

The Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly meeting on the 10th day of May 2017 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00 PM.

Town Board Members Present:

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

In Supervisor Kiernan's absence Deputy Hohensee called the meeting to order and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Councilperson Potrikus, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the April 12th minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Deputy Hohensee read correspondence received since last meeting.

Deputy Hohensee opened the floor for comments. There was a 5-minute limit per person.

Carl Wenner stated that he was bothered by a complaint made the last time he attended a Town Board meeting. The complaint came from an individual whose neighbor built a deck almost to her property line and not meeting the setbacks specified in the Town's Land Use Law. His opinion was the Town needs to stop getting involved and people have got to start minding their own business.

Joyce Putnam summarized from the beginning, the blatant violations Addison and Boyd Bissell have done and continue to do with the expansion of their property known as Cobblecote on Otsego Lake. The Bissell's illegal expansions have changed the area from residential to commercial, compromising relaxation and use of their own property. Addison and Boyd Bissell's sister, Cheryl Bissell, stood up and stated that she is willing to do whatever it takes to bring Cobblecote into compliance and resolve concerns with Joyce Putnam and her sister Julia Roy.

Brian Guzy complained that there is a lot of traffic going in and out of the house across the road from he and his wife's home on 115 Armstrong Rd. They suspect someone is renting the house and running a daycare facility. It appears at least 10 children are dropped off at this residential dwelling every day.

Zoning Officer Ed Hobbie visited the site and the woman who answered the door would not give her name. He guessed there were also two children inside. Hobbie plans to revisit the home soon with County Code Director Tony Gentile. If a daycare facility is being operated there, proper procedures will be followed to bring it into compliance or it will be shut down.

Deputy Hohensee closed the floor for public comments.

Deputy Hohensee introduced Project Director for Creating Healthy Schools and Communities, Maureen Blanchard. The 5-year initiative, which started in 2015, is to reduce major risk factors of obesity, diabetes, and other chronic diseases in school districts and associated communities statewide and to design and operate safe streets for all operators at all ages. Complete Streets spark economic revitalization, improve safety, and reduce car crashes. She urged the Board to review the Town's Comprehensive Plan and consider drafting a policy that articulates the vision for a modern, effective transportation network that offers safety, access and mobility achieved through a Complete Street approach that recognizes the district character of rural roads and small town Main Street. One example she gave was to have wide sidewalks that improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclist. A community with a complete streets policy ensures streets are designed and operated to make it easy for people to get physical activity as part of their daily routine, helping them stay trim, avoid heart disease, and receive the many other benefits of physical activity.

Deputy Hohensee thanked Blanchard for her presentation.

Deputy Hohensee gave a financial report. The Board discussed the following balances in the various accounts:

General Savings: \$ 4,693.95	General Checking: \$ 363,237.56
Highway Savings: \$ 7,826.78	Hwy Checking: \$ 634,303.39
Building Reserve Fund: \$179,765.91	Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 298,063.53

MOTION by Councilperson Potrikus, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, 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:	#72-#75 #77-#82	\$ 3,042.88
HWY:	#73-#94	\$19,878.55

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Superintendent of Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent John Schallert. Schallert submitted the following roads for the Board's consideration to be improved under CHIP's with pugmill material:

- Keating Rd. 1.7 miles
 - Keys Rd. .5 miles
 - Roses Hill .5 miles
 - Jones Rd. 1.1 miles
- And also
- Replace Tripp Hill Culvert

Schallert stated that the Town would be receiving \$184,347.00 for CHIP's, \$40,537.00 paved NY bonus and an extreme weather reserve fund of \$34,133.00.

Schallert, along with two highway employees, will be overseeing Tire Day scheduled for May 20th, 7:00am-12:00 noon. This will be offered to residents only, 8 tire maximum, no rims.

Schallert reported informing Alex Kleban that he needs an engineer report for his proposed driveway before he will issue a driveway permit.

Councilperson Potrikus held a discussion with the Board concerning alternatives with landscaping the south side of the Town Building. He was in favor of placing a retaining wall made of pavers and shrubs rather than adding mulch and stone up along the building that would only wash out into the driveway. Councilperson Potrikus offered to donate most of the pavers. Highway Superintendent Schallert and Councilperson Potrikus agreed to draw a picture so the Board members could have a visual to consider before rendering a decision.

Planning Board member Rosemary Craig talked about projects currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. The Planning Board has also been discussing definitions that need to be either added or clarified.

Councilperson Franck discussed the possibility of uploading Planning Board Applications and forwarding them to Planning Board Members before their meeting. Supervisor Kiernan has agreed to scan in the applications and get them forwarded to Planning Board Members.

Deputy Hohensee complimented the Planning Board on their diligence of reviewing applications before the meeting.

Councilperson Franck echoed Deputy Hohensee's compliment and added that she appreciated the review of the procedures and steps applicants need to go through.

Councilperson Franck suggested that the Town Board agenda be on the Town's Website before their meeting. She will talk to Supervisor Kiernan to see if she can make that happen.

Councilperson Sanders reported on the Watershed Committee projects. Ninety inspections are planned for this year. Sylvia Summers is currently working toward correcting her failing septic system. All boat inspections are now falling under the Watershed Committee.

Councilperson Franck reminded everyone of the Safety Training meeting with Bob Satriano on May 23rd at 5:30pm.

The Board discussed at great length whether or not to increase the Highway Superintendents salary from \$40,000.00 to \$44,000.00 and offer health insurance thinking this might entice more experienced, competent, individuals to run for the position. Highway Superintendent salaries from other towns in the County were compared with what the Town of Otsego offers.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to increase the Highway Superintendent salary to \$44,000.00 and offer health insurance benefits on the condition coverage would apply through the current health insurance plan or a comparable coverage can be purchased, effective January 1st, 2018.

MOTION CARRIED: Deputy Hohensee, Councilpersons Sandler and Franck voted yes. Councilperson Potrikus voted no. His reason being he did not feel there was enough information available.

The Board discussed the MEGA (Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance) Agreement. No one felt comfortable with being locked into the agreement for three years after the 60 day opt out option passes. The consensus was it could be problematic. No action was taken.

The Board once again discussed the County Highway 26 – NYS Highway 28 intersection in Fly Creek.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to request a traffic study at the Fly Creek intersection of County Highway 26 and NYS Highway 28.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to go into Executive Session for attorney client privilege and to discuss the Bissell and Chase/Hall litigation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (9:52PM)

MOTION by Councilperson Potrikus, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (10:52PM)

MOTION by Councilman Sandler to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 10:52PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk