

The Otsego Town Board held combined public hearings and regular monthly meeting on the 12th day of November 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
Julie Huntsman	Councilperson

Also Present:

John Schallert	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell called the Public Hearings to order. She opened the floor to hear public comments on the proposed 2015 Tentative Budget.

Sheila Ross felt that the highway employee's salaries were not in line with what other departments within the Town and surrounding Towns were receiving and strongly urged the Board to look at increasing their salaries.

There were no more comments from the public.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Huntsman, to adopt the proposed Tentative 215 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

It was pointed out by Fly Creek resident Carl Wenner, that the Board cannot vote during a Public Hearing. MOTION was rescinded.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor to hear public comments on proposed Local Law #1 Best Buy Procurement and proposed Local Law #2 Disposal of Waste associated with natural gas and oil exploration or extraction. There were no comments from the public.

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 close the Public Hearings.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Sandler, to accept the minutes of October 8th, 23rd, and 27th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes -Atwell read correspondence received since last meeting.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell opened the floor for comments from the public.

Highway employee Michael Thayer shared his household budget with the Town Board showing that it is difficult to raise a family on his current salary. New employees are trained and then some use that training to get higher paying jobs. Thayer went on to say that he has been approached to run in the future for the Highway Superintendent position. Unless the positions salary increases and health insurance is added to the package he will not consider running. In closing, he asked the Town Board to consider raising the salaries of the highway employees.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell disclosed that she had previously asked the highway's CSEA Union Representative Jerry Phalen if the Board could legally increase the highway employee's salaries while they are under contract. Phalen had no problem with that.

Richard Carr advocated for the highway employees getting raises. They are on call all winter and summoned to go out all hours of the day or night to plow and sand the town roads. We are fortunate to have dedicated, talented employees working for the town. He has seen them take used equipment and totally rebuild it, probably saving the Town 85% from buying something new. He encouraged the Board to do the right thing and take care of them.

Carl Wenner made reference to a news report alerting the public of lies that were told by our government to sell the public on the proposed healthcare system. He felt that government doesn't do a lot of things well. The Towns only business should be taking care of town roads and keeping in line with the state.

Sheila Ross commended the highway employees and encouraged the Board again, to raise the highway

employee's salaries.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Brian Kegelman asked to meet with the Town Board to discuss work done by the Town Highway employees on Tripp Hill Road, adjacent to his property. He informed the Town Board that when the Town Highway crew replaced four existing pipes with larger pipes, added an additional new pipe, and dammed the drainage ditch on far side of Tripp Hill Road, the volume of water entering his pond potentially increased by 350%. He stated that this amount of water would be expected to flow through his pond and brook and enter a conduit under his driveway that would be significantly smaller than the anticipated volume and that the culvert under Tripp Hill Road would be under the same challenge. He also added that in addition to changing the flow of water being directed onto his property the Town had trespassed onto his property by exceeding their 25 foot right-of way by 24 feet and that the work they did included dumping fill into the pond, a total of 40 feet into the pond from the center of the road and the digging of a 50 foot trench into his property. Another concern Mr. Kegelman had was with the change in the water flow off of Murdock Road which contributed to significant flooding on his property in 2013, causing over \$5,000 in damages to his swimming pool. Mr. Kegelman stated that due to Highway Superintendent John Schallert's actions, the Town of Otsego has affected an illegal taking of his property, which entitles him to compensation from the Town.

The Town Board agreed to hire an engineer to assess the problem and offer a solution.

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

General Savings: \$ 4,676.42	General Checking: \$ 515,839.49
Highway Savings: \$ 7,797.55	Hwy Checking: \$ 539,688.50
Building Reserve Fund: \$150,654.60	
Hwy Equipment Fund: \$ 76,728.91	

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 Sandler, to adopt the proposed Tentative 2015 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt proposed Local Law #1 Disposal of Waste associated with natural gas and oil exploration or extraction.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Huntsman, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt proposed Local Law #2 "Best Value" Procurement.

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: #168-#188	\$ 100,062.30
HWY: #346# 362	\$ 28,755.85

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Thomas Steele gave Dog Officer report. Since last month he received 1 complaint of dogs running at large.

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:

Site Plan Review: 1 Stop Work Order: 1

Highway Superintendent John Schallert gave his highway report. All necessary documents have been sent in for the Town's \$199,174.46 CHIP's re-imbusement. Schallert also requested that a charge account be established at the Fly Creek General Store so "no ethanol gas" can be purchased to run town lawn mowers, weed eaters and chain saws. The Board had no objections.

Schallert asked the Boards permission to sell 2 air compressors. The Board had no objections.

Arlene Knapp asked if the Board had done anything in the way of resolving the dismantling or stabilizing of Mark McGoey's dam off of Honey Joe Road.

Highway Superintendent John Schallert agreed to talk to Mr. McGoey and see what his intentions are concerning stabilizing or dismantling the dam.

Schallert stated that he was approached by Village of Cooperstown Department Works Superintendent Brian Clancy, asking if the Town would allow the Village of Cooperstown to purchase fuel from the Town. The Board had no objections. Keys will be made and the fuel pump computer will be programmed so the Village can have their own account.

Schallert stated that Willow Avenue is not currently on the Town's inventory and therefore not eligible for CHIP reimbursement for improvements. The Town Clerk will research the Town's resolutions referencing the addition of the avenue to the Town's inventory.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell proposed a Resolution supporting residents along the west side of St. Hwy. 80 from NYS DOT threatening to take their homes without proof of ownership.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Huntsman, to adopt the proposed Resolution supporting residents along Otsego Lake on St. Hwy 80.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket pg. 124)

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell submitted the 2015 SPCA Contract for the Board's consideration.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Huntsman to approve the 2015 SPCA Contract, contingent on Town Attorney Michelle Kennedy's review and approval.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Geddes-Atwell told the Board that the Historical Society has requested to print their newsletters in color. After a short discussion it was decided that the Town Clerk would get an estimated cost to run the newsletter in color.

It was also decided to schedule a combined Town's Year-End and Organizational Meeting on December 29th at 5:00PM.

MOTION by Councilperson Sandler, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to appoint Richard McCaffery to the Village Library Board.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Supervisor Geddes-Atwell to adjourn.

Meeting ended at 10:30PM.

The next regular meeting will be at the Town Building in Fly Creek on the 10th day of December, 2014 at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane
Town Clerk

