

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting on the 8th day of November 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
Deb Dalton	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.

Supervisor Bauer called the Public Hearing to order and explained that the Town Board will hear public comments on the proposed Preliminary 2024 Budget.

There were no comments.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Dalton to accept the minutes of October 11th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede to accept the minutes of October 13th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of October 19th as written.

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

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Brent Smith/Marble Rd. thanked the Town Supervisor for his transparency concerning the Canadarago Sewer District proposal.

Bart Brush/Cemetery Rd. told the Town Board that people have been cutting the corner in front of his house. He is fine with the road the way it is defined right now but does not want to lose any more of his lawn.

Sheila Ross/Willow Ave. thought the amount of money the Town Board is spending on this huge salt shed is ridiculous. She thought the size of the old one was adequate.

On another note, Ross thanked Hribar for fixing the increased elevation to the entrance to her

barn created by the highway crew.

Supervisor Bauer closed the floor for further comments.

Supervisor Bauer recognized Fly Creek Fire District Chair Commissioner Sam Hoskins.

Hoskins explained the difference between the Fly Creek Fire Company and the Fly Creek Fire District. The Fire District purchases, maintains, and owns all equipment, assets, and property associated with the Fire District. The Fire Company uses the equipment as needed.

Supervisor Bauers thanked Hoskins for coming and explaining the difference between the Fire Company and Fire District. Unfortunately, the remainder of the ARPA money was all applied to the Town's 2024 Budget.

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

General:	#113-#122	\$ 2,106.54
Hwy:	#185-#199	\$ 43,242.63

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer submitted balances of all accounts.

The Town Board discussed the balances provided by Supervisor Bauer:

General Checking:	\$180,689.04	Hwy Checking:	\$ 59,337.89
Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$245,771.85	Gen & Hwy CD	\$400,000.00

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

MOTION CARRIED. All were in favor.

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

- Hribar reported that he needs road signs and signposts. Most of the Road Signs have been stolen. Replacement will be costly. Supervisor Bauer volunteered to find out if the stolen signs are covered under the Town's Insurance Policy.
- Hribar informed the Town Board that the new salt shed has been started.

Supervisor Bauer reported receiving a letter from NYS D.O.T. stating that they will be replacing a large culvert on St. Hwy. 80 next October and plan to re-root traffic to Red House Hill Rd. Highway Superintendent Hribar was opposed to the idea given the condition of Red House Hill Rd.

Supervisor Bauer agreed to contact NYS D.O.T. to see if there are any other options.

Watershed Committee Representative Pat Kennedy gave her monthly report.

- The Committee meets twice a month.
- As part of a long-range septic education plan posters are going out with a letter educating homeowners along Otsego Lake on how to update their septic system.
- They are also looking at a lot of properties that are having trouble with the size of their septic system.
- Another problem that has recently come up and needs addressing is Realtors are misinforming buyers by telling them they can renovate a shed or boathouse to rent.

Supervisor Bauer asked for discussion concerning the 2024 Preliminary Proposed Budget.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to approve the proposed 2024 Budget.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer reminded everyone of the mandatory training with County Homeland Security Officer Bob Satriano will be held on Monday November 13th at 6:00 PM at the Town Building.

Supervisor Bauer reported that the first meeting of the Comprehensive Committee will be starting November 9th at 6:00 PM.

Supervisor Bauer submitted a chart and documents from Delaware Engineering regarding the proposed Canadarago Lake Sewer Project. After a short discussion Supervisor Bauer reiterated what he had said at the October meeting. There does not seem to be much support from Otsego Town residents along Canadarago Lake for a sewer district. Unless residents start showing more support the Town Board will no longer consider the idea.

Supervisor Bauer brought up the Town's Website and the need to update it. He was in favor of hiring Kip Shaw, owner of Sunny Web Shop, to modify the existing website. Shaw currently updates our website when needed. Supervisor Bauer thought it best to keep the website simple and that we could make changes to the website in-house.

Supervisor Bauer informed the Town Board that CSEA did agree to a starting pay increase. The Town Board was also in favor of paying for a newly hired employee's CDL license so long as the prospective employee agrees to work for the Town of Otsego for at least 3 yrs.

Superintendent Bauer submitted Fire and Ambulance Contracts with the Village of Cooperstown. The contracts were reviewed and discussed by the Town Board.

MOTION by Councilperson Zwissler, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to approve the Fire and Ambulance Contracts, as written, with the Village of Cooperstown.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Hohensee said that the front door of the building needs paint, and the glass cleaned. Possibly hours of operation and notices could be put somewhere else or consolidated.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:36 PM

Next regularly scheduled meeting will be December 13th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk