

TOWN OF OTEGO

SEPTEMBER 20, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, September 20, 2017 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
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson
Kevin Stanton	Deputy Highway Supt.

Minutes

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the August 9 meeting with a correction under Planning Board to Lois Chernin. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon to accept the minutes of the August 23 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor’s Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$398,694.66
Receipts:	3,973.18
Disbursements:	<u>25,571.19</u>
Ending Balance:	\$377,096.65
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 23,233.38
Receipts:	85.19
Disbursements:	<u>1,130.45</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 22,188.12
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$ 410,590.10
Receipts:	6.07
Disbursements:	<u>68,822.14</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 341,774.03
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 599,173.75
Receipts:	12,248.92
Disbursements:	<u>57,320.30</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 554,102.37

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

Courtroom changes

Judges Maruszewski and Decker were present to discuss with the board upcoming changes to the town and court clerk offices with the retirement of Maryalice Brown. They are in the process of getting drawings to convert the conference room to a court office. They are applying for a Justice Court Assistance Grant to assist in the renovations as well as office furniture, etc.

Dog Control Officer

Ellen Dwyer gave the dog report: 10 reports of loose/stray dogs, 2 tickets issued.

County Representative

Kathy Clark reported: the solar array in Laurens is now operating and should show electricity savings; two interns graded county roads this summer and most all are in need of repair; hazardous waste days continue to show an increase in participation; in November there will be recycling for ag plastic _

Planning Board

Mark Dye reported no new business at the last meeting. There are inconsistencies in the zoning law that should be addressed.

October 21 Coughlin and Gerhart will host a planning/zoning seminar.

Code Officer

Mr. Wilber was not able to attend. He issued an Order to Remedy to a property on Mill Creek Rd for accumulation of garbage and refuse. There was a complaint about chicken smell and running loose but that is not something that is addressed in our local laws.

Building Code Law

No action, waiting for Mr. Wilber to be in attendance.

Highway Report

Mr. Stanton reported that Franklin Mountain has been paved and just needs to finish the shoulder work.

Mr. Hurlburt is working on the mining permit.

The highway crew will be meeting with Kevin Morse on September 27 about changes to the health insurance.

There have been three applications for employment to fill the position left open with the retirement of James Crawford. Mr. Hurlburt will be scheduling interviews.

Eastern Energy Solutions presented an energy savings workup to the highway dept. The lighting fixtures would be replaced with more energy efficient units that will quickly show savings. The town board agreed the highway dept. should get the upgraded lights.

Pickup Truck

It was decided to purchase a new ¾ ton pickup truck and piggyback on the Madison County bid.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to spend up to \$36,000 from the equipment fund for the purchase of a ¾ ton pickup truck with plow equipment. This expenditure is subject to a permissive referendum. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Handbook

The highway employees have not reviewed the changes yet.

Board of Assessment Review

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to appoint Steven Parisian to a five year term on the Board of Assessment Review. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Justice Court Grant

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

WHEREAS, the Otego Justice Court is a local court processing approximately 1600 traffic cases, 75 criminal cases, and 35 civil cases per year, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the court facility in good working order, and it has become necessary to separate the town clerk and court clerk offices

WHEREFORE, the Otego Town Board authorizes the town supervisor to sign the Justice Court Assistance Grant application to obtain state funding to improve the operation and safety of the local justice court.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Town Historian

The town clerk read the historian's annual report.

Notes from Stuart Anderson

Mr. Anderson thanked the board for the open forum given to residents at the board meetings.

He then addressed a number of concerns:

1. He would like to see the Board check in to and possibly pursue grants that are available to the town, since there is money available.

2. He encourages the board to take an active interest in the fate of the closed elementary school building and defend the interests of the town residents.

3. There is a concern about derelict buildings and their effect on property values.

4. The New Franklin Register (NFR), a quarterly publication, is expanding their free delivery to parts of the town of Otego. Mr. Anderson has contact information for anyone interested in advertising.

5. Mr. Anderson would be interested in speaking with any candidate for local office for publication in the NFR to get your name and/or views to more people.

School Repurposing Committee

Dick Downey reported that the repurposing committee has been meeting. Mr. Downey has gone to three different schools that have merged with varying degrees of success. We should learn from their successes and failures.

Warrant #9

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 board will hold a budget workshop on October 4 at 6:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.