

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 10th day of May 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:

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 Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the minutes of April 12<sup>th</sup> as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

There has been no correspondence received since last month's meeting.

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor to hear public comments.

Denny Mowers of 208 Bibik Road reminded the Town Board that at last year's August Town Board Meeting the Town Board had said they would look into seeing if there were any grants available to do a drainage study of Bibik Road. Supervisor Bauer apologetically replied that was never done.

Russ Ahrens of County Hwy. 26 requested a Speed Limit reduction on County Hwy. 26 from where the Hamlet of Toddsville starts to State Hwy. 28 south.

Maria Angelo thought a reasonable Speed Limit through the Hamlet of Toddsville to State Hwy. 28 south should be 35mph.

It was the consensus of the Town Board that before their June meeting each member would drive that section of road to see if they felt a Speed Reduction Request was reasonable.

Sheila Ross asked if the Highway Superintendent rented any equipment in the last month. Supervisor Bauer answered yes. Ross wondered why the Town is renting highway equipment when they already have all kinds of equipment.

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:	\$268,658.49	Hwy Checking:	\$457,479.31
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,411.62	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$240,640.23
ARPA:	\$173,228.28	Gen & Hwy CD:	\$400,000.00

He informed the Town Board that he has invested \$400,000.00 of the Towns Capital Reserve Funds in CD's. Interest rates right now are good.

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

MOTION CARRIED. All were in favor.

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

GENERAL:	#48-#61	\$	39,081.34
HWY:	#71-#94	\$	31,279.41

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Zoning Permits:	2	Septic:	1
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Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported having 1 dog bite this month and 1 nuisance complaint.

Supervisor Bauer reported that Assessor Rich Maxwell has requested that the Town Board pass a Local Law changing Grievance Day from the First Tuesday after the fourth Thursday of May to first Tuesday after the third Thursday of May so not to interfere with Memoria Day Weekend. Maxwell also reported visiting properties and finalizing values for the May 1<sup>st</sup> Tentative Roll.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar gave a report on the following highway projects.

- A majority of the Town's Road signs have been stolen. In some cases, pole and all. The cost to replace them will be approximately \$150.00 each. Councilperson Kjolhede suggested using a GPS to trace down the perpetrator.
- Hribar reported speaking to a resident on Keys Rd. Marie Hom who is requesting that her road be fixed. The condition is now the school bus will not pick up her children.
- Hribar reported that Mike Ryde one of his highway employees, will be retiring this November. He warned the Town Board that he thinks it will be difficult finding a replacement.
- Hribar requested that the Town Board budget for a new sweeper. He estimated a new one to cost approximately \$99,000.00.

Sheila Ross a resident of Willow Ave. let the Town Board know that she does not want her road widened in front of her house from 14ft to 18ft. Supervisor Bauer explained that the Town cannot get reimbursed from CHIP's for any portion of Willow Ave. not paved at least 18ft.

After a short discussion it was decided to table further discussion until Town Board Members have had a chance to visit site and get a better picture of Ross's concerns.

Sheila Ross complained about a large metal junk piled on the Highway site. Supervisor Bauer will visit the site to see what she is referring to.

Supervisor Bauer spoke about Murdock Road, making it clear that at this time, the Town Board has not approved any work being done to the road. Bauer's also stated that while the approved January minutes mention Bill Hribar discussing cutting down 100 trees to create a snowplow turnaround, it is his understanding that the intended proposal was to cut down the trees to widen the road, with no trees being cut in relation to a plow turnaround. He again stated that both the cutting down of trees and the widening of the road have not currently been approved.

Supervisor Bauer asked for a Motion to purchase a new 10-wheeler truck. He felt the Town could afford two new trucks if the Board wished to do that.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede seconded by Councilperson Zwissler authorizing Hribar to order two new 10-wheeler dump trucks, plows, and sanders through the Onondaga County Contract #8996 at the cost of \$288,752 each.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Hohensee reported that he asked an engineer from Principal Engineering what he thought it would cost to refurbish the old hwy. garage. He had just completed a similar project and thought it would cost about \$300,000.00. His recommendation was to look for a grant to help offset at least some of the cost.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he has completed the grant administration process on grants gateway, but still needs to fill out an MWBE utilization plan. His hope is to be able to put the project out to bid shortly.

