

The Otsego Town Board held a regular monthly meeting on the 9th day July 2014 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00 PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Anne Geddes-Atwell	Supervisor
Thomas Hohensee	Councilperson
Bennett Sandler	Councilperson
Carina Franck	Councilperson

Also Present:

John Schallert	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.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, to accept the minutes of June 11<sup>th</sup> as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes –Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for public comment.

Joyce Putnam commented that her neighborhood no longer feels residential. Her neighbor, Addison Bissell, continues to expand commercial uses to his property. He now has advertised with the Chamber fine dining, catering, marina, and lodging at their inn. She felt that more enforcement and stronger consequences would stop or at least limit unpermitted activity.

Fork Shop resident Carol Krisch complained that runoff from Bissell Road is now running onto her property filling her back yard with water and debris. Highway Superintendent John Schallert has met with Krisch and has no good answer on how to correct the problem. Councilpersons Franck and Sandler volunteered to examine the problem with Krisch and Schallert to help find a possible solution. An engineer may need to be hired.

Highway Employee Michael Thayer felt the highway employees have a good working relationship with each other and with newly elected Highway Superintendent John Schallert. Priority of work has changed. Thayer stated that he is looking forward working with Schallert for the next three and half years.

Cemetery Road resident Sheila Ross referred to a monthly highway report that was given to her by Councilperson Huntsman at last month's meeting, after she announced that she would be helping Schallert with the highway bills. She strongly disagreed that the Highway Superintendent be responsible for keeping such a detailed record of purchases and spending such as cost and volume of road material, fuel purchases and expenses and overtime cost. She felt the Highway Superintendent duty is to oversee the conditions of town roads. It was her opinion that the Town Board has no authority to micro manage the Highway Superintendent who is, she reminded the Town Board, an elected official. She did not believe the report that was given to her was ever used before by any other Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell presented a folder of the same report submitted by former Highway Superintendents dating back to 1993. It was her opinion that along with maintaining town roads the Highway Superintendent also has an administrative responsibility.

Ross wanted to know the name of the company that was awarded the Town's Revaluation, cost of the revaluation and if the Village of Cooperstown will be contributing to the cost of the Village's portion of the revaluation. Later in the meeting Ross's questions were answered by Councilperson Hohensee and Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy. There were two RFP's submitted. Michael Maxwell offered the lowest quote and was awarded the job. After negotiating further the final cost to the Town for evaluation and data verification will be \$98,000.00.

Ross further expressed her concern with the unsatisfactory well water at the Town Highway Barn and the need for a filtration system.

Fly Creek resident and Planning Board member Joseph Potrikus addressed the issues of spraying organic herbicides along Otsego Lake. The spreading of rock salt is much more harmful to the environment and to the roads. Herbicides disappear after a day or two. Rock salt will stay forever. It will remain in the lake as well as destroy the soil structure. He believes that is why St. Hwy. 80 is collapsing all around Otsego Lake. Supervisor Geddes –Atwell offered to put Potrikus in touch with Village of Cooperstown Mayor Katz, who is working jointly with NYS D.O.T. on this matter.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to close the floor for Public Comment.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

General Savings: \$ 4,674.21	General Checking: \$ 596,603.30
Highway Savings: \$ 7,793.86	Hwy Checking: \$ 743,185.49
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,543.70	
Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 127,881.81	

Town Board members reviewed all bills presented for payment. Councilperson Sandler questioned an overdue heating bill from Mirabito Fuel Group which Supervisor Geddes-Atwell agreed to research. He also questioned a \$300.00 bill from Town Court Clerk Mary Ann Travis for additional transition time. Supervisor Geddes-Atwell stated that \$600.00 was budgeted and \$900.00 has been already spent.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to pay the following invoices excluding voucher 116 to Mirabito Fuel Group and voucher 126 to Town Court Clerk Mary Ann Travis as well as make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL: #115, #117-#125, #127-#129	\$ 29,108.40
HWY: #287-#297	\$ 21,151.16

MOTION CARRIED:

Zoning Enforcement Officer Tavis Austin gave his monthly report discussing Planning Board activity, current zoning violations, and litigations. There were no permits issued in June.

Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy reported that Tavis has issued a STOP Work Order to the Addison Bissell property for two separate actions. Excavation within 500ft of Otsego Lake and the expansion of a deck. Tavis will issue appearance tickets in conjunction with the STOP Work Order for the violations. Mr. Bissell has also been cited by D.E.C.

Highway Superintendent John Schallert gave his monthly report. The highway crew has been maintaining the Town's gravel roads and replacing culverts. Deadlines for applying for CHIP's reimbursements are August 7<sup>th</sup> and November 7<sup>th</sup>. He also stated that going forward he would be glad to submit a highway report.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell submitted a bank resolution for the Board members to review. The bank resolution authorizes Supervisor Geddes-Atwell and Councilperson Thomas Hohensee to deposit and withdraw public moneys with the Bank of Cooperstown.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt the proposed Resolution offered by Supervisor Geddes-Atwell.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket: 122 pg.)

Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy reported that the Village of Cooperstown has agreed to changes made in the Fire Protection and Ambulance Contracts.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to schedule a public hearing for the Fire Protection and Ambulance Contracts with the Village of Cooperstown on August 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to go into Executive Session to discuss litigations before the Town.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.(time: 9:10PM)

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (time: 9:46PM)

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, authorizing Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy to proceed in Town Court regarding the Addison and Boyd Bissell property.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 9:50PM.

The next regular meeting will be at the Town Building in Fly Creek on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane  
Town Clerk