

TOWN OF OTEGO

MARCH 14, 2012

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 7:00 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 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 David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the February 8 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hurlburt gave the supervisor's report for February:

General Fund townwide beginning balance: \$241,682.79
Receipts: 182,173.91
Disbursements: 39,866.41
Ending Balance: \$383,990.29

General Fund outside village beginning balance: \$10,779.36
Receipts: 44,646.32
Disbursements: 1,085.32 Ending Balance: \$ 54,340.36

Highway Fund townwide beginning balance: \$324,953.29
Receipts: 155,377.52
Disbursements: 38,248.19
Ending Balance: \$442,082.62

Highway Fund outside village beginning balance: \$226,541.74
Receipts: 216,407.45
Disbursements: 596.62
Ending Balance: \$442,352.57

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

Dog Control Report

Ellen Dwyer gave her dog report: 3 reports of loose/stray dogs, 1 dog taken to the shelter.

Letters

Letters from Roz Shafer and Stuart Anderson were given to the board. They were written in connection with gas drilling.

Gas Drilling

Several residents asked to address the board concerning gas drilling:

Irmabelle Sheldon told the board that she contacted a friend in Bradford County, Pennsylvania, where gas drilling is well established. Her friend told her about the additional revenue and road repairs that have been done. There has been a noticeable increase in traffic. Mrs. Sheldon is against a moratorium on gas drilling.

Dick Downey, representing the Unatego Landowners Association (UALA), gave a short history of the organization and how it started in order to get educated about gas drilling. He encouraged everyone to check sources if you don't believe his facts and figures. He rebutted some of the information that was given at the February meeting. He said that a moratorium may be benign and reasonable but there are consequences. He is not in favor of a moratorium.

John French is from Unadilla, works at Amphenol and is a member of the UALA. He feels that the case in Middlefield will be appealed, and that a moratorium may affect business.

Steve Sinniger, a member of the Farm Bureau, is in favor of gas drilling and not in favor of a moratorium.

Mark Dye spoke about the need for growth and business. Gas drilling may not be perfect but it may be a bridge to a better future.

Kim More is not in favor of a moratorium. There is not enough money to support the needs of the area and she said that the ad valorem tax goes to the town and would help to keep property taxes in check.

Marie Lusins-MacLachlan believes in developing natural gas, but more than that she believes in energy development: wind, solar, etc. Developing energy sources would be a basis for jobs and economic development. We need to be educated and to that end she encouraged the board to have at least one representative attend forums on alternative energy that will be held this spring and summer.

Carol O'Hara believes that it is worth putting a moratorium in place to give time to study the gas drilling issue some more and possibly amend our local zoning law.

Carolee Byrnes would like to see a moratorium in place to give time to evaluate the surveys that are currently being collected.

Board members spoke to the moratorium issue:

Joseph Hurlburt was considering a moratorium but based on information received this evening would like more time to consider the issue.

George Dolezel is in favor of drilling, but also sees no problem with a moratorium at this time.

Terry Brown would say no to a moratorium at this time.

David Sheldon doesn't think we'll see drilling anytime soon.

Barbara Stanton feels that both sides have given the board good information. She wants more time to consider the moratorium issue.

Local law #2 of 2012

Local Law #2 of 2012 was presented to the board. This is a amendment to the Zoning Ordinance which was adopted in September 2002 and amended in June of 2004 and June of 2005.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by George Dolezel, to hold a public hearing on Local law #2 of 2012 on Wednesday, April 18 at 6:30 pm.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The town accepted the resignation of Roger Sullivan from the zoning board of appeals. The town clerk will put a news article in the Daily Star and a notice on the town website to try and find someone to finish Mr. Sullivan's term.

Destruction of Records

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to destroy the attached listing of records from 2000 and 2001. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Energy Assessment for Lighting

NYSEG is conducting energy assessments for public buildings. They will evaluate the lighting in the buildings and replacement with more energy efficient models. The town would have to pay 30% of the cost of any upgrade. It was decided to have the assessment and find out the cost and possible savings.

MEGA Energy

MEGA energy has submitted a proposal to become the energy supplier for the town. This would result in some savings. The town clerk will contact our current supplier to see if they will match the rate we are being offered by MEGA.

Budget Amendments and Modifications

A motion was made by George Dolezel, seconded by David Sheldon, to approve the attached budget amendments and modifications. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

County Representative

Kathy Clark reported that she will be meeting with administrators from Montgomery and Schoharie Counties to begin the work of exiting from MOSA.

Ms. Clark also spoke of the need for economic help for our area, and the necessity of broadband access in many underserved areas of the county.

Highway Report

Mr. Hurlburt has met with Scott Fickbohm from the county and is hopeful that we will get some grant money to work on Otsdawa Creek and fix the damage from the recent flooding.

Mr. Hurlburt also has three mitigation projects that he has submitted to FEMA and is waiting for their response.

Warrant 3

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 board will hold a special meeting on Wed., March 21 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of auditing the justice records followed by a review of the employee handbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Maryalice Brown
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.