

TOWN OF OTEGO

JANUARY 11, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 3526 State Highway 7, Otego, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to appoint officers and organize for the new year, audit the bills and any other business coming before the Board.

The following members were present:

Joseph Hurlburt Supervisor
Maryalice Brown Town Clerk
Terry Brown Councilperson
George Dolezel Councilperson
Barbara Stanton Councilperson
David Sheldon Councilperson
JR Hurlburt Highway Supt

Appointments

Mr. Hurlburt proposed the following appointments for 2012:

Banks: Community and Key
Newspaper: The Daily Star
Historian: Helen Groves
Registrar: Maryalice Brown
Dog Control Officer: Ellen Dwyer
Code Enforcement Officer: Bruno Bruni
Zoning Officer: Bruno Bruni
Youth Rec Delegates: Terry Brown, Barbara Stanton
Deputy Supervisor: George Dolezel
Highway Committee: George Dolezel, Joseph Hurlburt, JR Hurlburt
Liaison with Planning Board: David Sheldon
Bookkeeper: Cindy O'Hara
Health Officer: Bruno Bruni
Dep. Highway Supt.: Kevin Stanton
Insurance Committee: Barbara Stanton, George Dolezel, David Sheldon
Town Attorney: Beth Westfall

No changes from those proposed. A motion was made by George Dolezel, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the appointments for 2012.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

The highway pay raises range from .42 to .50 an hour.

The investment, procurement, and employee handbook will be reviewed by the highway committee and reported at the February meeting.

The mileage rate for 2012 will be .555 mile.

Minutes

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the December 14 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hurlburt gave the supervisor's report for December:

General Fund townwide beginning balance: \$294,592.84
Receipts: 30,640.20
Disbursements: 56,338.38
Ending Balance: \$268,894.66

General Fund outside village beginning balance: \$13,096.88
Receipts: 100.00
Disbursements: 1,019.72 Ending Balance: \$ 12,177.16

Highway Fund townwide beginning balance: \$208,540.84
Receipts: 125,656.54
Disbursements: 167,213.05
Ending Balance: \$166,984.33

Highway Fund outside village beginning balance: \$223,289.90
Receipts: 8,803.37
Disbursements: 19,664.23
Ending Balance: \$212,428.44

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept this report as read.
Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Dog Control Report

Ellen Dwyer gave her dog report: 4 reports of loose/stray dogs, 1 dog taken to shelter, 0 tickets issued.

Fuel Bids

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to award the fuel bid to Reinhardt Home Heating, the lowest bidder, using the differential rate. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Mobile Radios

James Westfall from Tri-County Communications addressed the Board. In 2013 the FCC has ruled that all mobile radios must have narrow band capability. The town has upgraded their license which is good, and must now look to purchase eleven mobile radios and 2 portable radios. Most all of the radios the highway dept. currently uses were purchased around 15 years ago when narrow band was not used.

The information given to the Board by Mr. Westfall will be reviewed by the highway committee.

Local Law #1 of 2012

Beth Westfall, town attorney, introduced Local Law #1 of 2012 entitled ""Local Road Use and Preservation Law"". This law was developed by a coalition of towns and the county to ensure that high intensity traffic associated with construction activity be responsible for any damages to roads caused by their activities. Such businesses would need to get a road permit which will be coordinated by the county.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to schedule a public hearing on the proposed law for Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 6:30 pm.
Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Jim Salisbury, Village Trustee, asked if the town local law would cover village streets also. The town attorney said that the law would cover trucks traveling through the village.

Broad Band Service

Mark Dye addressed the board again about broadband service for people who cannot get cable and must get internet access by phone or satellite dish.

He knows that the town will be renewing the Time Warner franchise this year and would like the town to sign a contract for a shorter time (the previous contract was 10 years).

Previously the town sent letters to neighboring towns about banding together to see if Time Warner may be pressured to expand their service if more towns insisted. The town of Oneonta responded with interest. Mr. Dye is willing to attend other town's board meetings to discuss.

Gas Drilling

Several town residents addressed the board:

Nelson DuBois is concerned about gas drilling. He is in favor of the survey to get the opinion of the residents, and he is in favor of a moratorium.

Ingrid Guiter is concerned about the impact of fracking on the value of property, including mortgage holders who may violate the terms of their mortgage if the fracking on adjacent property impacts their property. She feels it is the responsibility of the town board to protect the residents and supports a moratorium.

Carolee Byrnes reported to the board on the number of towns and cities that have banned fracking or heavy industry, or put moratoriums in place. She would like to see the town enact a moratorium for 9 to 12 months while the survey is done and tabulated.

Dick Downey spoke about the survey that has been developed by the planning board. The Unatego Landowners Association (UALA) would like to see some changes in the wording of some items which he submitted to the board.

Mr. Downey questioned some of the statements of the previous speakers but also supports the survey if it is done fairly for all.

Roslyn Shafer stated that the survey a few years ago when the comprehensive plan was first being developed made the board aware that preserving the rural character of the area is important to the residents. The town needs to anticipate problems that gas drilling and heavy industry may bring and should enact a moratorium.

Planning Board

The proposed survey was discussed. There were slight changes made to a couple of questions.

The board will do a pilot program to see if there are any glitches in understanding the survey.

George Dolezel asked the board what will be done with the information gathered from the survey. The board was in agreement that they should act on the results of the survey even though it is not a vote and is not binding.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to authorize an expenditure not to exceed \$2500 for the survey. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Association of Towns

The town clerk reminded the town board of the annual meeting of the association that is held in February in New York City.

County Representative

Kathy Clark was chairing a meeting of the County Board and was not in attendance.

Warrant 1

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers # 1-28 in the amount of \$ 35,805.82 . Highway Fund vouchers # 1-21 in the amount of \$ 17,687.49 .

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.