

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 11th day of August 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
Suzanne Olson	Councilperson
Matthew Zwissler	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Kiernan called the regular monthly 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 14th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

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

Supervisor Kiernan opened the floor for comments.

Russell Arens made the complaint that with so many people stopping and taking pictures of the sunflowers planted in the Clark's field all along State Highway 28 and Grasslands on County Highway 26 the speed limit through there needs to be reduced to 35mph. He predicts there will be a bad accident unless the speed limit is reduced. Arens also questioned the safety of the Toddsville Bridge connecting County Highway 26 and County Highway 59. The bridge is noticeably deteriorating more and more.

Arens was told by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar that the bridge belongs to Otsego County and is scheduled to be replaced within the next two years.

Town Supervisor Meg Kiernan told Arens that the Town Board has already requested a traffic study and speed reduction from the State of NY.

Sheila Ross spoke to the Town Board's Vital Records negotiations with the Village of Cooperstown, who want their fee for acting as the Town's Registrar rose from \$250.00/yr. to \$1,500.00/yr. Town Supervisor Kiernan sent a letter to the Village Trustees agreeing to pay the Village of Cooperstown \$750.00/yr. for their services. She reminded them that Village residents rely on the Town's many services and the future is in sharing services and doing what is best for residents. She noted that the Town of Otsego Town Court collects parking fines which generate about \$125,000.00 in revenue for the Village of Cooperstown and nothing for the Town of Otsego. Ross thought the Village of Cooperstown Trustees were treating the Town of Otsego unfairly.

Ross wanted to know what the Town Board had decided about creating a separate paved road for Willow Avenue. After a short discussion it was decided that Supervisor Kiernan, Highway Superintendent Hribar, Councilperson Hohensee and Willow Avenue resident Sheila Ross would meet at the Highway Garage on Cemetery Road August 13th at 8:00AM to discuss the possibilities of creating a separate Road for Willow Ave. and a driveway and parking lot for the Town Highway employees.

Al Schaer submitted a copy of their property description given to him and his wife by their realtor when they bought their house less than one year ago. It showed that they were not in an Agriculture District. This breakdown came from the County Real Property Department. He thought this information may help in determining which Zoning Map is the correct one.

Councilperson Franck told the Schaers that classification from the Otsego County Real Property Department meant something different than the Town's Zoning Map classification.

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:	\$377,608.53
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,863.57	Hwy Checking:	\$614,426.24
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,129.21	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,213.71

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, 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:	#90-100	\$ 1,779.95
HWY:	#578-#592	\$12,083.93

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported apprehending three dogs running at large and he also answered one complaint of a dog being left in a car with the windows shut for slightly over an hour. Village Police were notified, the owner showed up, and the dog was assessed and found to be fine.

Councilperson Franck reached out to OCCA for some assistance in drafting a proposed law governing solar panels. OCCA Environmental Planner Danny Lapin promised to have a proposal to the Town Board by their September meeting.

Supervisor Kiernan referred to a letter she read last month from OCCA Executive Director Amy Wyant, looking for an in-kind commitment from the Town of Otsego regarding the application of the Otsego County Conservation Association Inc. (OCCA) for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Communities Grant Program. She submitted a Resolution for the Town Board to consider.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to adopt the proposed Resolution as offered by Supervisor Kiernan.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket pg. 161)

The Town Board once again discussed the two Zoning Maps and which one should be currently followed. After discussion and still uncertain which map should be the one being followed it was decided that the Town Board would hold a Public Hearing on the subject. The Public Hearing will be held September 8th at 7:00PM before their regular meeting.

Supervisor Kiernan reported that the following permits were issued by the ZEO since last month's meeting:

Zoning Permits: 3 Septic Permits: 1

Highway Superintendent William Hribar reported on highway concerns and work done since last month's meeting.

- Sod Loader has been returned. Hribar was pleased with the amount of work they were able to get done.
- Hribar stated that due to a shortage, buying equipment and parts are becoming difficult.
- Hribar asked the Town Board to think about buying a new loader when preparing next year's budget.
- Roads maintained with CHIP's money were portions of Johnson, Murdock, Glimmerglen, Stone House, Tripp Hill, Keating, and Bristol.
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Supervisor Kiernan reported filing for the amount of CHIP's reimbursement that has been used thus far, totaling \$68,000.00. She also reported completing and submitting the CFA Salt Shed Grant. Kiernan was pleased with how the pictures and narrative came out and is optimistic that the grant will be approved.

Supervisor Kiernan further reported that she, along with Councilperson Franck and Middlefield Councilpersons Kelly Branigan and Jeff Woepfel, Engineer Steve Hagey, and owners of the Rail Explorer, Larry Belka and Alex Catchpool, met and discussed the Phoenix Mill Bridge. Engineer Steve Hagey will analyze the bridge to determine what it will take to make it pedestrian accessible. Belka and Catchpool would like those biking on the railway to be able to sit and relax on the bridge. It was thought that repairing the bridge privately would be cheaper than if it was done publically.

MOTION by Councilperson Olson to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:57.

Next meeting will be September 8th at 7.00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk