

The Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly meeting on the 12th day of April 2017 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00 PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Meg Kiernan	Supervisor
Thomas Hohensee	Councilperson
Carina Franck	Councilperson
Bennett Sandler	Councilperson
Joseph Potrikus	Councilperson

Also Present:

John Schallert	Highway Superintendent
Michelle Kennedy	Town Attorney
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Kiernan called the meeting to order and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the March 8th minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Kiernan read correspondence received since last meeting.

Supervisor Kiernan opened the floor for comments.

Rosemary Schelling of Keating Road stated that runoff from Panther Mt. runs through a culvert placed in 2006, and floods her property. Her fear is that the excessive flooding will ruin the septic systems and leach fields in the area. She felt if the Town bought the property now for sale, created a sump and dug a channel for the water to empty into Oaks Creek this would solve the tremendous flooding problem.

Brian Kegelman of Tripp Hill Rd. objected to Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy's statements made to WKTV. He also would like an answer to his FOIL requests.

Attorney Kennedy explained that the Town received his request on Friday and she had five days to respond and thirty days to answer. The answer to his FOIL request lies in his e-mails and there are over 500 of them to be thoroughly reviewed.

- Attorney Kennedy asked Kegelman if he would be amenable to the Town opening the ditches on the far side of Murdock Rd.
- Kegelman answered No
- Attorney Kennedy asked Kegelman if he would be amenable to the Town opening the ditch on the far side of Tripp Hill Rd. and eliminate the berms.
- Kegelman answered that he would prefer the Town purchase an easement.
- Attorney Kennedy wanted to be clear and asked Kegelman if the Town would have to purchase an easement before the town can alleviate the water coming onto his property?
- Kegelman answered yes.
- Attorney Kennedy pointed out that her statement that Kegelman is insisting upon a cash settlement is, in fact, correct.
- Attorney Kennedy asked Kegelman if he would be agreeable if the Town changed out the culvert at the end of his driveway for a larger one to help alleviate future flooding.
- Kegelman answered no.
- Supervisor Kiernan ended further discussion and Kegelman left the meeting.

Supervisor Kiernan closed the floor for public comments.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Kiernan introduced Cooperstown School Superintendent Dr. Crankshaw who gave a presentation of the proposed 2018 School Budget. The school has approximately 900 students and 75 teachers. The proposed budget has three parts- Administrative, Programs and Capital Improvements. Administrative is 3.16%, down from last year. Programs, which consists of 75% of the budget, was increased 4% over last year and lastly Capital Projects which largely covers the debt service, is currently 15% of the budget. The total of the proposed budget is \$19, 610,957.00. The Budget Hearing is scheduled for May 8th at 6:30PM and the vote for the proposed budget will be May 16th starting at 7:00AM at the Cooperstown Central High School.

Supervisor Kiernan thanked Dr. Crankshaw for coming.

Supervisor Kiernan gave a financial report. The Board discussed the following balances in the various accounts:

General Savings: \$ 4,693.95
Highway Savings: \$ 7,826.78
Building Reserve Fund: \$179,743.76

General Checking: \$ 411,187.85
Hwy Checking: \$ 616,678.77
Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 298,026.81

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the financial report.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler seconded by Councilperson Franck, to pay the following invoices, as corrected, and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL:	#54-#71	\$ 3,564.74
HWY:	#49-#72	\$17,025.38

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Dog Control Officer Thomas Steele reported answering 1 running at large call.

Planning Board member Scottie Baker discussed applications the Planning Board is currently reviewing.

Councilperson Sandler reported on the Sustainable Committee. He currently is collecting energy bills from all three Town Buildings. One of the potential improvements that can be used toward the Clean Energy Grant is upgrading street lighting. The first of two options is to wait for NYSEG to go through the public service commission to get approval to implement upgrading street lighting to LED at high efficiency street lighting statewide or the Town could purchase the lamps outright and install its own fixtures. He hopes to have a cost analysis for next months meeting and look into upgrading the insulation for the three Town Buildings. The Board needs to pass a Resolution for the street lighting requesting a base line inventory from NYSEG.

MOTION by Councilperson Potrikus, seconded by Councilperson Franck to request a base line inventory from NYSEG.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: Resolution Docket pg#132

Superintendent of Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent John Schallert. He let the Board know that the town roads are in terrible condition. In reference to Rosemary Schelling's flooding problem, he simply does not have money in the budget to build a sump. Schallert commented that the newly purchased Dodge pickup is running fine. He hopes to have a proposed list of roads to be maintained with CHIPS money for next month's meeting.

Councilperson Franck reminded everyone of the Safety Training meeting on May 2nd at 5:00pm.

Supervisor Kiernan reminded Councilperson Potrikus that he needs to conduct the Court Audit. All other audits done by the remaining Board members have been completed.

Supervisor Kiernan submitted letters from 21 Wiley Town residents asking for a speed limit reduction on Wiley Town Rd.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, requesting NYS D.O.T. conduct a traffic study on Wiley Town Road and consider reducing the speed limit to 40mph.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Potrikus, seconded by Councilperson Sandler requesting NYS D.O.T. considers reducing all roads in the Town of Otsego to 40mph unless otherwise determined from a previous NYS D.O.T. study

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Attorney Michelle Kennedy informed the Board that she had reviewed the MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance) contract. The Town of Springfield's concern was that you have a 60-day window to conduct public hearings, adopt a local law and to decide whether or not to enter into the agreement. The greater concern was with the public notice being effectively given allowing the public to elect not to participate in the program because once the window closes they are automatically in the program. The Board would also be taking a chance that if rates drop or technology improves the town would be locked in at the rate that was contracted.

It was the consensus of the Board to give the agreement a little more thought before voting.

After a short discussion Tire Day was scheduled for May 20th, 8:00AM to Noon. To date MaCarthy offered the lowest disposal cost.

Amanda Berman, who attends the Historic Preservation class taught by Cindy Falk at the Cooperstown Graduate Program, volunteered along with some of her classmates to take a stab at drafting a Historic Preservation Law for the Town of Otsego. The Town Board welcomed the offer.

Supervisor Kiernan wondered if the Highway Superintendent position, which will be on the ballot in the fall, needs a salary increase, with benefits, to attract qualified individuals to run for the position.

After a short discussion it was decided that Supervisor Kiernan will contact other neighboring towns and compare salaries and benefits.

MOTION by Councilman Sandler to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:22PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk