

TOWN OF OTEGO

OCTOBER 12, 2016

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a public hearing and regular board meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 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 proposed Comprehensive Plan update, 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:

Notice of County Planning Department's Recommendation was received. The county approves the draft comprehensive plan with the condition that the county's agricultural plan is addressed in accordance with town Law 272-a. Kate Lawrence, town planning board chair, said this was addressed in the goals section.

Rodney Gould wants the board to make decisions based on facts for the betterment of the community.

Ingrid Guiter wants the comprehensive plan to clearly state that the majority of Otego residents do not want hydro-fracking and heavy industry based on the 2012 survey that was done at the beginning of the comprehensive plan revision. She also wants a statement in support of renewable energy development.

Dick Downey submitted a detailed review of the comprehensive plan from the Unatego Area Landowners Association (UALA). The town needs infrastructure and cheap energy. The comprehensive plan should include safe, responsible gas development. The entire packet is available for review at the town clerk's office.

Naamah Romano wants the comprehensive plan to protect the community for future generations.

Stuart Anderson wants the plan to show support for renewable energy, establish an energy advisory committee, and show support for renewable energy business opportunities. The goals must be forward thinking.

Bill Holmstrom said that the plan offers little more than the status quo and we need more safeguards for the community.

Nathaniel Posner wants the plan to more strongly reflect the community desire to encourage renewable energy development, retain the rural character of the area, and also the need to exclude dangerous, polluting activities.

Kathy Holmstrom wants the plan to commit to a safe community and address air, water, light, and noise pollution.

Dennis Higgins wants the plan to reflect that hydrofracking is harmful to people and the environment.

Carolee Byrnes feels the health and welfare of residents should of the utmost importance. To that end the comprehensive plan should address noise pollution, air quality standards, and a commitment to renewable energy.

Charles Bremer sees a great need for broadband, alternative energy, and the need to protect the environment.

Nelson Dubois wants environmental issues to be addressed and solar energy encouraged.

James Powers, County Representative, sees the family hardships in the county. We need energy sources.

Bob Birch thinks environmental issues are addressed in the goals. There is no goal about creating jobs and fostering economic growth. The comprehensive plan is supposed to broad based, not detailed.

Kim More said that renewable energy also has a downside in the manufacturing of solar panels and windmills. We still need natural gas.

Kathy Clark, County Representative, would like to see the comprehensive plan include goals of economic development, addressing affordable housing, education, infrastructure, and renewable energy.

The hearing was closed at 7:00 pm.

Minutes

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the September 7 meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$365,444.04	
Receipts:	3,999.29	
Disbursements:	<u>18,244.30</u>	
Ending Balance:	\$351,199.03	
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 18,127.10	
Receipts:		110.14
Disbursements:		<u>1,092.41</u>
Ending Balance:		\$ 17,144.83
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$ 393,028.42	
Receipts:		5.84
Disbursements:		<u>13 128.34</u>
Ending Balance:		\$ 379,905.92
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 482,546.63	
Receipts:		23,486.11
Disbursements:		<u>75,806.19</u>
Ending Balance:		\$ 430,226.55

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

County Representative

Kathy Clark reported on county board business: reviewed the draft of the strategic plan; the solar project is moving along at the Laurens site; the 911 tower upgrade project is nearing completion; papers have been signed for the Mohawk Valley Regional Land Bank, the village has two property they want to put in it; the county is looking into a fleet maintenance program for county vehicles.

Dog Control Officer

Ellen Dwyer gave her report: 6 reports of loose/stray dogs, no tickets issued, 1 dog taken to the shelter.

Planning Board

Kate Lawrence reported that the board will have a hearing for a special permit on Oct. 18 for Sharon Short who is looking to open a canine grooming business in her home.

Planning Board Appointment

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to appoint Mark Dye to the town planning board for a term of five years. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Code Officer

Mr. Wilber has had 3 projects come in, but it hasn't been very busy.

Highway Report

Mr. Hurlburt attended a highway supt. conference which he found useful. The crew has been patching on Lower Green Street. The new truck is finished and headed for the paint shop.

MEGA Energy

No board member was able to attend an informational meeting last month. The town clerk has received more information about Community Choice Aggregation. It was decided to contact the project leader and see if she can attend a meeting on November 2.

Board of Assessment Review

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to appoint Susan Grube to the Board of Assessment Review for a five year term. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Local Law #1 of 2016

The town board was given copies of Local Law #1 of 2016 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-c.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to hold a public hearing on Local Law #1 of 2016 on Wed., November 2, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

2016 Budget

The town board scheduled a budget workshop meeting for Monday, Sept. 17 at 6:00 pm to finish compiling the budget.

A special meeting was scheduled for Wed., November 2 at 6:00 pm to adopt the tentative budget.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to hold a public hearing on the 2016 Budget on Wednesday, November 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Warrant #10

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 7:45 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.