

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a combined Public Hearing and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 8th day of February 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Benjamin Bauer Supervisor
Tom Hohensee Councilperson
Chris Kjolhede Councilperson
Matthew Zwissler Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green Attorney
William Hribar Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer asked everyone in attendance to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bauer called the Public Hearing to order. He explained that the Public Hearing was so the Town Board could hear public comments concerning the proposed Land Use Law amendments. After clarifying the additions and changes he opened the floor for comments.

Maryann Wheeler asked if these changes would affect anyone wanting to breed dogs. Supervisor Bauer did not think so.

Chris Voulo has 150 acres and objected to his land losing its agricultural status because he is not using the land for commercial purposes. What he grows and what he raises is for his own use.

Supervisor Bauer explained to Mr. Voulo that he is misinterpreting the proposed statement change. The intent is that all commercial uses count as agricultural uses and non-commercial raising of livestock also counts as an agricultural use. All other uses such as the growing of plants does not count as a commercial use.

Sheila Ross felt that people who have been housing livestock on and off for many years should not be forced to get rid of their animals.

Jerry Miller stated that he would like to apply for a Special Permit to build a house in the General Business District.

Antoinette Kuzminski wanted to first thank Supervisor Bauer and ZEO Wiley Phillips for all the work they put into the proposed Land Use Law amendments. That said, she pointed out that with the land around the lake becoming more and more valuable people are building larger homes. She felt the addition of the word VOLUME would alert the applicant and Planning Board to the fact that we are trying to contain a level of openness around the lake. She would like to go on record that "Volume" as externally measured be added to the phrase footprint and dimensions in Section 4.04.

May Leinhart stated that the Planning Board is asking that the Town Board clarify how to measure height. The Building Code uses the midpoint of grade to the highest part of the roof. The only issue with that is in the Special Lake Protection District 500 ft. from Otsego Lake the grade is very steep. So, when you measure from such a steep grade you could theoretically have a house 50ft. tall. The Planning Board is requesting that the Town Board make special revisions for the Special Lake Protection District where height is taken from the lowest part of the foundation.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer call the regular monthly meeting to order.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of January 11th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Chris Voulo asked the Town Board to consider passing a Local Law allowing Fly Creek Fire Fighters that reside in the fire district a property tax exemption. He felt this incentive would help keep the current service viable. If the volunteer Fire Company doesn't stay viable the Fire Company will go to a paid service that will show up on everyone's tax bill.

Supervisor Bauer closed the floor for further comments.

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

General Checking:	\$538,763.95	Hwy Checking:	\$773,934.17
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,384.70	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$239,602.19
ARPA:	\$180,717.28		

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the financial report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to pay the bills and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL:	#13-#27	\$ 13,635.11
HWY:	#1-#21	\$ 39,671.03

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer read ZEO Wylie Phillips' report. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:

Zoning Permit: 1

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported that there had been 1 running at large dog complaint and 1 barking dog complaint.

Planning Board Member Elizabeth Horvath, reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Bauer asked for discussion concerning the Fire/EMS tax deduction offered by N.Y.S. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of the Town Board to hold a Public Hearing on February 22nd at 7:00 PM to hear public comment on the subject.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar gave the Highway Superintendent report.

- ⌚ Catherine Brady is still waiting for a Release From Injury Agreement to protect her in the event a highway employee is injured while cutting down trees on her property on Murdock Rd.
- ⌚ Cook Rd. needs to be taken off the CHIP's schedule because it does not meet criteria. He is now planning to use the money elsewhere.
- ⌚ Estimated cost to pave one mile of road this year is \$99,000.00,

Supervisor Bauer reported interviewing Ann Cannon for the Planning Board. After hearing details of the interview, it was the consensus of the Town Board to interview her also for the 7 yr. Planning Board vacancy. They are still in need of a volunteer for the alternate vacancy.

Supervisor Bauer reported that the County Planning Board has not yet submitted their report on the Town's Land Use Law proposed changes. They are allowed one month to submit their decision. Until then the Town Board cannot vote on the proposed changes.

Councilperson Hohensee recommended, after reading over the Towns Code of Ethic Policy, that the Policy remain unchanged.

Supervisor Bauer recommended that the Bank of Cooperstown be added to the Investment Policy.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to leave the Town's Code of Ethics Policy as is and add The Bank of Cooperstown to the Investment Policy.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer asked for discussion concerning the Linden Ave. Municipal Boundary Adjustment (Annexation). It was decided after a short discussion that Supervisor Bauer and Town Attorney Will Green will talk to Village Attorney Martin Tillapaugh to see where the Town goes from here. A Joint meeting of the Town Residents and the Village of Cooperstown Residents was set for March 22nd at the High School at 7:00 PM.

Supervisor Bauer submitted an Information Technology (I.T.) Contract from Upstate Technology, which was reviewed by the Town Attorney and Town Board Members.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to adopt the I.T. Support Contract offered by Upstate Technology.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:30 PM

Next meeting will be March 8th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk