

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 9th day of March, 2022 at 7:00PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Benjamin Bauer	Supervisor
Suzanne Olson	Councilperson
Tom Hohensee	Councilperson
Chris Kjolhede	Councilperson
Matthew Zwissler	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bauer asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to accept the minutes of February 9th, as presented.

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the minutes of February 15<sup>th</sup>.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Walter Dusenbery who resides on Cemetery Road stated that after the last heavy rain, he had for the first time in thirty years, water back up in his back field approximately 100ft. threatening the trees he planted years ago. He believes the cause of the flooding was due to the Highway Department filling in an area of approximately 50ft X 30ft. where water that normally drains out is now forced to go onto his property. He hopes the Town will correct this problem.

Sheila Ross who resides on Willow Ave. stated that after the last heavy rainstorm she experienced flooding on her front lawn for the first time in twenty two years. The highway department made some changes that helped the problem but did not correct it completely. She felt the new road for Willow Ave has changed the water flow. Ross is now asking that the existing road remain in place and paved and the newly created road which is not yet completed, be abandoned.

Jeff Umbach who resides on Willow Ave. was not in favor of Willow Ave. being moved and asked that the existing Willow Ave. be left and paved. The new road not yet completed, takes away his privacy and he would have to contend with headlights shining in his bedroom window at night.

Sheila Ross told the Town Board that Cynthia Kukenberger would be willing to sell to the Town 3 to 5 acres of land on County Highway 26 at \$10,000.00/acre. Ross thought the Town Board should consider purchasing the land and putting the Towns salt shed and sand pile there.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar was not in favor of having the sand and salt shed at one sight and the loader, trucks, and other equipment on another.

The Town Board agreed to give it much thought.

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 Savings: \$ 4,721.23	General Checking: \$492,943.59
Highway Savings: \$ 7,872.50	Hwy Checking: \$729,910.80
Building Reserve Fund: \$169,229.79	Hwy Equipment Fund: \$259,367.87
Building Reserve CD: \$-0-	Hwy Reserve CD: \$ -0-

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Town Board reviewed all bills presented.

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

GENERAL: #27-#40	\$ 7,165.61
HWY: #709-#731	\$ 27,664.80

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Highway Superintendent William Hribar reported on highway concerns and work done since last month's meeting.

- Hribar reported that DEC sited forty fuel inventory violations which have all been corrected.
- The Hwy Employees all need First Aid Training. The County is no longer offering the class. Hribar suggested taking the training through UniFirst which would cost the Town \$885.00. It would be free through the County. Councilperson Hohensee will check with the County to see if they are offering the class. If so, the Town Board instructed Hribar to have the highway employees attend the class offered by Bob Satriano at the County.
- Pierstown Grange is requesting that the intersection in front of the Grange on the intersection of Red Hollow Rd. and Wedderspoon Hollow Rd. and County Highway 28, be changed to a "T". As the intersection is now, the plows push the snow up against the building on the second pass. Hribar felt changing the intersection to a "T" would make it harder to maintain. He will instruct the drivers to try plowing away from the building on the first pass in hopes to alleviate the problem.
- Councilperson Hohensee asked Hribar to open up the ditch from Cemetery Road to where the water use to drain out at the Cemetery Road/Willow Ave Highway site in hopes to stop the flooding to neighboring properties. Hribar agreed.

Councilperson Hohensee stated that if the Town Board decides to go with the new road for Willow Ave. a partial fence, hedge, or berm should be installed to protect Umbach's privacy.

Councilperson Hohensee reported that the engineer had suggested that when the ground thaws, the highway crew dig holes on the proposed site of where the salt shed may be constructed on Willow Ave., and have the soil tested for debris and other construction. To hire an outfit to bore holes and test the soil would cost in the neighborhood of \$5000 to \$8,000 dollars. The size of the salt shed the board is looking into is 25' X 45" and 27' high.

His thought was if the Town Board decides to purchase land and move the salt shed and sand pile to another location the Town Board should apply for a Land Acquisition Grant through CFA (Consolidation Funding Application) to cover the cost of the land and possibly the cost of a building for the loader. This grant comes available in July. Notification to those applying for the grant would not be until December. Councilperson Hohensee volunteered to look further into the grant.

Councilperson Kjolhede reported that he and Councilperson Hohensee inspected the old

Highway Garage on County Highway 26, and found that the building has good bones but is an eyesore. He felt that the building is functional for now but that there should be a long term maintenance plan such as possibly a project a year.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele, reported receiving 1 dog complaint since last meeting.

Planning Board Member Sharon Kroker reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. Leatherstocking Corporation presented a sketch plan to demolish the old Fly Creek Hotel on the corner of School Street and St. Hwy. 28. and replace it with an 18 bedroom hotel.

Supervisor Bauer explained that before the Fly Creek Hotel can be demolished it must go through a process explained in Local Law #1 of 2017 titled Historic Demolition.

Supervisor Bauer explained to the Town Board that Grants Gate Way requires a signatory and a grantee for the Salt Shed Grant Contract and the Comprehensive Plan Grant Contract.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Olson, authorizing Supervisor Bauer to be the signatory for both the Salt Shed Grant and the Comprehensive Plan Grant Contracts. Councilperson Hohensee is to be authorized to be the Grantee for the Salt Shed Grant Contract and Supervisor Bauer be authorized to be the Grantee for the Comprehensive Plan Grant Contract.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer reported that he has been working on a creating a New Town Website. He later suggested that all Town Laws be digitized and be included in the New Town Website once completed.

Supervisor Bauer presented the Court and Tax Collector audits for the Town Board to review.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to accept the Court Audit and Tax Collector Audit.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer let the Town Board know that the Service Contract on the KYOCERA Taskalfa 3050 Copier has ended and PDQ has dropped the option to renew it.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he would like to appoint the 5 members to carry out Town Law #1 of 2017 “ Historic Demolition”. After a short discussion the following individuals were appointed to the 5 member committee.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to appoint, in hopes they accept the position, Cindy Faulk, Shirlee Rathbun, Tom Heitz, Steve Purcell, and Jessie Ravage.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer submitted a Computer Contract offered by Scott Dibble which was reviewed and discussed by the Town Board.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to approve the Computer Maintenance Contract as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer stated that Peter and Maria Deysenroth have asked permission to buy two burial plots in the Adams Cemetery located on County Highway 26.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to approve the Deysenroth’s request for 2 burial plots in the Adams Cemetery located on County Highway 26.

Deysenroths must agree to pay the Town \$500.00 for each plot and submit a map of the location of the two plots they would like to purchase.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer brought up ARPA Opportunities. It was his feeling that now that the rules have changed expanding what the money given to the Town can be used for, the money should be focused on projects that would benefit a large group of people.

A majority of the Town Board agreed. That said, Supervisor Bauer will regretfully notify Peg O'Dell at Glimmerglass Films that their request for \$5,000.00 of ARPA money is denied on the basis that the Town Board felt the ARPA money can be used in a more effective way.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee to go into Executive Session to discuss a litigation issue and employee performance and compensation issue.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (9:19PM)

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (9:38PM)

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:39PM.

Next meeting will be April 13th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk