

The Otsego Town Board held a regular monthly meeting on the 8th day October, 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
Julie Huntsman	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 Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the minutes of September 10, 15, 23, 30 and October 6 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes –Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting. Among the correspondence was:

- A letter from Steve Purcell thanking the Town Highway crew and Highway Superintendent John Schallert for improvements made to Brick House Road where he and his wife reside.
- A letter from NYS informing the Town Board that the Towns equalization rate is now 122.03 and
- A series of letters from residents concerned with NYS government claiming ownership of residences along Otsego Lake, on State Highway 80, without proof of ownership.

County Representative Rick Hulse mentioned that Otsego 2000 and Senator Seward are now working with home owners who have been threatened by NYS D.O.T with the loss of their homes.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for public comment.

Comments of concerns, suggestions, and complaints were made by Fly Creek residents Joseph Potrikus, Sheila Ross and John Phillips. John Phillips suggested placing ceramic heaters in the offices of the Town Clerk and Supervisor and at the same time reducing the heat in the building to cut heating cost in the Town Building. Sheila Ross felt the September minutes should have mentioned that the Board had granted permission that the spare copier in the Town Building be moved to the Highway Department. She also was concerned that the voting machine is not in a locked room before or after the election. Joseph Potrikus pointed out that the spelling of the word “dam” was incorrect when referencing Canadarago Lake Dam in the July or August minutes. Instead it was spelled “Damn”. He also mentioned that the Planning Board had difficulty in operating the copier. In closing he closed by complementing the Highway Superintendent and Highway Employees for all the major improvements made to the Town roads.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, 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: \$ 4,676.42	General Checking: \$ 535,368.11
Highway Savings: \$ 7,797.55	Hwy Checking: \$ 761,260.27
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,616.85	
Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 76,719.45	

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Huntsman, to accept the financial report as given.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to pay the following invoices as well as make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL:	#158-#167	\$ 16,080.39
HWY:	#327-#346	\$ 208,881.14

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Geddes-Atwell, Councilpersons Hohensee, Franck and Huntsman voted yes. Councilperson Sandler abstained.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell reported that Town Assessor Rich Maxwell informed her that the Town revaluation is on schedule and the data collection should be done by year-end.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Tavis Austin gave his monthly report discussing Planning Board activity, current zoning violations, and litigations. The following permits were issued since last meeting:

Zoning Permits: 4

Planning Board member John Phillips reported that Engineer Jon McManus conducted for all Planning Board members a steep slope training class, complete with a manual. Phillips went on to say that the State of Vermont encourages development on slopes as an effort to reserve farm land.

Richfield Springs Town Supervisor Frances Enjem and President of Canadarago Lake Association Ryan Fagan, spoke on their concern that invasive species will be brought into Canadarago Lake by boats. These species multiply fast and are impossible to get rid of. Once a lake is ruined it cannot be fixed. Four thousand boats were inspected between May and September of this year by inspectors hired by the Canadarago Lake Association. Canadarago Lake gets a lot of boat traffic because of the state's boat launch there. Enjem feels there is a great need for a boat wash. The way it would work is that the boats would be washed before entering the lake and tagged when coming out of the water. Only boats with tags that have been broken would have to be washed again before reentering the lake. He asked the Board if they would be willing to contribute to the cost of a boat washing station. Total estimated cost would be about \$25,000.00.

Enjem agreed to generate and submit a letter to Senator Seward and Assemblyman MaGee asking for help in funding the project. The Board agreed to consider signing the letter showing their support.

Councilperson Huntsman submitted a Resolution for the Board's consideration. The Resolution opposes the expansion of natural gas infrastructure in NYS and protests the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's (FERC) limited public hearing and review of Dominion Transmission, Inc. proposed "New Market Project"

MOTION by Councilperson Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt the proposed Resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket pg. 124).

Highway Superintendent John Schallert asked if there was a change of heart about the copier. Councilperson Sandler felt that the copier had more value than the cost of a new small office size one. Schallert felt the copier from the Town Building was too big for his office. Councilperson Sandler will order him a small copier.

Schallert reported that all the roads scheduled under the CHIP's project have been done.

Schallert further reported that Smith Ford has contacted him about a used 2010 pickup truck they have just gotten in. The two Town pickup trucks are in rough shape and he would like authorization to bid a pickup truck comparable to the one Smith Ford has.

After a short discussion it was agreed that Schallert will get the truck specifications to Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy immediately in order to schedule the bid opening, along with a budget workshop for October 21st at 6:00.

Attorney Michelle Kennedy submitted for the Board to review, a Local Law regarding the Procurement of Goods and Service whereby the Town Board may award purchase contracts and service contracts that have been procured pursuant to competitive bidding under General Municipal Law & 103, not only by the lowest responsible bidder but also by the best value standard.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to set a public hearing for the proposed Local Law # 2 for November 12th at 7:00PM.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (time: 8:47PM)

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (time: 8:53PM)

MOTION by Councilperson Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, authorizing the Town Attorney to propose a settlement offer in the Hummel matter that would require complying with the granted 5ft. setback variance on the south side of the property and that they would submit applications for required variances and site plan approvals.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 8:55PM.

The next regular meeting will be at the Town Building in Fly Creek on the 12th day of November, 2014 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane
Town Clerk