

TOWN OF OTEGO

July 10, 2013

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, July 10, 2013 at 6:00 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	Town 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 Barbara Stanton, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the June 12 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hurlburt read the Supervisor's report for May:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$348,432.55
Receipts:	9,450.84
Disbursements:	<u>40,498.52</u>
Ending Balance:	\$317,384.87
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$49,119.16
Receipts:	210.48
Disbursements:	<u>32,158.62</u>
Ending Balance:	\$17,171.02
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$271,388.13
Receipts:	.14
Disbursements:	<u>9,258.88</u>
Ending Balance:	\$262,129.39
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$507,968.93
Receipts:	12,593.12
Disbursements:	<u>61,693.19</u>
Ending Balance:	\$458,878.86

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

Mr. Hurlburt read the Supervisor's report for June:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$317,384.87
Receipts:	21,733.77
Disbursements:	<u>25,737.82</u>
Ending Balance:	\$313,380.82
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$17,171.02
Receipts:	25.31
Disbursements:	<u>1,133.52</u>
Ending Balance:	\$16,062.81
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$262,129.39
Receipts:	240,754.33
Disbursements:	<u>5,194.41</u>
Ending Balance:	\$497,689.31
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$458,878.86
Receipts:	19,048.76
Disbursements:	<u>68,549.16</u>
Ending Balance:	\$409,378.46

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

County Representative

Kathy Clark reported about extensive storm damage from recent rain storms; an RFP is being drafted for privatization of Otsego Manor; the Otsdawa Creek is listed for work under hazard mitigation if approved.

Code Officer

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Bruno Bruni as code officer, effective July 30. Motion: Ayes, 0 Nays

Thanks to Bruno for his many years of service, and many happy years in retirement.

Planning Board

Mr. Butler reported that they hope to have the draft comprehensive plan completed for their August 6 meeting.

The planning board has received 10 applications for the secretary position and will make an appointment soon.

No action on any zoning changes until there is a comprehensive plan in place.

A motion was made by George Dolezel, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to authorize the expenditure for planning board members to attend an upcoming training session. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Highway Report

JR Hurlburt reported that the new truck has been delivered. There has been repair of road shoulder damage from recent storms, the Upper Green Street bridge replacement has started, and he is still getting prices for the highway garage roof repair.

Municipal Building Sign

The board realized that there had been no motion for expenditure of money for a new sign. It was decided to try to get three quotes for a digital sign so further action is tabled until the board gets some prices. Mr. Bruni will check the company that he contacted last year.

Carol O'Hara voiced her objection to a digital sign. She would prefer a smaller wooden sign and doesn't see a need in our rural community for a lit sign with changing information.

Time Warner

The town supervisor has not been contacted to date. The town attorney had an email from David Whalen of Time Warner stating that Tammy Crowe has been handling the communication. Mr. Hurlburt will try contacting Mr. Whalen again and scheduling a meeting.

Gas Drilling

Brian Foley addressed the board about property rights, and reminded us all that property ownership brings rights and responsibilities.

Dennis Higgins gave the board copies of remarks from various newspapers and publications. These included articles about a gas well site explosion in West Virginia, the shell game played by the gas industry to boost their profits by creative financing, radiation alarms at a PA drilling site, and the natural gas leak at a site in the Gulf of Mexico.

Katie Higgins submitted a letter to the board reminding everyone that Otego is a vibrant community with a number of small businesses, mostly agricultural, and not everyone thinks Otego is dead. She hopes the board supports the results of the survey and bans hydrofracking.

Mark Dye responded that nothing is safe and he approaches the gas drilling issue from an economic perspective. The town board must weigh the cost and benefits of drilling in making their decision.

Economic Development

Stuart Anderson had emailed the town supervisor with information about a successful digester grant application that was developed by Michael Brower for three neighboring areas. He suggested having Mr. Brower attend a meeting to get more information about the process. After discussion it was decided to contact Mr. Brower about a possible meeting in August.

There was discussion about establishing an economic development committee consisting of a board member, a planning board member, possibly a village board member, and some interested town residents. This committee could be a sounding board for projects that may be feasible for this area. Such a committee may also be able to find out about grant assistance. Elizabeth Callahan and Nathaniel Posner will consider being on the board and/or ask others to serve.

Resolution Designating the Secretary of State as agent for service of a notice of claim

The following resolution was put forth by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown:

The Town Board of the Town of Otego, located in Otsego County, New York, duly convened in regular session, does hereby resolve as follows:

WHEREAS, the New York State Senate has passed, and the New York State Governor has signed into effect, the Uniform Notice of Claim Act (hereinafter the "Act").

WHEREAS, section 6 of the Act amends the General Municipal Law by adding a new section 53, effective June 15, 2013.

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law section 53(2) requires that all public corporations, who are entitled to service of notice of claim as a condition precedent to commencement of an action or proceeding shall file a certificate with the Secretary of State designating the Secretary as agent for service of a notice of claim.

WHEREAS, the Town of Otego must file such certificate with the Secretary of State no later than thirty (30) days after the date upon which General Municipal Law section 53 took effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of the Town of Otego does hereby resolve as follows:

Section 1. The Town Clerk of the Town of Otego be and she hereby is directed and empowered to forward to the New York State Secretary of State a Certificate, pursuant to General Municipal Law section 53, designating the Secretary of State as agent for service of a notice of claim where a notice of claim is required by law as a condition precedent to the commencement of an action or special proceeding against the Town of Otego, or any officer, appointee or employee of the Town of Otego.

Section 2. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Electric Supply

It is time to renew the town electric supply carrier. It is currently Municipal Electric Alliance (MEGA).

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to have the town clerk contact NYSEG Solutions and Municipal Electric Alliance and switch to NYSEG if the price is lower, or remain with MEGA for 12 months. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Dog Control Officer

The town clerk read the report left by the dog officer: 1 loose/stray dog, 1 ticket issued, 3 barking complaints.

Warrant #7

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, 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 meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Maryalice Brown

Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.