

TOWN OF OTEGO

NOVEMBER 8, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held two public hearings and a regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building, 3526 State Highway 7, Otego, New York. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing on Local Law #3 of 2017, authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-c, a public hearing on the 2018 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
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson
JR Hurlburt	Highway Supt.

Public Hearing Local Law #3 of 2017

There were no questions or comments from the public.

2018 Budget

Mr. Hurlburt said that the average increase in the budget is under 1%. There were a couple of general questions on specific line items.

The hearings were closed at 6:15 pm.

Minutes

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the October 11 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the October 25 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor’s Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$374,583.25	
Receipts:	4,509.48	
Disbursements:	<u>27,219.01</u>	
Ending Balance:	\$351,873.72	
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 24,709.91	
Receipts:	1,010.20	
Disbursements:	<u>1,131.13</u>	
Ending Balance:	\$ 24,588.98	
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$ 400,282.85	
Receipts:	5.89	
Disbursements:	<u>12,022.03</u>	
Ending Balance:	\$ 388,266.71	
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 558,621.38	
Receipts:	16,525.28	
Disbursements:	<u>110,161.60</u>	
Ending Balance:	\$ 464,985.06	

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

Dog Control Officer

Ellen Dwyer gave the dog report: 2 reports of loose/stray dogs, 1 ticket issued.

County Representative

Not in attendance.

Local Law #3 of 2017

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to adopt Local Law #3 of 2017 authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-c, as attached. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

2018 Town Budget

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Royce Livingston, to adopt the 2018 preliminary town budget as the final budget for 2018. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Local Law #4 of 2017

The town attorney presented the board with Local Law #4, a local law regarding administration and enforcement of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code and the State Energy Conservation Construction Code. The main change from the previous law (Local Law #1 of 2011) is in section 9 regarding the posting of unsafe structures and the appeal process.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to hold a public hearing on Local Law #4 of 2017 on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:00 pm at the municipal building. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Planning Board

There haven't been any major actions this month, per Kate Lawrence, chair.

Code Officer

Not in attendance.

Highway Report

Mr. Hurlburt reported that they have been screening sand and getting the plows ready for winter.

There was discussion of the underground fuel tank at the highway department. The tank is 30 years old and has to be tested. It was decided not to dig it up but remove the fuel and leave it buried since it is probably in bad shape and may get damaged as it is uncovered. They are looking to install a Roth tank, probably 400 gallons, in the furnace room of the garage.

Otsego County Snow and Ice Agreement

Mr. Hurlburt had the renewal of the snow and ice agreement for county reimbursement for plowing the county roads in the winter.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the agreement for control of snow and ice on county roads pursuant to section 135A of the Highway Law. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Handbook

Barbara Stanton has been working on wording of the employee overtime policy for the handbook. She will incorporate this addition into the handbook and get to the town clerk for printing.

Derelict Buildings

Stuart Anderson has contacted Beth Westfall, town attorney, for any guidance she might have for the town to regulate derelict buildings. Unsafe structures are addressed in the building code law, but having a building demolished and then try to get the property owner to pay the bill doesn't usually work that well. Some bigger communities have land banks, but that has to be funded to have money to pay for demolitions. The consensus is that this is not an easy problem to solve. There may be possible code violations that could be addressed through Dan Wilber, code officer.

Zoning Board of Appeals

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to reappoint John Escobar to a five year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Repurposing Committee

Dick Downey invited the town board and all present to the next meeting of the committee on Monday, November 13 at 6:00 pm at the high school board room. There will be an open session for public comment.

American Power and Gas

The town clerk has been contacted by American Power and Gas. They say that we are paying more per kilowatt hour than the regular NYSEG rate and their company offers a rate that shadows NYSEG but is always lower plus a 25% rebate every 12 months. The board wants the town clerk to see what the monthly savings may be so they can decide if the savings warrants the change.

Warrant #11

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by Barbara Stanton, 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 7:15 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.