

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 14th day of August 2019 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Meg Kiernan	Supervisor
Carina Franck	Councilperson
Tom Hohensee	Councilperson
Bennett Sandler	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar Sr.	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Kiernan asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Kiernan called the Public Hearing for Local Law #1 authorizing the Town Board to adopt a 2020 budget that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in the General Municipal Law Section 3-c. The floor was opened for comments.

Carl Wenner was opposed to raising taxes.

John Phillips was also opposed to raising taxes.

Supervisor Kiernan explained that the town roads are in serious need of repair and several large culverts need to be replaced. The Town Board has not started on next year's budget and will try to keep the cost down but the equipment replacement and road repair schedules have fallen behind.

Supervisor Kiernan closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, to accept the July 10th minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

Supervisor Kiernan read correspondence received since last month's meeting.

Supervisor Kiernan opened the floor for comments.

Christian Hill resident Bruce Bennett stated that he lives near the Hartwick Town line. Fifteen cabins are being built for weekly baseball rentals. He would like to see the Town Board take a pro-active approach to insure that it does not happen in the Town of Otsego.

Joseph Calleja echoed Bennett's concerns. Both enjoy the peace and quiet they now have and do not want to see an increase in cabins, traffic and/or noise.

Carl Wenner wanted the Town Board to be aware that there is a big island of garbage floating in the Pacific Ocean. This pollution is from all the recycling. Our recyclables are being sent across the ocean to third world countries and it turns out 70% of it is not recyclable. On another subject he felt the Town Board could have handled the Kegelman problem better. The Town Board's job is to listen. Every time he got up to speak he was told to sit down or his time was up. Now Wenner is afraid the court is going to award Kegelman a significant amount of money which Wenner felt could have been avoided had they just listened and worked with Kegelman.

Willow Ave. resident, Sheila Ross, complained that the town highway site looks like a dump with piles of left over black top and old culvert pipe. She has been asking for three years that Willow Ave. be improved to reduce the amount of dust and to fix the pot holes.

Supervisor Kiernan closed the floor for comments.

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

General Savings: \$ 4709.66	General Checking: \$407,514.96
Highway Savings: \$ 7,853.23	Hwy Checking: \$397,637.88
Building Reserve Fund: \$176,689.12	Hwy Equipment Fund: \$369,158.22

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the financial report as presented and make the necessary transfers.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to pay the bills as amended and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL: #118-#131	\$ 6,565.87
HWY: #137-#152	\$ 51,532.56

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Dog Officer Tom Steele reported investigating 4 barking dog complaints and 2 dogs running at large.

Planning Board member Elizabeth Horvath, reported on 1 Public Hearing and 3 Planning Board applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

ZEO Ed Hobbie submitted to the Members of the Town Board a list of permits he has issued since last meeting. Oak River Trailer Park, located at the Hartwick Town Line on State Highway 28 South, has been sold. The new owners have agreed that Auger Road will no longer be the responsibility of the Town of Otsego and will be taken off the Town's Inventory.

Hobbie asked that the Fee Schedule be updated on the Town's website.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar gave the highway report. Some issues discussed were:

- The Bissell Road culvert replacement has been completed and the road has been re-opened.
- Pictures taken during the different stages of the Pierstown Grange and Bissell Road Culverts replacement were submitted for the Town Board to see. (impressive)
- Hribar explained the process of the rock baskets made by the highway employees that were set at the ends of the Bissell Rd. and Pierstown Grange Culverts.
- Paving of the roads covered under CHIP's will start shortly.

Councilperson Sandler reported for the Watershed Committee. The Watershed is on its third round of septic inspections around Otsego Lake. The State has sprayed in June the first round of a non-round up application to kill the woody vegetation along Otsego Lake. The State plans to spray an organic spray to control poison ivy along State Highway 80 in August.

Councilperson Hohensee will check in with Otsego County Homeland Security Coordinator, Bob Satriano, and see what Safety Classes are being offered in the near future.

Councilperson Sandler reported for the Finance Committee. Most of the 2019 Budget is on target. The Town Board reviewed and discussed some of the highway accounts showing to be over-spent.

Supervisor Kiernan asked for discussion on the proposed Local Law #1 for 2019 allowing an override of the 2% cap.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to adopt Local Law #1 authorizing the Town Board to adopt a 2020 budget that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise proscribed in the General Municipal Law Section 3-c.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Franck, Sandler, and Hohensee voted yes. Councilperson Potrikus was absent.

The Town Board scheduled a 2020 Town Budget Workshop for September 5th from 5:30PM to 6:30PM.

MOTION by Supervisor Kiernan, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to go into Executive Session to discuss a Litigation matter.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:44PM)

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor (9:02PM)

Supervisor Kiernan reported that she was told by the Board of Elections that going down to one justice is covered by Town Law Section 60-a (2). In order to reduce the number of judges the town board must adopt a resolution,

subject to permissive referendum. The one tricky component of it is timing. You cannot eliminate a town justice position during the term of the justice you are attempting to eliminate. If one of your two justices resigns, by operation of law a vacancy is created which will appear on the ballot in the next election cycle. If somebody is elected to that position you then have to wait four years to eliminate the position.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:03PM

Next Regular Meeting will be September 11th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk