

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 12th day of April 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
Deb Dalton	Councilperson
Matthew Zwissler	Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green	Attorney
William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of March 8th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Councilpersons Hohensee, Zwissler, and Kjolhede voted yes. Councilperson Dalton abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of March 22nd as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Councilpersons Hohensee, Zwissler, and Kjolhede voted yes. Councilperson Dalton abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to accept the Minutes of March 29th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor to hear public comments.

Denny Mower of Bibik Rd. would like to research Bibik Rd. from 1980 to the present. It was suggested that he make an appointment with the Town Clerk.

Town Historian Shirlee Rathbun is concerned with so many historic buildings in Fly Creek being demolished. She would like the Town Board to consider amending the Land Use Law making it difficult for anyone wanting to tear down an historic home or business in Fly Creek. Councilperson Hohensee suggested that the Board revisit the Demolition of Historic Buildings Law and engage the Town ZEO to take part in its review as it is the ZEO's role to refer Demolition Applications Historic in Nature, to the Historic Preservation Committee.

She then questioned Supervisor Bauer why the Historic Preservation Committee was not notified of the old Tallman farmhouse on County Highway 26, scheduled to be raised soon. Supervisor Bauer replied that that would be a question for the ZEO Officer, Wylie Phillips.

Sal Furnari requested a speed limit reduction on County Highway 28 from Armstrong Rd. to the STOP sign right before the Pierstown Grange. The road has many sharp curves making visibility at times difficult. Currently the speed limit is 55 mph.

It was the consensus of the Town Board to table further discussion until everyone has had a chance to drive that area of County Highway 28 and see for themselves if the speed limit should be reduced.

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:	\$491,703.53	Hwy Checking:	\$718,178.84
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,411.62	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$239,640.26
ARPA:	\$173,228.28		

Supervisor Bauer informed the Town Board that he is looking into investing some of the Town's money sitting in Capital Reserve Funds. Different banks are offering good rates on CD's right now.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

GENERAL:	#35-#46	\$ 4,703.91
HWY:	#47-#70	\$ 44,565.44

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Site Plan: 1 ZBA: 2

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported having 1 dog bite this month.

Planning Board member Steve Talevi, reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Bauer presented Assessor Rich Maxwell's report, which was read and reviewed by the Town Board.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar gave a report on highway projects.

- The County is looking into forming a Fuel Buying Co-Op Group with other Town's within the County. Hribar has notified the County that the Town of Otsego would be interested in participating.
- Hribar is planning on getting the New Willow Ave. up to spec's and ready for paving.

Sheila Ross commented that she didn't feel Willow Ave. needed to be built to Spec's. After hearing that the salt shed will be moved to the other end of the property near the Towns well, she warned that if her well ends up contaminated with salt she will be holding the Town responsible. She has already drilled one new well because salt filtrated her well. She also warned that the new road had better be ditched so water stays away from her barn.

Hribar introduced Tim Plante a salesman for Henderson Equipment. He explained to the Town Board that there is a major shortage of trucks. Depending on the model there is a 1 to 3 year wait for a new truck. Hribar conveyed to the Town Board that he is in dire need of new trucks and urged the Town Board to consider buying at least one or two if they can.

MOTION by Councilperson Zwissler, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, authorizing Hribar to get quotes on a ten-wheeler dump truck with plow, wing, and sander for next month's meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Pat Kennedy reported on the Watershed Committee. The Harmful Algae Bloom that was discovered last year, will be expensive to fix if it can be fixed. Also, the mussels have died on the bottom of the lake creating a disgusting environment. A Watershed Co-Ordinator is needed to apply for grants to update the Watershed Plan. Last update was done in 2017. The Old Plan does not address the problems on Otsego Lake, so a New Plan is needed. DEC is holding a meeting on April 19th to discuss how to apply for funding for the writing of a New Plan. Another avenue to apply for money is through DOS. Their rules for applying are less involved but the Plan must be in place first in order to apply. Kennedy had asked the Town Board in a letter if they would pay her way to attend a conference scheduled for May 5th and 6th offered by the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. It was the consensus of the Town Board to approve reimbursing Kennedy \$517.00 to attend.

Councilperson Kjolhede reported that a Cannabis Store (store only-no lounge) has opened on Main St. in Oneonta. It was the decision of the Town Board to wait until more information becomes available.

Supervisor Bauer explained that last year the State offered Firefighters and Ambulance Personnel a 10% tax exemption off their property taxes. After doing the math a \$400,000 house would only see a \$20.00 tax credit. The State already offers firefighters a \$200 tax credit. You can only apply for one. Supervisor Bauer's hope is that the School and County will also adopt the 10% tax credit to make it worth signing up for the 10% exemption. Bauer talked to Fire Chief Voulo and his response was he would like the Town Board to adopt the 10% tax credit anyway to show support.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt Local Law #2 adopting the 10% firefighters tax exemption with the understanding that the assessor will make it clear to all applicants the options.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he has been working on a job description for volunteers who want to help with updating the Comprehensive Plan. More volunteers are still needed.

Supervisor Bauer submitted for the Town Board to review, a Solar Law Draft that he has been working on. The next step is getting input from ZEO Wylie Phillips as well as from Planning Board and Zoning Board members. Bauer is using the Town of Sharon Solar Law as a model.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he had investigated adding the Red Bursey Summer Program to the Towns insurance. There would be an additional cost of \$275 to add a rider to cover the program.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to add the Red Bursey Summer Program to the Towns insurance.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer stated that Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar who is also a Town Highway Retiree, had asked him if the Town would reimburse him for the cost of Medicare Part B. After a short discussion it was decided that Hribar will continue the same Retiree Health Insurance Agreement with the Town which does not cover the reimbursement of Medicare Part B.

MOTION by Councilperson Zwissler to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:30 PM

Next meeting will be May 10th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk