

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Meeting on the 8th day of September 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:

Pamela Deane	Town Clerk
--------------	------------

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

Supervisor Kiernan called the Public Hearing to order and explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comment on the Towns Zoning Map.

Dale Brinnier said that before buying her home on Goose St. she inquired at the Town Office what zone the house she was interested in was located. She was told the first 250ft. was Hamlet Residential and then it changes to Residential / Agriculture. She would not have bought the home if it was designated strictly Residential / Agricultural District. Her new neighbor Emily Stolarcyk and who bought the former Arlene Foutch home, has horses fenced close to or on Al and Mary Schaer's property line and maybe 18ft from the edge of the road. Her question was why is Stolarcyk's allowed to put the horse fence in the Hamlet Residential District. Her neighbor the Schaer's, are very upset. Horses and hot days bring horse flies and the smell of manure. They have a large amount of acreage behind the barn. Brinnier felt the horses belong there.

Former ZEO, Planning Board Member and ZBA Member Ed Hobbie informed the Town Board that he always referenced the Certified Zoning Map on the wall between the bathrooms. He had no idea who put the map in question on the Town's Website because it was wrong. He has been told by prior Town ZEO's that they too referenced the Certified Zoning Map on the wall between the bathrooms. We have used this map for Bedbug Stables, Fly Creek Auto, Cider Mill, Greener World, ASPCA, Up State Bar and Grill, the Hickory Grove and others. He pointed out that he could not see where in the Town Land Use Law it says no Agriculture Animals are allowed.

Former Secretary to the Town's ZEO, Planning Board and ZBA for 16 years, Dora Cooke, stated that the Certified Zoning Map on the wall was the only one that was used during the time she worked for the Town of Otsego.

OCCA Environmental Planner Danny Lapin suggested the Town Board rely on Past Practice and recognize the Certified Zoning Map on the wall as the one and only Official Town Map. He further suggested that a copy of that map be filed with the State of New York to avoid a possible law suit.

Sheila Ross commented that farm animals and barns have been here long before people moving into this area bought their homes.

With no other comments from the public Supervisor Kiernan closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to accept the minutes of August 11th 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.

Dale Brinnier asked that the Town do what they can to keep the snow piles at the four corners of the Fly Creek 4-way light pushed back or removed to assure good site distance. The Town Board agreed that that has been a serious problem.

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:	\$ 4,720.06	General Checking:	\$363,980.71
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,865.57	Hwy Checking:	\$600,921.50
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,144.50	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$259,237.15

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:	#101-#110	\$ 1,943.11
HWY:	#593-#606	\$ 49,907.95

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Dog Control Officer Tom Steele reported receiving 1 barking dog complaint and dropping off 2 strays to the ASPCA.

OCCA Environmental Planner Danny Lapin presented a Proposal on behalf of OCCA to draft a Solar Energy System Ordinance for the Town of Otsego. The proposal was reviewed and discussed by Town Board Members. OCCA would pair up with the Town of Otsego and any leading committee convened by the Town to assist in the development of a Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. OCCA is committed to ensure a thorough, rigorous planning process while minimizing cost. Lapin explained cost options:

**Under the No-Cost Option** OCCA can use materials from the NY\_SUN program such as the Model Solar Ordinance prepared by the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) to assist the Town with the development of its own Solar Energy Systems Ordinance. The Town would need to ensure that the development of its Solar Energy Systems Ordinance is consistent with overarching State targets and policies for renewable energy deployment.

**Under the CRP Option** OCCA offers a 50/50 cost share through the CRP Program which significantly defrays our consulting fee of \$100/hr. to \$50/hr. This option will be discontinued as of January 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Town Board Members discussed the two Zoning Maps. Based on the public's response, the following MOTION was offered:

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee that the Town Board of the Town of Otsego recognizes the Certified Zoning Map dated 8/9/1995 as the Official Town Zoning Map.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

It was decided that the Official Zoning Map will be professionally redone, filed with the State of NY and the map on the Town's website will be immediately removed.

Zoning Enforcement Officer Jess Lanza's monthly report was read by Supervisor Kiernan. Permits issued since last meeting were as follow:

Zoning Permits: 3	Septic Permits: 1
-------------------	-------------------

Lanza also reported looking into purchasing **Land Use Law in Effect** signs to place around the Town so people are aware.

In Highway Superintendent William Hribar absence Supervisor Kiernan reported that Hribar has requested a one ton pickup truck.

MOTION by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to approve the purchase of a Ford 550 with body and plow in the amount of \$66,617.00 using the equipment account to initially pay for the purchase and later reimbursing the equipment account with the CHIP's reimbursement money.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Hohensee discussed the need for a cleanup around the Highway Garage.

Councilperson Hohensee reported sending information of a Snow Removal Safety Class thru NYMIR to Deputy Highway Superintendent William Hribar Jr.

Supervisor Kiernan suggested that the Town Board consider holding a Public Hearing on overriding the NYS mandated 2% cap on the Towns 2022 Budget.

MOTION by Councilperson Olson, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to hold a Public Hearing for Local Law #1 on October 13<sup>th</sup> to hear public comment on overriding the 2% Budget Cap.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

After a short discussion a Work Shop for the 2022 Budget was scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM at the Town Building.

Supervisor Kiernan stated that the Town of Otsego will be receiving from ARPA approximately \$110,000.00 for COVID related expenses. How the money is spent needs to be decided by 12/31/2024 and spent by 12/31/2026. No decision was made on how the money should be distributed.

MOTION by Councilperson Olson to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9.02PM.

Next meeting will be October 13th at 7.00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk