

The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 12th day of May 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
Matthew Zwissler	Councilperson
Suzanne Olson	Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar	Highway Superintendent
Pamela Deane	Town Clerk

Supervisor Kiernan called the Public Hearing to order. She explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on the proposed Temporary Six Month Moratorium on Approvals for Solar Projects/Facilities. The floor was then opened for public comment.

Carl Wenner asked the Town Board to compare the assessed worth of acres of vacant land v/s acres and acres of vacant land with Solar Panels, and the cost of maintenance and removing them once they are obsolete. He did not think solar panels or solar panel farms effective or worth having.

Supervisor Kiernan closed the Public Hearing.

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 Zwissler, to accept the minutes of April 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.

Carl Wenner wanted to make his position known on whether or not the Town Board should opt in or out on allowing the retail sale of Marijuana in the Town of Otsego. He first submitted an article referencing Alex Berenson's article "Tell your Children the Truth: The Truth about Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence". Wenner was against the Town Board allowing the retail sale of Marijuana in the Town of Otsego. He was of the opinion that the revenue the Town would gain was not worth it.

Randy Smith shared with the Town Board an article he read on how the tax revenue from the retail sale of Marijuana would be split with those opting in.

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:	\$356,602.21
Highway Savings:	\$ 7,863.57	Hwy Checking:	\$644,824.94
Building Reserve Fund:	\$169,087.06	Hwy Equipment Fund:	\$268,547.89
Building Reserve CD:	\$-0-	Hwy Reserve CD:	\$ -0-

MOTION by Councilperson Franck, seconded by Councilperson Olson, 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:	#52-#64	\$33,905.39
HWY:	#523-#537	\$29,637.29

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Planning Board member Benjamin Bauer reported on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

MOTION by Supervisor Kiernan, seconded by Councilperson Franck, to make the following appointments:

John Tedesco: ZBA 1st Alternate
Antoinette Kosminski Planning Board 1st Alternate

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

- Hribar reported that the Mill Street Bridge has been yellow flagged by the state. The current bridge, which is just under 30 years old, is of a lesser expensive design that is no longer being used. The steel cable holding it together is corroded from the salt used on the road. An engineer will need to be hired to assess the situation and determine if the bridge can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced.
- The excavator, rented for the month, will arrive Monday.
- Hribar discussed with the Town Board the replacement of the existing salt shed. It was decided that Town Board would try again for another grant.
- Hribar also reported that the beavers are active and causing problems.

The Town Board discussed whether it was in the best interest of the Town residents to opt in or to opt out of allowing the retail sale of Marijuana in the Town. Councilperson Hohensee wondered if mailing out a survey to each household might be valuable in getting resident's opinion.

After much discussion the Town Board decided to ask the opinion of various people from various professions such as Law Enforcement, the Town Attorney, Physicians, School Administrator, and Town Insurance Agent, on the subject.

Supervisor Kiernan stated that the Planning Board asked her if weekly rentals should be treated the same as Bed and Breakfasts, which are required to apply for a Special Use Permit. No decision was made. Further discussion was tabled until the June regular meeting.

MOTION by Councilperson Franck to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:23M.

Next meeting will be June 9th at 7.00PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Deane/Town Clerk