

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 9th day of December, 2020 at 7:00PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Meg Kiernan	Supervisor
Suzanne Olson	Councilperson
Tom Hohensee	Councilperson
Carina Franck	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to adopt the minutes of November 11th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Hohensee, Olson and Franck, voted yes.

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

Supervisor Kiernan opened the floor for comments.

Carl Wenner wanted to educate those not familiar with the Tuskegee Study. Negro males with syphilis during 1932 to 1970 were refused treatment. Penicillin was founded in 1940 and still male Negroes were not treated. The men were told the study would take 6 months but the study actually went on for 40 years. Wenner thought that to be worse than slavery maybe even the same or equal to murder.

Wenner also submitted to the Town Clerk an article entitled "Reasons why the 2020 Presidential Election is Deeply Puzzling". / Spectator USA.

Councilperson Hohensee stated that case studies now use the Tuskegee Study as a training model. A lot has been learned from the Tuskegee Study which is used to prevent this from ever happening again.

Joseph Potrikus stated that he has made a couple of observations that he found disturbing.

- His first concern was how short the meetings are now. He did not think that less discussion was in the best interest of the town when making town business decisions.
- Secondly he was appalled to see that the Land Use Law now requires homeowners to obtain permission to mow their lawn.
- Thirdly he was astounded to read that one of the new amendments to the Land Use Law states that homeowners cannot let their plants get over 3ft. tall. So does that mean people who have an 80ft. tree in their yard have to cut it down to 3 ft.?
- He found it amazing that not one democrat has acknowledged President Trump for the job he has done in expediting a vaccine against Covid in record time.
- And lastly he found it amazing that other than the Town Supervisor no Councilperson has acknowledged him for his efforts in getting the grant for the new dump truck. It was his opinion that if it weren't for him the town would never have received the grant.

Councilperson Franck felt the entire Town Board was grateful for his efforts but would also like to thank Supervisor Kiernan for her countless hours in filling out and submitting the extensive grant application. She felt the Town Board worked as a team.

Supervisor Kiernan closed the floor for further comments.

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

General Savings:	\$ 4,718.30	General Checking:	\$226,893.44
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,866.98	Hwy Checking:	\$639,187.10
Building Reserve Fund:	\$173,398.41	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$ -0-
Building Reserve CD:	\$-0-	Hwy Reserve CD:	\$ -0-

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

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Hohensee, Olson and Franck voted yes.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to pay the bills and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL:	#135-#149	\$ 13,284.97
HWY:	#423-#437	\$ 35,289.71

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Hohensee, Olson and Franck voted yes.

Supervisor Kiernan read ZEO Jess Lanza's report. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:

<i>Zoning Permits: 2</i>	<i>Driveway Permit: 1</i>	<i>Variance: 1</i>
<i>Site Plan Review: 1</i>	<i>Stop Work Order: 1</i>	

Highway Superintendent William Hribar reported on highway concerns and work done since last month's meeting.

- Reported that a car had collided into one of the plow trucks. No tickets were issued. More importantly there were no injuries.
- Lights at the new garage have been scheduled to be replaced
- CHIP's for next year is reported being only a total of \$67,000.00
- New tires are needed for some of the trucks totaling \$6,000.00
- The cracked windshield on the HWY Superintendents truck is scheduled to be replaced next week.

Councilperson Hohensee stated that he would like to see the Safety Committee start up again in January. Hribar agreed.

Planning Board member Ted Feury reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Kiernan shared a letter she received from Rail Explorers CEO Mary Joy Lu. Rail Explorers is planning on opening a new division in Milford, in partnership with the Cooperstown & Charlotte Valley Railroad. They plan on investing a significant amount of money to create a safe, fun family attraction for the region by conducting guided group tours on railbikes along the railroad track. The bridge was abandoned many years ago by the Town of Otsego and the Town of Middlefield. Rail Explorers recognizes the bridge having historical value and would like to restore the bridge and reopen access for pedestrian traffic. She was asking for the Town Boards help in getting permission to use the bridge. Supervisor Kiernan volunteered to research the situation and find out who now owns the bridge.

Supervisor Kiernan submitted the 2021 SPCA Contract for Town Board members to review.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to authorize Supervisor Kiernan to sign that SPCA Contract as written.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Hohensee, Olson, and Franck, voted yes.

Supervisor Kiernan submitted a Resolution where by the Town Board adopts NYS's New Record Retention Schedule effective January 1st.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to adopt NYS's Newly Updated Record Retention Schedule.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Kiernan, Councilpersons Hohensee, Olson, and Franck, voted yes.

After short discussion it was agreed that the Town Board would meet by ZOOM to finish year-end business on December 29th at 6:30PM.

MOTION by Councilperson Olson, to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:10PM.

Next meeting will be December 29th at 6:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk