

TOWN OF OTEGO

NOVEMBER 9, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a public hearing and regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 3526 State Highway 7, Otego, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the 2017 Town Budget, 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
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
JR Hurlburt	Highway Supt.

The public hearing was opened at 6:00 pm:

Mr. Hurlburt told those present that the budget has been increased from 1.6% to 2% due to an additional highway employee being added to the health insurance.

There were no comments about the budget by the residents in attendance.

The hearing was closed 6:05 pm and the regular meeting opened.

Minutes

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the October 12 meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the November 2 meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor’s Report

Mr. Hurlburt read the Supervisor’s report for October:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$351,199.03
Receipts:	15,382.35
Disbursements:	<u>35,146.26</u>
Ending Balance:	\$331,435.12
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 17,144.83
Receipts:	3,585.15
Disbursements:	<u>1,159.16</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 19,570.82
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$ 379,905.92
Receipts:	5.96
Disbursements:	<u>5,619.19</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 374,292.69
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 430,226.55
Receipts:	6.32
Disbursements:	<u>104,587.45</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 325,645.42

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept this report as read. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

2017 Town Budget

The preliminary town budget was revised to reflect an increase in health insurance premiums. Some of the increase was offset by an increase in unexpended balances.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to approve the 2017 Town Budget as revised with an average increase in the tax rate increasing from 1.6% to 2%. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Dog Control Officer

The town clerk gave the dog report; 8 reports of loose/stray dogs, 3 tickets issued, no dogs taken to the shelter.

County Representative

Dan Wilber relayed the report for Kathy Clark: shared services with Onondaga County is starting again and the town can take advantage especially for purchases of large dollar items. The town has used this when purchasing our most recent truck.

Code Officer

Dan Wilber gave his report: with the 2016 Codes revision, if the code officer condemns a dwelling due to an immediate threat to the life or health of the residents, he must now advise the owner/occupant that they can appeal to a local board. The town board has to establish this review board. The town attorney will look into the steps the board must take to establish such a board.

The town has gotten information **about new flood plain regulations**. The town attorney will get a copy of the proposed law to the board members for their review prior to the December board meeting.

Comprehensive Plan

The town board held their public hearing on the comprehensive plan in October. The board has to vote by the December meeting on the plan. The town attorney asked the board if they wanted to make any changes to the plan. Any major revision would require another review by the County planning dept and another public hearing.

Joseph Hurlburt felt that most comments were favorable but the plan could go further.

David Sheldon wants to include the potential for all forms of energy, including natural gas development, in Goal 7, which just mentions renewal energy. Elizabeth Callahan and Marla Calabro, members of the planning board, stated that this goal reflects the survey that was done years ago .

Dick Downey does not want the plan to limit access to a gas pipeline if there is one developed in the future. It is the determination of the town board that the goals of the comprehensive plan does not preclude future development of energy sources.

Ms. Callahan and Ms. Calabro also reminded the board that the comprehensive plan should be reviewed every 5 years so changes can be made in the future.

Planning Board

Elizabeth Callahan reported that the planning board held a public hearing last month and completed approval of a special use permit for a dog grooming business; a lot split was completed; there was discussion of the junkyard law; and the board will be donating a flowering dogwood tree as a memorial to Stephen Butler.

Highway Report

Mr. Hurlburt reported that the NYSDOT has remeasured the miles of town roads by GIS. This measurement determines the town Chips reimbursement. Some road mileage was changed and some roads do not appear on the NYSDOT inventory. Mr. Hurlburt will get the road mileage corrected. The board needs a resolution for the roads that are maintained but not on the state inventory. The town attorney was given information about the roads and will provide a resolution to the town.

MEGA Energy

There was discussion of the Community Choice Aggregation program. In order to continue the board needs to approve a resolution entering into an administration agreement with Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA). The town attorney had a couple of questions that were answered by Mr. Feldstein. Mr. Feldstein wanted to assure that board that this agreement allows the process to move forward and there is no obligation by the town unless and until a local law is adopted. The resolution and agreement with minor changes will be given to the board for review before the next meeting.

Employee Handbook

The board will hold a meeting on Wednesday, Nov 16, at 6:00 pm, to work on the employee handbook.

Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to appoint Peter Johnson to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a 5 year term. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Warrant #11

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: 4 Ayes, 0 Nay

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.