

TOWN OF OTEGO

JUNE 13, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, June 13, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 3526 State Highway 7, Otego, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to 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

Minutes

A motion was made by George Dolezel, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the May 9 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance: \$359,293.92
Receipts: 22,562.08
Disbursements: 55,287.06
Ending Balance: \$326,568.94

General Fund outside village beginning balance: \$ 51,394.55
Receipts: 86.06
Disbursements: 32,925.66 Ending Balance: \$ 18,554.95

Highway Fund townwide beginning balance: \$350,835.51
Receipts: 3,085.73
Disbursements: 19,369.43
Ending Balance: \$334,551.81

Highway Fund outside village beginning balance: \$424,054.43
Receipts: 22,814.60
Disbursements: 17,695.62
Ending Balance: \$429,173.41

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

Mr. Hurlburt stated that all town bank accounts will be moving to

Community Bank.

County Representative

Kathy Clark reported to the board: the county is lead agency for a NYSERTA grant to improve energy efficiency; the county supports increasing rural broadband access for under served community. Rep. Gillibrand and Sen. Seward are supporting measures to increase such access.

Dog Control Report

Ellen Dwyer gave her dog report: 9 reports of loose/stray dogs, 1 warning issued, 2 dogs taken to the shelter.

Local Law #3 of 2012

The town attorney presented the proposed local law entitled ““A Local Law to Effect a Moratorium within the Town of Otego on Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Exploration, Extraction, and Support Activities””.

The town board will review the law. If there are no changes to be made at the July meeting it will be referred to the county planning board for a 239 review and a public hearing will be scheduled.

Katie Higgins thanked the board for introducing this law. She wanted to know how residents can communicate any concerns to the board. The attorney suggested that concerns should be addressed at the public hearing.

Gas Drilling

Dick Downey addressed the board. He feels that the survey question about gas drilling should be broken down to separate the town and village responses since he feels that most village residents, who wouldn't be near any drilling, are responding against drilling and town residents are more in favor of drilling. He also feels that the moratorium is supported by people who want a ban on drilling, that drillers are not interested in drilling in Otsego County, and the board should wait for the entire survey results before enacting a moratorium.

Mark Dye believes that village residents should not have been included in the recent survey since the village has its own comprehensive plan which can be amended at the village level.

Steve Sinniger believes that a moratorium is unnecessary because the DEC hasn't completed their review.

Kim More stated that New York State has a moratorium in place and that a local one is not necessary. She submitted a resolution for the town board to consider : that the town accept the draft supplemental generic environmental impact statement (SGEIS) to ensure the safe development of natural gas resources based on the expertise of the DEC.

Mother Michaela spoke to the board. She is from Texas and wanted to tell the board that fracking has destroyed land in her home state.

Charles Bremer wants people to be aware that we need to consider radon levels at the well heads. Also, the town and village is one community and we all need to be involved.

Kathy Davis stated that the town of Otego has high radon naturally.

The town clerk reported that the board has been given letters from Katie Higgins, Mackenzie O'Hara, and Ingrid Guiter in support of the moratorium.

Energy Assessment for Lighting

The board decided not to have the lighting changed.

Highway Supt.

Mr. Hurlburt reported that the Flax Island bridge has been repaired. The bridge on Sheldon Rd. has also been repaired. The crew is doing ditching.

Terry Brown thanked the highway crew for putting up the basketball baskets at the recreation area.

Code Violations

The town clerk has contacted three attorneys for their rates to handle code cases before the court. Michael Getman had the lowest hourly rate at \$125.00/hr if there is no conflict with the district attorney's office. The clerk will contact Mr. Getman to confirm.

Planning Board

Stephen Butler reported the the survey results should be in the computer by the end of the month.

The planning board is also interviewing for a new secretary.

Youth Recreation

The recreation board has decided to convert the tennis courts to a sand volleyball court. The tennis court is in need of surfacing and it is rarely used. No objection from the town board.

Warrant 6

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers

_____ in the amount of \$ _____. Highway Fund vouchers # _____ in the amount of \$ _____.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

The next regular meeting will be Wednesday July 18, 2012 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.