Pat Kennedy reported on some events and activities of the OLWSC (Otsego Lake Watershed Committee) since April 9<sup>th</sup>. Almost all WSC (Watershed Committee) meetings, emails, readings, research, and activities have been focused on fighting the toxic Cyanobacterial Harmful Algal Blooms (cHABs). Although the WSC legislation authorizes a Watershed Coordinator position, that position has been vacant for a very long time. Mayor Tillapaugh, at the strong recommendation of the WSC, is negotiating with Dr. Kiyoko Yokota-SUNY Prof. & Volunteer Scientific Consultant for the OLWSC to fill that position on a personal services contract. The details of the job description are being worked out. The Mayor has asked the Towns of Middlefield, Springfield and Otsego to contribute, along with the Village of Cooperstown, \$5,000.00 towards an annual professional service fee of \$20,000.00 for Dr. Yokota to serve as the WSC Technical Advisor.

Kennedy stated that she along with Bertine McKenna the Village Rep to the WSC and Village mayor Ellen Tillapaugh are working on an Appalachian Regional Grant that would if successful, allocate up to \$250,000.00. The money would be used to work on the planning and coordination needed to meet this threat. The Grant would meet what ARG calls Goal 5: which targets projects that strengthen communities, develop local leaders, and enhance community capacity. Typical outcomes include numbers of communities and participants improved and dollar values of efficiencies created, or additional funding provided to communities resulting from such ARC projects.

Supervisor Bauer introduced David Neil who owns a Food Truck. Neil had been before the Planning Board, and they could not see anywhere in the Land Use Law where a Food Truck was allowed to operate under the law. Supervisor Bauer submitted a DRAFT proposal allowing Food Trucks to operate as a Special Permitted Use. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Town Board to hold a Public Hearing to hear public comments on what will be called Local Law #3 allowing Food Trucks as Special Permitted Use.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Dalton to declare Town of Otsego Lead Agency under SEQR.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to declare that given the results of filling out the appropriate Environmental Assessment Forms, the proposed action would have a Negative Environmental Impact, and no further review is required.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton to schedule a Public Hearing for Local Law #3 for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer asked for discussion on the Speed Limit Reduction Request on County Hwy. 28 between Armstrong Rd. and the intersection of Red House Hill Rd.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to request a Speed Limit Reduction to 40 mph on County Highway 28 between Armstrong Rd. and the intersection of Red House Hill Rd.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket pg. 165)

Supervisor Bauer reported receiving a request of \$7,500 from the ARPA Fund for the Red Bursey Summer Program.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to approve giving \$7,500.00 ARPA Money to the Red Bursey Program.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer submitted a proposed Land Use Law Zoning change to the Town Board Members to review and discuss.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to declare the Town Board Lead Agency under SEQRA.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to declare that given the results of filling out the appropriate Environmental Assessment Forms, the proposed action would have a Negative Environmental Impact, and no further review is required.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to schedule a Public Hearing for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM to hear public comments on whether to amend the Zoning map changing the corner of State Hwy. 28 and 80 from RA-2 to General Business District -2. This Local law will be called Local Law #4

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer reported that there will be a meeting at the Richfield Springs School on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30PM to 9:00PM to discuss a Sewer Study around Canadarago Lake for anyone interested.

Supervisor Bauer asked the Town Board if they had any objections to rehiring Mike Ainslie to mow around the Town Building every other week. There were no objections.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to schedule a Public Hearing for what we will call Local Law #5 Designating Grievance Day to be held on the First Tuesday after the Fourth Thursday of May ON June 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he was asked by the NYS Department of Transportation if they were to put in a sidewalk and lighting on State Hwy 28 South of the Village would the town pay the lighting bill for 25 years.

After a short discussion the Town Board thought it a good idea to have a sidewalk and lighting South of the Village and agreed to pay the lighting bill for 25 years.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:25PM

Next meeting will be June 14th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk