

The Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly meeting on the 10th day of October, 2012 at the Town Building, Fly Creek, NY at 7:00 PM.

Town Board Members Present:

Anne Geddes-Atwell	Supervisor
Bennett Sandler	Councilman
Julie Huntsman	Councilwoman
Carl Wenner	Councilman
Langhorne Keith	Councilman

Also Present:

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 Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to accept the minutes of September 12th, and September 17th, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting. Among the correspondence was a letter from attorney Robert Birch stating that Magnale LLC DBA B&B Ranch is, at the request of the NYS Liquor Authority, resubmitting an amended liquor license. They have been asked to change the categorization from B&B and Sportsman's Club to Hotel because allowing club members to have access to the bar and the pool/spa area doesn't fit within its definition of B&B. Birch reassured the Town Board that Mr. Giombetti, owner of the Magnale LLC DBA B&B Ranch, understands that his B&B and Sportsman's Club is still subject to the Town's Zoning Laws and that he will not be operating a "hotel" on the premises and will not host more than ten transient lodgers in no more than five rooms which would stay in keeping with the Town's regulations of a B&B. The Board had no objections.

The Town of Richfield Springs sent notification that they will be holding a Public Hearing on proposed Local Law #1 of 2012 "Imposing a Moratorium on Certain Industrial Land Uses within the Town of Richfield" on October 15th at 6:00PM at the Richfield Springs High School.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for public comment.

County Representative John Kosmer stated that the County Board reported that the County Board passed a resolution in favor of a gas pipe line in spite of all the public outcry against it. He expressed his disappointment that the vote was not bi-partisan. It played out as old backroom politics.

Orlo Burch stated that he remembered, when on the Town Board, the Town Board sent a letter of support for the construction of a gas line to come down State Highway 28 from Richfield Springs, through Cooperstown and down to Milford.

Councilman Wenner stepped away from the table and expressed his gratitude to the Board for listening to his comments. He still strongly believes that it is not wise for people to look to government for solutions. He feels that the Town Board, at some point, needs to take a stand and back off.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell outlined that timeline in which the Tentative Budget needs to be finalized and sent to public hearing. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Board to schedule budget workshops on October 17th and 24th at 6:00PM at the Town Building.

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

General Savings: \$ 4,670.13	General Checking: \$ 598,564.28
Highway Savings: \$ 7,790.46	Hwy Checking: \$ 557,116.95
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,371.04	Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 206,986.19

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to accept the financial report as given.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to pay the following invoices and make the necessary transfers:

GENERAL: #174-#185	\$17,108.81
HWY: #132-#149	\$39,896.73

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Board discussed options for updating the assessment roll and budgeting for the process. Councilwoman Huntsman felt Assessor Marie Walters was suggesting that Data Verification would be enough. A revaluation of all Town and Village properties was recently done resulting in fewer inconsistencies in each properties data and more cost effective. Councilman Sandler felt updating the assessments by method of Validation might be a better way to go since the last reval was only five years ago. Councilman Wenner suggested including the school and Village in the decision and see if they would share in the cost.

It was decided to start a reserve in the Town Budget to be there to cover the cost regardless what direction the Board decides to go.

Town Zoning Enforcement Officer Tavis Austin reported on Planning Board activity. Councilman Keith felt that the site plan review process would be better served if the ZEO first reviewed the application and once the applicant has submitted all that is required, and the application is complete, present it along with any recommendations, to the Planning Board.

Austin requested permission for a \$500.00 computer from Staples. The Board had no objections.

Austin stated that there seems to be a lot of illegal signs and banners. He asked the Board for some direction as far as enforcement. Councilman Keith asked Austin to make a list of signs that are actually being used. Once that is completed Councilman Keith suggested that the Board may want to hold a sign workshop to review the law that is currently in place, the signage that is up, and whether or not the law should be revised.

Austin reported that he investigated inquiries concerning Councilman Wenner's newly build barn and found that he has an agricultural exemption and therefore did not need a zoning permit from the Town.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported having one call and he picked up one stray dog this month.

Councilman Sandler was asked to give a Building and Grounds report. He recommended that an emissions test be done at the new highway garage on Cemetery Road. The Board had no objections.

The Board discussed Joseph Galati's absence at the monthly Planning Board meetings.

MOTION by Councilman Sandler, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to appoint Donna Borgstrom Planning Board Chairman during Galati's absence.

MOTION CARRIED: all were in favor.

The Board will revisit the chairman position at the January Organizational meeting.

Councilwoman Huntsman stated that James and Suzanne Renkens requested that the 55mph and 45mph sign located at the intersection of County Highway 22 and the northern end of Marble Rd. be moved to the intersection of County Highway 22 and the southern end of Marble Rd. Supervisor Gedde-Atwell asked Councilwoman Huntsman to bring in a diagram next month so the Board could have a better understanding of what the Renken's were requesting.

Councilwoman Huntsman further reported that Highway Shawn Mulligan would like the Board to consider replacing two trucks next year.

Councilman Wenner reported meeting with Mulligan and asking him if he was worried about any highway equipment being stolen due to the absence of the former fence. Mulligan assured Councilman Wenner that anything theft worthy has been put away inside the building.

Highway Superintendent Shawn Mulligan's written report showed fuel expenses for this month as follow:

FUEL	GALLONS	TOTAL COST/MONTH	YTD GALS	YTD EXP.
Gas	-0-	\$ -	1,835.0	\$ 5,915.24
Diesel	1,228	\$ 4,292.53	11,384.2	\$ 40,832.08
Heating	-0-	\$ -0-	-0-	\$ -0-
Svc.		\$ -0-		\$ -0-

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell submitted a proposed Resolution rescinding Resolution #93 whereby the Town declares to be Lead Agency for a grant that will cover the cost of a sidewalk in front of the Farmer's Museum.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilwoman Huntsman, to rescind Resolution #93.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: Resolution Docket pg 106.

Councilwoman Huntsman and Town Attorney Michele Kennedy submitted a proposed Local Law #2 of 2012 "Local Road Use Preservation Law" which the Board reviewed and discussed. Councilman Wenner suggested a sunset clause be added so in the event the law turns out to be unpopular and ineffective it will just run out. If it works well then simply re-adopt it.

Councilwoman Huntsman felt as members of the Town Board it was their fiduciary duty to protect town roads and equipment which are the two most costly items in the Town's budget. It was her opinion that this proposed road use preservation law does exactly that.

A Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law was set for November 11th at 7:00PM.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Keith, to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning the Planning Board.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, seconded by Councilman Sandler, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilman Wenner, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:01PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk