

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing on the Preliminary 2023 Budget and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 9th day of November 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

Also Present:

William Hribar Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Bauer explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comment on the proposed 2023 Preliminary Budget. He opened the floor for comments. There were no comments.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the minutes of October 12th as written.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor for comments.

Town resident Joan Kegelman spoke on behalf of the Fly Creek Fire Company, as Chairman of the fundraising committee, requesting money from the ARPA fund that was entrusted with the Town Board to disburse however they saw fit. Her purpose of her appeal was to benefit the Fly Creek Community at large with newer and reliable equipment. The Fire District has a truck replacement fund, but the Commissioners do not feel they have enough to purchase a decent, dependable truck.

County Representative Andrew Marietta felt the Fly Creek Fire District would be a great project to contribute ARPA money too. They are very limited to where they can go for funds other than raising taxes.

Walter Dusenbery notified the Town Board of a large dead pine tree that he would like to see removed before it falls and takes out the power line. He would also like to see the drainage basin between his property and the highway property on Willow Ave. more fully excavated.

Bonnie Sherman spoke on behalf of Bridgette Spivak who has property on Buck Road. The highway department placed a culvert at the top of her driveway. Water from the culvert has washed out her driveway several times. She is asking the Town Highway Department to correct the problem.

Meg Kiernan commented on the Annexation proposal from the Village of Cooperstown. It was her opinion that it is not in the Town residents' best interest to move the Town line giving the Towns portion of Linden Ave. to the Village of Cooperstown. If the County Highway Department was to move and the property sold, and a large housing complex were to be built in its place, such development would generate a substantial amount of sales tax revenue. That would mean the Village of Cooperstown would receive the additional sales tax revenue instead of the Town of Otsego. There is no benefit to the Town of Otsego giving up the southern end of Linden Avenue to the Village of Cooperstown.

County Representative Andrew Marietta assured the Town Board that they would be receiving from the County, \$50,000.00 from their ARPA money to be used toward their new salt shed.

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

General Checking:	\$386,500.19	Hwy Checking:	\$449,807.69
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,342.02	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,539.89
ARPA:	\$180,717.28		

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

GENERAL:	#135-#143	\$ 2,027.77
HWY:	#859-#877	\$ 105,722.42

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer read ZEO Wylie Phillips' report. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:
Zoning Permits: 3

Planning Board Member Sharon Kroker reported on site plan review applications being currently reviewed by the Planning Board.

Highway Superintendent report on projects scheduled or completed since last month's meeting:

- Hribar has located a used pumper fire truck in Bridgewater in great condition for \$20,000.00. The truck will be used to clean culverts, dump trucks and sanders and bridges and refill the broom when sweeping the roads.
- Fork Shop Bridge has been red flagged by the state. The state deems bridges under 5-ton and only one lane unacceptable. Structurally there is nothing wrong with the bridge. D.O.T will check it again next summer.
- Hribar submitted two quotes for a new mower and tractor, which the Town Board reviewed.
- CHIP's reimbursement has been filed. Supervisor Bauer formally thanked former Supervisor Meg Kiernan for her assistance in getting that completed and filed.

Councilperson Hohensee reported meeting with a local contractor who evaluated the old highway garage. The options he gave for improving the exterior were to sand blast the sheet metal siding and repaint it or re-side it all together. Whichever way the Town Board chooses it will be costly and will have to go out for bid. How the Town Board decides to fund the project is another matter. Of course, another option is to leave it the way it is. Councilperson Hohensee suggested that the Town Board consult an engineer to get an idea what it would cost and put the project out for bid. The condition of the roof is yet to be determined. At present it is not leaking. It was decided that Councilperson Hohensee will contact an engineer to determine the condition of the building and estimate the cost to improve the appearance.

Supervisor Bauer reported that he and ZEO Wylie Phillips have been working on updates to the Land Use Law. The updates should be ready for the Town Board to review at the December meeting.

In Councilperson Olson's absence Supervisor Bauer read her watershed committee report. The committee continues to work on a plan that addresses the impact of the algae bloom. They are looking into the creation of an Action Plan for Otsego Lake and grant funding.

Supervisor Bauer thought it prudent if the Town Board reviewed all Town Policies and determine if any of them needed to be updated. Councilperson Kjolhede suggested the policies be divided up among the Town Board members over time and one or two reviewed at the Board meeting each month.

Supervisor Bauer submitted health care options that were reviewed and discussed by the Town Board. It was decided to get feedback from other Towns using the HRA Option Plan.

Supervisor Bauer asked for comments on the Preliminary 2023 Budget.

MOTION by Councilman Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt the Preliminary 2023 Budget as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board once again discussed the ARPA money and how or if it should be distributed. County Representative Andrew Marietta stated that the Village of Cooperstown used all their ARPA money upgrading Double Day Field. No decision was made.

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to go into Executive Session to

discuss a Litigation matter and Employee Performance and Compensation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:17PM)

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:49PM)

MOTION by Supervisor Bauer to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:50PM

Next meeting will be December 14th at 7:00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk