

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 14th day of April, 2021 at 7:00PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Meg Kiernan	Supervisor
Tom Hohensee	Councilperson
Carina Franck	Councilperson
Matthew Zwissler	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the minutes of March 10th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

Supervisor Kiernan read correspondence received since last month's meeting. Among the correspondence was a letter of resignation from Planning Board Member Darryl Szarpa, which was regretfully accepted by the Town Board.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to appoint Planning Board Alternate #1 Benjamin Bauer to fill the Planning Board Vacancy left by Darryl Szarpa and move Rosemary Brodersen from the Planning Board Alternate #2 position to the Planning Board Alternate #1 position.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Kiernan read a letter from FEMA which stated that they will help pay funeral costs for COVID-19 related deaths. The applicant must be a US citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19. This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount of \$9000.00 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application. Councilperson Hohensee suggested that the town seek feasible opportunities to make residents aware of the FEMA funeral funding availability.

Supervisor Kiernan opened the floor for comments.

Local businessman Randy Smith referenced Legislation Bill # 854 which allows towns to opt out of allowing retail sales or a consumption lounge for marijuana before December 31st of this year. If a town decides to opt out they can always opt back in. Towns that do not opt out will receive 3% of the tax collected from the sale of marijuana within their jurisdiction. As a businessman Smith wanted to know where the Town Board stood on this issue.

Town Board Members decided to gather input from residents along with law enforcement and other relevant professionals before rendering a decision.

Joseph Potrikus brought up the \$2,000.00 reimbursement John Stucin is entitled to from the Town, which was required of him when he opened a gravel bank on his farm. He no longer owns the farm and has donated the \$2,000.00 back to the town. Potrikus thought the Town Board should donate the \$2,000.00 to the Fly Creek Fire Department. Regardless what the Town Board decides to do with the \$2,000.00 he felt it appropriate that the money be earmarked to give recognition to John Stucin.

Potrikus brought up that there has been discussion concerning Solar Panels. A few years ago he looked into what was called a Hamlet Co-op. He had approached Otsego Electric to consider setting up a Solar Farm on his 18 acre property on County Highway 26 (114.00-1-74.04) which has high tension wires running above it and easy to plug into. Most of the power usage in Otsego County is between 5PM-11PM and 5AM-8AM when the sun is not shining. Potrikus was surprised to learn that the Co-op was not interested in setting up a Solar Farm on his property. He ended by saying that it still could be done.

Potrikus pointed out that where the highway salt shed is the ground is gravel base and porous. There are residents within 500 ft. with wells that could be subject to becoming contaminated and septic leach fields that could be subject to becoming plugged from the salt not to mention wet lands and Oaks Creek which is part of the Chesapeake watershed and is also within 500 ft. He felt confident that if these facts were mentioned in a grant the grant would be approved. Salt builds up in the soil. It does not go away.

Potrikus suggested that when the town receives its Federal Relief Money some of it be used to build up the highway reserve fund.

Potrikus asked Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar if he might use his influence with the County Highway Department, encouraging them to make improvements to the Transfer Station entrance. It is so bad no one can enter or exit quickly making conditions dangerous and an accident waiting to happen.

Sheila Ross agreed with Potrikus that the salt stays in the soil.

County Representative Andrew Marietta reported that the County is looking for ways to attract people to the area, especially since it doesn't look like the Cooperstown Dreams Park will be opening again this year. That said the County has a program called the *Community Events Grant Program* which puts emphasis on outside events. Their budget is \$50,000.00. Also *Destination Marketing Corporation of Otsego* is rolling out a marketing Campaign for out door activities as well.

Marietta stated that he is on the IDA Board (Industrial Development Agency). A Housing Development Project has come up in Oneonta and they are looking for a PILOT program, which the IDA Board is considering. Lack of housing in the area is a huge issue.

Marietta stated that Cooperstown Central School Student Cate Bohler is organizing an event with fellow students called the "Otsego Rally for Solidarity with Asian American's" to be held on May 2nd at 2:00PM. He offered up to the County Board of Representatives a Resolution in support of the Rally, which was unanimously passed.

MOITION by Supervisor Kiernan, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to adopt the Resolution offered by Marietta, as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution pg. 156)

Supervisor Kiernan closed the floor for further comments.

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

General Savings:	\$ 4,718.87	General Checking:	\$377,252.32
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,863.57	Hwy Checking:	\$642,133.46
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,074.87	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$268,527.65
Building Reserve CD:	\$-0-	Hwy Reserve CD:	\$ -0-

Supervisor Kiernan reported that the AUD she submitted to the State passed.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

GENERAL:	#35-49	\$ 5,107.87
HWY:	#506-#522	\$19,488.08

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Kiernan read ZEO Jess Lanza's report. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:

Zoning Permits: 1 Site Plan Review: 1 Septic Permits: 1 ZBA: 1 Land Use: 4

Planning Board Chairman Tom Huntsman reported on applications being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Councilperson Franck suggested that the Town Board place a Moratorium on Solar Panels for the moment while language to address them in the Town's Land Use Law is considered. To date there is nothing in the Land Use Law that addresses Solar Panels.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to hold a Public Hearing on placing a Moratorium on Solar Panels at the Town Building on May 12th at 7:00PM.

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 the town would be receiving a total of \$252,406.96 for CHIP's. Projects.
- Hribar would like to rent a sod loader for one month. Last time he checked the cost was \$9,500.00/month.
- Hribar discussed with the Town Board, the replacement of the existing salt shed

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to contract Principle Design-Engineering to complete Task 1-Design and Planning of their proposal for a new Salt Shed.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Kiernan submitted the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan for Town of Otsego, which was reviewed and approved by the Town Highway Employees CSEA Union Representative.

MOTION by Supervisor Kiernan, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt the Public Health Emergency Operations Plan for the Town of Otsego offered by NYS.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:43M.

Next meeting will be May 12th at 7.00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk