

A joint informational meeting of the Town of Otsego Town Board and the Village of Cooperstown Board of Trustees was held on the 22nd day of March 2023 at 7:00 PM at the Cooperstown High School, Cooperstown NY.

Town Board Members Present:

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

Village of Cooperstown Trustee Members Present:

Ellen Tillapaugh	Mayor
Cindy Faulk	Deputy Mayor
Joseph Membrino	Trustee
Richard Sternberg	Trustee
Sydney Sheehan	Trustee
Hanna Bergeme	Trustee
George Sanelli	Trustee

Also Present:

Will Green	Town Attorney
Martin Tillapaugh	Village Attorney
Jenna Utter	Village Clerk
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer call the meeting to order and asked everyone in attendance to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Bauer turned the meeting over to Mayor Tillapaugh. Using a power point Mayor Tillapaugh showed how the northern end of Linden Avenue is in the Town of Otsego and the southern end is in the Village of Cooperstown. There are five municipal owned tax-exempt properties connected to one another located in the Town of Otsego portion of Linden Ave. The County Highway Garage, Village Highway Garage, Village Parting Lot (Blue), Linden Ave. and the Railroad totaling approximately 8 1/2 acres. Mayor Tillapaugh thought it in the best interest of the Town if the Town line were moved putting these three properties in the Village of Cooperstown. Some of the reasons she listed were:

- **Public Safety** – The Village has their own Law Enforcement which only has the authority to patrol and enforce within the Village of Cooperstown. The Town has no Law Enforcement.
- **Maintenance** – The Village has been absorbing the cost to maintain the sidewalks, the plowing, paving, and painting all cross walks on Linden Ave. without a Shared Service Agreement with the Town of Otsego.
- **The monthly charge is double** for those living in the Town of Otsego and wanting to tie in with the Village water and/or sewer line.
- **Lack of housing is important**-The County is planning on moving the County Highway facility. Once it is moved and environmental remediation has been done and passed, and the County has configured a way to pay for a new facility with an estimated cost of \$50,000,000.00, they will be able to sell the property. The Village has been very successful in securing grants and Mayor Tillapaugh is confident the Village can assist in applying for funding. She did admit that in all probability it will take a lot of years before the County is ready to sell the property.
- **The County property is zoned Commercial** and allows for Apartment Housing and one- and two-family dwellings which are much needed. The water and sewer lines are there, and cost would be at the Village rate and not double if the property were in the Town of Otsego.

Mayor Tillapaugh stated that there has been some concern that if the Town of Otsego were to agree to move the line putting the three municipal parcels in the Village the Town of Otsego would lose a considerable amount of tax revenue once the County Property is sold and put back on the tax role. Mayor Tillapaugh showed by using a sample tax bill, that the amount the Town of Otsego would lose in tax revenue would be minimal.

Mayor Tillapaugh explained that in 2008 the Village was awarded through a Federal Highway Grant a total of \$3,000,000.00 for the Gate Way Project. It took 5 years to complete. Files indicate that the Town of Otsego was going to transfer its portion of Linden Ave. to the Village of Cooperstown once the project was completed but it never happened. The Village of Cooperstown took out a bond in the amount of \$500,000.00 to be paid over a 10-year period to complete the project with the idea that the Town of Otsego would relinquish all of Linden Avenue to the Village of Cooperstown.

After Mayor Tillapaugh's presentation there was a short question and answer period. The two main questions that came from those living along Linden Ave. but located in the Town of Otsego were:

- would they be considered in the Village of Cooperstown if the Town of Otsego agreed to move the boundary line and the answer was no. Only the Linden Ave. itself would be in the Village of Cooperstown.
- The second question was would the residents along Linden Ave. but in the Town of Otsego be forced to connect to the Village water and sewer line and the answer was no.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane
Town Clerk