

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 10th day of August 2022 at 7:00PM at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

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

Also Present:

Will Green	Attorney
William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Olson, to accept the minutes of July 13th as written.

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

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments. There were no comments from the Public.

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

General Checking:	\$460,645.80	Hwy Checking:	\$669,248.65
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,299.34	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,474.48

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 Zwissler, to pay the bills and make the necessary transfers.

GENERAL:	#98-#109	\$	2,040.74
HWY:	#809-#826	\$	51,416.17

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Zoning Permits: 6 ZBA: 2 Demolition Permit: 1 Driveway: 1

There were 5 applications in front of the Planning Board this month and 2 in front of the ZBA. Phillips is currently working with Supervisor Bauer on drafting changes to the Land Use Law.

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

- Work on Panther Mt. Rd. has been completed.
- Improvements to Tanner Hill Rd. are in progress.
- A new culvert installation is scheduled on Keys Rd.
- Cobbles will be put in to correct a soft area on Huff Rd.

When asked by Councilperson Hohensee if the drainage ditch on Willow Ave. had been cleaned

or the speed limit signs on Wiley Town Rd. and Cook Rd. been replaced Hribar answered no not yet. When Hribar asked if he should make improvements to the old salt shed Supervisor Bauer answered yes. It looks as if the new salt shed will not get built until next year. Hribar was also directed to leave the sand pile where it is for now and excavate the fill in the driveway so the gate will close. Hribar agreed.

Hribar reported that he built a berm along new Willow Ave. and the Umbach property line. Councilperson Hohensee requested that he build it a bit higher so that the berm extends closer to the Umbach property but not enough to begin filling the drainage ditch along the new road.

The Town Board reviewed and discussed a proposal from Principal Design Engineer offering their professional services concerning generating alignment and detail specifications associated with the changes made to Willow Ave.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept Principal's Task #1 – Schematic Alignment Design proposal costing between \$2,500 - \$3,500.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer reported that the new Ford F550 1 ton truck ordered last year has been delivered.

Supervisor Bauer reported that he and Councilperson Hohensee went and evaluated Bibik Rd. and the flooding that frequently occurs there. After reviewing the situation and talking with residents they came to the same conclusion as Highway Superintendent Hribar previously did in that a sluice needs to be put in on one of the resident's properties to let the water drain into Canadarago Lake. None of the Bibik Rd. residents want to do that. Supervisor Bauer thought it would be beneficial to apply for a grant for a study to possibly find other options to correct the flooding problem.

Supervisor Bauer was hoping after all the money the Town spent on Panther Mt. Rd. to accommodate a new house that the Seasonal Rd. Law the Town rescinded in 2009 could be reinstated. Town Attorney Will Green spoke up and said, "unfortunately not". Under Highway Law Seasonal Roads can remain Seasonal so long as only Seasonal Residents live on them. As soon as a year- round resident lives on the Seasonal Road the Town is obligated to maintain it up to the driveway of the year-round resident.

Supervisor Bauer followed up on Hribar's thought last month that if the Town Board deemed the Town Building and/or the Highway Building an Emergency Center the Town may be eligible for a new generator through the County. What Supervisor Bauer found out from the County Planning Department was that the Town Hall and Highway Garage are deemed Important Places and are prioritized for emergencies. Improving the Town Hall was part of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and might help in receiving Grant Money for a generator.

Supervisor Bauer submitted some Land Use Law revisions for the Town Board's input. After a short discussion it was decided to table further discussion until next month.

Watershed report was given by Councilperson Olson. Twelve septic systems were inspected in July. The recent algae bloom at Glimmerglass State Park was discussed along with the fact that the septic system at Glimmerglass State Park is inadequate and needs to be pumped daily. The officials at the park seem hesitant to rectify the situation. Watershed Inspector Al Keck will be following up on the situation.

Supervisor Bauer submitted suggested changes to the Town's Website, which the Town Board reviewed and discussed. The Town Board overall was pleased with the suggested changes. Councilperson Olson suggested that it might be helpful to look at Google Analytics which tracks and reports website traffic.

Before Councilperson Kjolhede gave his Cannabis report. He asked Supervisor Bauer what he wanted from this committee?

Supervisor Bauer replied that one reason why the Town opted out was because the law was

unclear. Will Towns be allowed to regulate where and when Cannabis can be sold? Attorney Green thought that the State would handle Cannabis like how the Liquor License Review Board is handled. He thought the State would also include the Department of Health and Agriculture. Given how slow the State moves he thought it would be 2 or 3 years before the State starts issuing Retail Licenses.

In reference to the ARPA money entrusted to the Town Councilperson Kjolhede stated that he has talked to Harry Levine who operates the Community Foundation of Otsego County. Community Foundation of Otsego County is a private organization that knows where the needs are in Otsego County and solicits donations and gives money to various enterprises. It was his thought to give some of the ARPA money to the Otsego County Community Foundation to distribute. Levine would be willing to come and give a presentation to the Town Board, which the Town Board agreed to.

Otsego County Representative Andrew Marietta informed the Town Board that the Otsego County Board is considering granting the Town of Otsego \$50,000.00 of ARPA money to go toward the building of their new Salt Shed. The Town Board was very appreciative. Marietta pointed out that ARPA money can be used for Revenue Loss up to ten million dollars by using the ARPA Revenue Loss formula.

Supervisor Bauer stated that he has been in touch with OCCA's Junior Planner. The next step is to find 8 to 10 volunteers to work on the Comprehensive Plan updates. They encouraged Supervisor Bauer to look elsewhere for digitizing the Land Use Map. Attorney Green suggested contacting SUNY Professor of Geography Trevor Fuller. He thought he would be able to help in that regard.

Supervisor Bauer stated that the Village of Cooperstown is considering applying for a grant for a planning study of the Southern end of the Village, specifically the area from Mirabito to the Town line. Village Trustee Cindy Falk reached out to Supervisor Bauer and asked if the Town would be interested in joining in on the grant extending the scope of the Planning Study to include the Southern Town line specifically from the Village Line to possibly the Scholarship Office.

Councilperson Hohensee was fully on board. He would like to see that region of the highway redesigned to become a walkable, bikeable, and pedestrian friendly for any age, in an area where the current traffic pattern and roadway could be improved to make it safer.

The problem is that working with NYS D.O.T. would complicate the process. Supervisor Bauer said he would love to see sidewalks to the restaurants at that end of Town, but he was not sure if a planning study would be a worthwhile expense. The Town Board all thought more information would be useful, including costs, expected results, and how far south the study would go. All agreed that inviting Cindy Falk to discuss project at the next meeting would be a good next step. Supervisor Bauer said he would extend an invitation.

MOTION by Councilperson Zwissler to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:04PM

Next meeting will be August 10th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk