

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a combine Organizational Meeting and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 11th day of January 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
Suzanne Olson	Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green	Attorney
William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer called the Organization meeting to order. He proposed appointments for various positions, which was reviewed by the Town Board. The proposed appointments were as follow:

Accountant	Ray Holohan
Deputy Supervisor	Tom Hohensee
Bank Depositories	Community Bank, Bank of Cooperstown
Court Clerk	April Rackmeyer
Custodian	Connie Robinson
Dog Control Officer	Tom Steele
Health Officer	Chris Kjolhede
Historians	Tom Heitz and Sherlee Rathbun
Meeting Date	Second Wednesday of the month
Mileage Reimbursement	0.65.5 per mile
Official Paper	The Daily Star
Registrar Vital Status	Cooperstown Village Clerk & Deputy Clerk
Town Board Attorney	Will Green
Codes Officer	Otsego County Code Office
Zoning Enforcement Officer	Wylie Phillips
ZBA Clerk	Bill Deane
Planning Board Clerk	Bill Deane
Planning Board Attorney	Jill Poulson
7 year Planning Board Term	OPEN
1 year Planning Board Term	May Leinhart (previously Chip Jennings)
2 nd Planning Board Alternate	OPEN
Planning Board Chairman	Tom Huntsman
5 year ZBA Term	John Dewey
1 st Zoning Board Alternate	Mary Ann Whelan
2 nd Zoning Board Alternate	John Tedesco
3 rd Zoning Board Alternate	Dean Robinson
Zoning Board Chairman	Greg Crowell
5 year Historic Preservation Advisory	OPEN
3 year Board of Assessment Review	OPEN

DEPARTMENT AUDITS:

Town Clerk	Councilperson Matthew Zwissler
Town Supervisor	Councilperson Suzanne Olson
Tax Collector	Councilperson Tom Hohensee
Town Justices	Councilperson Chris Kjolhede

COMMITTEES:

Watershed	Councilperson Suzanne Olson
Communication	Supervisor Ben Bauer
Safety	Councilpersons Tom Hohensee and Matthew Zwissler
Highway	Councilperson Tom Hohensee

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the proposed appointments as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

MOTION by Councilperson Zwissler, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to accept the minutes of December 14th as written.

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of December 28th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Fly Creek resident John Phillips wanted to make sure the Town Board knew that under the Open Meetings Law whenever there is a quorum of the Town Board that constitutes a meeting and must be advertised.

There were no further questions, and the floor was closed for any further comments.

Supervisor Bauer gave a financial report. The Board discussed the following balances in the various accounts:

General Checking:	\$430,571.57	Hwy Checking:	\$536,182.99
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,369.39	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$239,580.53
ARPA:	\$180,717.28		

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

GENERAL:	#1-#13	\$	4,951.17
HWY:	#907-#915	\$	4,603.92

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer read ZEO Wylie Phillips' report. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:
Driveway Permits: 1

The Town Clerk presented a Year-End report that was reviewed, accepted, and signed by all Town Board Members.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported that there had been no complaints or strays since last month's meeting.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar gave Highway Superintendent report. Hribar stated that Katherine Brady of Murdock Road has given him permission to cut down approximately 100 trees needed to create a turnaround for the plow trucks. She is asking for a letter releasing her of any liability in the event anyone is injured.

Town Attorney Will Green promised to provide him the letter Brady requested.

Hribar submitted a quote of \$7,380.00 from local contractor Ed Leslie, to fix the Highway Garage Doors.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to hire Ed Leslie to repair the Highway Garage Doors on Willow Avenue, cost not to exceed \$7,380.00.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Hribar stated that he is planning to rent a Boom Mower soon. Cost will be \$8,300.00 for one month.

Supervisor Bauer reported receiving an e-mail from George Hymas asking for improvements to Vibbard Rd.

Hribar stated that given the contour of the road there really isn't much he can do to improve it. He did agree to look at it and see if there was anything else that can be done.

Councilperson Hohensee reported that he thought Principal Engineering should be hired to inspect the old Highway Garage including the roof and advise the Town Board the best way to improve it esthetically. Councilperson Kjolhede suggested that Principal Engineering be informed that the building will be used mostly for cold storage.

Councilperson Kjolhede suggested that the Fly Creek Fire Department be contacted and asked to inspect contents they currently have storage in the old highway garage and decide what needs to go.

Supervisor Bauer reported that he received an e-mail from the County stating that they had a few extra AEDs and asked if any towns were interested in receiving one at no cost. The consensus of the Town Board was to request one.

Supervisor Bauer presented the proposed changes to the Land Use Law. Town Attorney Will Green lead the Town Board through the SEQRA application. It was determined that the proposed changes required a TYPE 1 Action.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to declare a Negative Declaration.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to schedule a Public Hearing for the February 8th meeting at 7:00 PM.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Town Board to hopefully be starting revisions to the Town's Comprehensive Plan by the end of March. They are looking for eight to ten volunteers to serve on a committee.

Supervisor Bauer reported that he and Antoinette Kosminski have met to work on a Solar Law. They are modeling the draft Solar Law after the Town of Jefferson and the Town of Sharon. Items of consideration in establishing the law are setbacks, screening, escrow accounts and where Solar will be allowed.

Councilperson Olson suggested that requests for ARPA money be scored. The Town Board thought that a good idea. She will send out to Town Board Members score sheets.

Supervisor Bauer acknowledged Mayor Ellen Tillapaugh and Village Trustee Cindy Falk who were invited to discuss further the Linden Avenue Annexation. Advantages for both the Town and the Village, were laid out once again.

Mayor Tillapaugh stated that the main concern is the public interest for Public Safety, Law Enforcement, Pedestrian Safety and Liability. He Town would not be losing any property only the tax rate would change.

Councilperson Olson questioned why now the interest? Mayor Tillapaugh replied that this idea was first introduced to the Town from the Village in 2018.

Councilperson Olson stated that she does not understand the Villages vision to annex the property. She asked if there were any plans for the four parcels now in the Town of Otsego.

Mayor Tillapaugh stated that the parking will continue and the railroad. The County plans to eventually relocate but that will be decades away not to mention they will have a lot of mediation to do once they have vacated the property.

Supervisor Bauer stated that the Board has two options. Do nothing or schedule a joint informational meeting with the Village of Cooperstown. At some point there would be a majority vote of each Board during a joint meeting.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, and seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to vote in favor of a Joint Public Information Meeting with the Village of Cooperstown.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Bauer, Councilpersons Hohensee, Kjolhede, and Zwissler voted yes. Councilperson Olson voted no.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:20 PM

Next meeting will be February 8th at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk