

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 12th day of September 2023 at 7:00PM 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:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of August 9th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

President of the Fly Creek Fire Company Joan Kegelman asked the Town Board to consider giving \$100,000.00 of the Town's ARPA money to the Fly Creek Fire Company. The money would be used toward the purchase of a newer fire truck.

Bob Navratil who lives approximately 600ft. from Canadarago Lake, did not see his septic system being a threat to the lake. Navratil wanted to know if ducks and fish were going to be exterminated for contaminating the lake. He was not in favor of the creation of a sewer district along Canadarago Lake.

Joe Raymond asked if residents along Canadarago Lake would be forced to tie into the sewer system if it were to come about. Raymond then pointed out that there are several homes along Oaks Creek but there doesn't seem to be any discussion from the Town of Otsego about putting in a sewer system to protect Oaks Creek.

Supervisor Bauer closed the floor for further comments.

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

GENERAL:	#95-#103	\$ 1,669.21
HWY:	#147-#169	\$ 277,992.40

Chief Executive Officer of *Otsego Now*, Jody Zakrevsky, suggested the Town Board pass a Local Law Opting out of Real Property Law §487. Currently property owners with Solar Farms on their property are paying little or no additional taxes. To date *Otsego Now* is reviewing nine applications.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to adopt Local Law #5 Opting Out of Real Property Tax Law §487.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer gave a financial report. Sales tax is coming in over budget and spending is on

track.

The Town Board discussed the following balances in the various accounts:

General Checking:	\$211,843.65	Hwy Checking:	\$410,281.33
Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$244,684.69	Gen & Hwy CD:	\$400,000.00

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

MOTION CARRIED. All were in favor.

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

Zoning Permits: 3	ZBA: 1	Site Plan Review: 2	Subdivision: 1
Septic: 1	Driveway: 1		

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

- Hribar informed the Town Board that the Fork Shop Bridge has been Red Flagged by the State. The Needle Beams are in poor condition.
- Hribar stated that he has not been successful in replacing Michael Ryde who will be retiring soon.

Supervisor Bauer has been negotiating with the CSEA Union Representative to increase highway employees' starting pay in hopes of attracting applicants.

Watershed report was given by Pat Kennedy.

- Three grants totaling \$400,000 to \$500,000 have been completed.
- Watershed Septic Inspector Al Keck is finding it difficult to do inspections because few people are home.
- With so many residences being rented along Otsego Lake Keck is concerned that a lot of the septics are being grossly abused.
- The Watershed Supervisory Committee may be making a recommendation to the Water Sewer Board and the Village Board about adopting some sort of Rental Procedure to help keep the sewer systems along Otsego Lake from being overloaded.
- The Watershed is also watching that ditches are being designed to avoid water entering into the lake.
- The Village of Cooperstown has hired Delaware Engineering to review all septic plans of newly built structures or additions.
- The Watershed Committee has contracted Upstate Freshwater Institute to conduct water testing this season because the Watershed Committee thought they would be receiving grant money earlier than they initially thought. By next June the Watershed Committee will be \$150,000 short and by January they will be \$35,000 - \$50,000 short. If we do not do the testing through this season and around that time, we get the money from the grants we will be two years behind getting any implementation money to do any fixes.

Supervisor Bauer stated that the Salt Shed is ready to go out for bid. The deadline for those submitting a bid is 10:00 AM on October 8th.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the proposed Salt Shed Bid as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer submitted a revised Town of Otsego Zoning Map showing the zoning change on the corner of State Hwy 80 and State Hwy 28 from Residential-Agriculture-2 to General

Business District 2.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to adopt Local Law #6 Modifying the Town of Otsego Zoning Map.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer announced that there are now nine volunteers to serve on the Comprehensive Plan Committee. He suggested that OCCA meet with the volunteers, review the Comprehensive Plan, and see where they might want to make changes.

Supervisor Bauer stated that it seems the Otsego Town Residents on Canadarago Lake do not want the creation of a sewer district and he saw no sense in spending time and money on a project an overwhelming majority are against. If more information comes out, or if more residents reach out in support of the project, it could be worth revisiting and discussing further, but for now it seems like most are not interested. The Town Board agreed.

After a short discussion the Town Board agreed to hold a Waste Collection Day which would include 10 tires /each person (no rims) and metal (not to include freezers, air conditioners, or computers), on October 14th from 8:00 AM to Noon.

Supervisor Bauer has been in contact with Village of Cooperstown Deputy Mayor Cindy Falk who has informed him the Annexation Project is on hold while the Village does further legal research to ensure the proper procedure is done correctly.

Supervisor Bauer is getting quotes for a new Town Website.

Supervisor Bauer submitted a request from Fly Creek Cider owner Bill Michaels asking permission to hold a firework display at the Cider Mill in honor of his recently deceased parents Barb and Charlie Michaels.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to approve Michael's request to hold a firework display, strongly advising that he inform the neighbors of the upcoming event.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer asked the Town Board how they felt about reimbursing the Planning Board for training. After a short discussion it was agreed the Town Board would reimburse the Planning Board Members the cost of training.

Supervisor Bauer polled the Town Board on how they felt about proposing a Local Law to override the 2% tax cap.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to hold a Public Hearing on October 11th at 7:00 PM to hear public comments on the Town Board exceeding the 2% tax cap of the 2024 Town Budget.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Council person Zwissler, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee to go into Executive Session to discuss employee performance compensation and Town Litigation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:53PM)

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to come out of Executive Session. (9:05PM)

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:07PM

Next meeting will be October 11th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk