

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 11th day of May 2022 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
Suzanne Olson	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 Hohensee, to accept the minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup> as written.

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

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Dennis Mower owns a camp at 208 Bibik Rd. that each year is moving closer to Canadarago Lake. He believes the cause is from the excessive flooding that happens every spring. The water needs to be diverted.

Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar told the Town Board that he has met with Mower and other residents on Bibik Rd. and none of them want a ditch through their lawn, diverting the water to empty into Canadarago Lake.

Walter Dusenbery remarked that where the salt is polluting the ground at the Willow Ave Highway site, is easily visible now. He estimated that the total salt polluted area was approximately 2000 sq. ft. His question to the Town Board was how is the salt going to be mixed with the sand without polluting more of the site?

Sheila Ross had the same concern. She added that the site needs to be cleaned up and old tires and scrap metal disposed of.

With no other comments Supervisor Bauer closed the floor for further public comment.

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

General Savings:	\$ 4,721.62	General Checking:	\$442,266.47
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,873.14	Hwy Checking:	\$696,937.05
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,247.14	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,409.80
Building Reserve CD: \$-0-		Hwy Reserve CD:	\$ -0-

Supervisor Bauer reported that spending seems to be following the pattern that was predicted.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Town Board reviewed all bills submitted.

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

GENERAL:	#63-#73	\$	35,313.56
HWY:	#758-#771	\$	15,985.34

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Dog Enforcement Officer Tom Steele reported that there have been no dog complaints since last month's meeting.

Planning Board Member Elizabeth Horvath reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Councilperson Hohensee would like to move forward on getting estimates for prepping and painting the Old Highway Garage next to the Town Building on County Highway 26. Also, on the list would be to repair or eliminate the windows in the said garage. After a short discussion everyone agreed that it was important to maintain the integrity and esthetics of the building and authorized Councilperson Hohensee to move forward on getting bids.

Highway Superintendent William Hribar reported on highway concerns and work done since last month's meeting. Items reported were as follow:

- Work on Panther Mt. Rd. continues
- The new Cat Loader has been delivered.
- Highway crewmen have been spending much time cutting trees that came down during the last snowstorm.
- A complaint was filed with DEC from an anonymous source prompting an inspection. DEC took several photos of the Town Highway Willow Avenue site and said they would be in touch with the results.

Supervisor Bauer asked Hribar to repaint the handicap lines and repair the handicap sign in the parking lot, which Hribar was glad to do.

Councilperson Hohensee asked Hribar to clean out the basin that is obstructing the water to flow, and at the same time take the dirt from the basin and place it along Jeff Umbach's, property on Willow Avenue, creating a berm. Umbach would like the berm to stand 5-10ft high.

Supervisor Bauer suggested that an engineer inspect the road and drainage problem before paving. Everyone agreed. Councilperson Hohensee volunteered to contact Principal Engineering.

Highway Superintendent Hribar suggested that before he builds the berm, the Town Board have it in writing what Umbach agrees to.

Councilperson Hohensee announced that the class on *Workplace Violence, Sexual Harassment* and the *Right to Know* will take place at the Town Building May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM with Otsego County Emergency Services Coordinator Bob Satriano.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he has been approached by Planning Board and ZBA members asking the Town Board to clarify replacing a structure of the same footprint within 100ft. and 500ft of the lake in Section 4.04. The question asked was, does footprint include the height of the building or is it just the perimeter of the building. Bauer is working on an amendment to the law to make it clearer.

Councilperson Olson reported that the Watershed Committee met May 5<sup>th</sup>. The plan for 2022 is to inspect 91 systems. The total of 91 systems includes both carryovers from 2021, plus those originally scheduled for 2022.

After a short discussion on how the Town Website needs to be updated the Town Board authorized Councilperson Olson to get proposals for a new Town website.

Supervisor Bauer asked the Town Board if they had reached any decision on the Annexation Proposal offered by Mayor Tillapaugh last month. The Town Board decided to do nothing at this time.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he was impressed with the Historic Preservation Demolition Committee. He thought the process went well, especially being this was the first time the law has ever been tested. While going through the process the committee came across a few minor things that they suggested being changed. Bauer gave two examples. The first being if the building is already listed on the Historic Register, should it automatically qualify with no need to go through the rating process? There is the question if the law should be made stricter.

Planning Board member Elizabeth Horvath felt if the Town Local Law can tell a property owner, they cannot take down a building that is failing then property owners of an historic building should be, under the law, responsible for maintaining and preserving that historic building so it does not get to the point where it is more cost effective to build a new structure rather than repair the old one.

Supervisor Bauer asked the Town Board for ideas on how to disburse the ARPA Money.

Elizabeth Horvath suggested that the Town Board reach out for suggestions to the Community Foundation of Otsego County, a non-for-profit organization that reviews and awards many grant applications.

Councilperson Hohensee suggested looking to the Associations of Towns for recommendations.

Councilperson Kjolhede offered to present a proposal at the June meeting.

Supervisor Bauer will respond to the Fly Creek Fire District's request for a donation from the ARPA Money by telling them that their request will be taken under consideration once the Town Board has established a methodical way of disbursing the ARPA money.

Supervisor Bauer shared that the Solar Updates and Comprehensive Plan Revisions that were assigned at OCCA have been put on hold due to employees leaving. OCCA hopes to be filling those vacancies soon and be back on track with the Towns Solar Panel Local Law proposal and Comprehensive Plan updates.

Supervisor Bauer asked the Town Board what they wanted to do about filling the Planning Board Attorney vacancy. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Town Board to hire Attorney Tom Fucillo of Syracuse to fill the Planning Board vacancy.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk