

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 8th day of June 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

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 Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the minutes of May 11th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer read correspondence received since last month's meeting. One of the letters read was from Fly Creek Cemetery Association Treasurer Walter Dusenbery requesting the Town Board consider donating \$4,000.00 to the Fly Creek Cemetery Association from the ARPA fund. The cost of removing trees and maintaining the Cemetery continues to grow each year and the Association could use the Town's help.

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Walther Dusenbery wanted to know what procedure was going to be used to mix the salt and sand for the Town roads in the winter without polluting the soil further. Supervisor Bauer stated that neither procedure nor site plan had been developed yet but an engineer had been hired to assess the site and drainage. The Town Board is waiting on the final Grant Contract from DEC. Once they receive that the engineer will draft a Site Plan and Bid Applications.

Walter Dusenbery was glad to hear that the Town Board had hired an engineer to assess drainage issues on the Willow Avenue Highway site. He is anxious to see the engineer's findings.

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:	\$ 4,721.83	General Checking:	\$391,724.96
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,873.49	Hwy Checking:	\$696,502.74
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,247.14	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,431.12
Building Reserve CD:	\$-0-	Hwy Reserve CD:	\$ -0-

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer asked that he be allowed to transfer the General and Highway Savings Account Money to the General and Highway Checking Accounts and close both Saving Accounts. Interest earned on the Saving Accounts is so little he did not think it was worth having them.

MOTION by Councilperson Hjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to honor Supervisor Bauer's request, contingent that the NYS Comptroller agrees.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer asked permission to transfer the Special Lighting District Account from Community Bank to the Bank of Cooperstown. All other Town Accounts are with the Bank of Cooperstown except the Special Lighting District. The Town Board had no objection.

Planning Board member Chip Jennings informed the Town Board that the *Planning Board By-Laws* state that the Planning Board will choose their Secretary, Engineer and Attorney.

Supervisor Bauer apologized. He did not realize that was the case when the Town Board appointed Attorney Tom Fucillo of Syracuse to act as the Planning Board Attorney.

Jennings told the Town Board that the Planning Board was looking for a local attorney.

Jennings then reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

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

- Hribar and his crew have been busy stabilizing .05 of a mile of Panther Mt. Road by cutting trees, removing stumps, moving shoulders back and ditching.
- Hribar reported that rock salt is currently inexpensive.
- Hribar also informed the Town Board that the County is now ditching County Highway 26 and wanted to know if he could use that dirt for creating a berm along the Towns property line on Willow Ave. and the Umbach property. The Town Board agreed that made a lot of sense. Hribar still insisted that the Town Board should have a signed Agreement between Umbach and the Town stating where that berm is to go, and its dimensions.

Supervisor Bauer and Councilperson Hohensee met with Hribar to discuss complaints made by Brian Kegelman on Tripp Hill Rd. Murdock Rd. is a seasonal road. The Highway Crew created a snowplow turnaround at one of the driveways at the top of the Murdock Rd. One of the trucks started to sink into the mud at the end of the driveway so Hribar had his crew fill the soft area with large cobble stone. Kegelman had an issue with this.

The other complaint Kegelman had was with the highway dumping debris just below him and onto the Ubner property. Hribar told the Town Board that his crew keeps that area plowed because it is used as a school bus turn around. The only item that was dumped there were branches from a tree that came down in that vicinity during the last snowstorm of the season.

Councilperson Hohensee reported that after closely examining the old highway garage's siding it was his recommendation the Town Board replace the siding rather than paint. It looked to him that the building had been painted several times before and the paint just does not stick.

Supervisor Bauer applauded Hribar for painting the handi-cap parking space but asked if he could add the no parking space diagonal lines. Hribar agreed.

Councilperson Hohensee reported that the Safety Training offered by the County was canceled due to not enough people signing up. He also asked Hribar if he could put up STOP AHEAD signs at both ends of Murdock Rd. Hribar agreed.

Supervisor Bauer is still looking into improving the Towns Website. He is also currently looking into CYBER Insurance.

Supervisor Bauer stated that Camp Director Bud Lippitt asked him if the Town would consider paying the insurance for the Red Bursey Summer Camp, which is scheduled to start July 5th. Supervisor Bauer researched the cost, which would be \$275. He talked to the Town Attorney Will Green who saw no concerns if the Town were to add the camp to their insurance.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Zwissler, to add Red Bursey Summer Camp to the Town's Insurance.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Town Board reviewed all bills submitted.

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

GENERAL:	#74-#86	\$	3,792.41
HWY:	#772-#793	\$	40,575.40

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board discussed how to best allocate their remaining ARPA funds. Councilperson Kjolhede again suggested the Town Board use an organized approach to distribute the ARPA money by using the 'Nominal Group Technique'. The goal is appointing several cross sections of Stake Holders from the entire town. The Stake Holders throw out a variety of ideas on how the ARPA money should be used. These ideas are discussed and then voted on by an Advisory Committee. Those voting do not get one vote, but several votes and all votes can be put toward one suggested idea or one or two or three etc. Once the vote is completed the recommendations are submitted to the Town Board for consideration. Kjolhede said he would email more details about the Normal Group Technique to the Board.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to go into Executive Session to discuss a Litigation matter.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:37)

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to come out of Executive Session. (8:55)

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:55)

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk