Town of Otsego's support in their efforts to be placed on the NYS Watershed Revitalization Grant List on behalf of the Canadarago Lake Improvement Association. She submitted a Resolution for the Town Board's consideration.

MOTION by Councilman Sandler, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, adopt the proposed Resolution supporting the Town of Exeter in their efforts to be placed on the NYS Watershed Revitalization Grant List.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilmen Keith and Sandler and Councilwoman Huntsman voted yes. Councilman Wenner voted no. The State is offering money it doesn't have driving its current debt even higher and for that reason Councilman Wenner asked that it be noted that is why he is against the acceptance of grant money from the State.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket pg. 98)

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell discussed briefly possible revisions to the Town Ethic Policy.

MOTION by Councilman Keith, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to accept the Town Ethic Policy as amended taking effect immediately with the understanding that if anyone that comes forward with additional language the Town Board will consider it.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilman Wenner reported that he found that the approximate cost of maintaining a road to be \$10,000.00/mile. Councilman Wenner offered to research how much on the average residents on Town Roads pay in Town Taxes to see if that off sets the cost.

Councilman Wenner wanted the Board members to know that he is against the Town accepting lead agency, up fronting the cost of the project and overseeing the sidewalk project in front of the Farmer's Museum. Councilman Sandler agreed to talk to Joseph Siracusa to find out the State requirements for the grant.

MOTION by Councilman Keith, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation concerning Linden Avenue.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilwoman Keith, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation concerning Honey Joe Road.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 10:20PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane
Town Clerk