

## TOWN OF OTEGO

**MAY 9, 2012**

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 6:30 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 #2 of 2012 (amending zoning ordinance), 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

The floor was open to hear those for and against Local Law #2 of 2012 amending the town Zoning Ordinance. The town clerk read the legal notice.

Roberta Behnke submitted a petition in favor of allowing single wide manufactured homes on County Hwy. 48. Manufactured homes are allowed in another district in the town and her family feels that it is a form of affordable housing that should be expanded to the R1 zone.

Jonathan Clark submitted a letter asking the board to consider revising Section 405 Paragraph B into two separate items, ““Home Occupation”” and ““Home Professional Office””.

After further discussion, Terry Brown, David Sheldon, and Joseph Hurlburt decided they would like to allow 14 ft. wide manufactured homes in the R1 district. George Dolezel and Barbara Stanton want the law to remain as is, allowing double wides in the R1 district which did not allow them previously.

The law will be referred back to the planning board to make that change to the zoning law and any other wording that may be affected.

### County Representative

Kathy Clark wanted all present to know that this month is May Day for Mandate Relief. She urged all residents to contact their state representatives and make them aware of the burden on property owners who must pay for unfunded mandates. The county website has addresses and a link to [enoughmandates.com](http://enoughmandates.com).

### Minutes

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by George Dolezel, to accept the minutes of the April 18 meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

### Supervisor's Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance: \$371,973.17  
Receipts: 22,235.10  
Disbursements: 34,914.35  
Ending Balance: \$359,293.92

General Fund outside village beginning balance: \$ 52,441.93  
Receipts: 215.67  
Disbursements: 1,263.05 Ending Balance: \$ 51,394.55

Highway Fund townwide beginning balance: \$390,076.87  
Receipts: 895.28  
Disbursements: 40,136.64  
Ending Balance: \$350,835.51

Highway Fund outside village beginning balance: \$441,446.94  
Receipts: 7,134.23  
Disbursements: 24,526.74  
Ending Balance: \$424,054.43

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

### Dog Control Report

Ellen Dwyer gave her dog report: 5 reports of loose/stray dogs, 1 dog taken to the shelter. There is also a dangerous dog case before the court.

### Gas Drilling Moratorium

In response to the public discussion over the past months a poll of board members was taken: Joseph Hurlburt, George Dolezel, Terry Brown, and Barbara Stanton would like to have the town consider a local law placing a 12 month moratorium on gas drilling. David Sheldon is not in favor of a moratorium

The town attorney said that a moratorium can be put in place but there has to be a reason. The purpose of the town moratorium will be to give the town time to update the comprehensive plan and consider any zoning law amendments. The town attorney will draft a local law to be submitted to the board next month.

### Gas Drilling

Clark Rhoades spoke to the board concerning cement shrinkage of well casings in the Soviet Union.

### Energy Assessment for Lighting

The board had the information and figures for upgrading the lighting in the municipal and highway buildings. Action tabled.

### MEGA Energy

It was decided to change to MEGA Energy for 12 months as the town's electricity supplier.

### Parking Lot

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by George Dolezel, to hire Dr. Sealgood to coat and repair the parking lot. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

### Highway Supt.

Mr. Hurlburt reported that the town is trying to get FEMA to mitigate the bridge on Upper Green St. This bridge has been damaged by flooding before and hopefully will be mitigated so that a more flood resistant structure can be put there.

The bridge on Flax Island Road is almost complete.

Mr. Hurlburt is working with McManus Engineers on renewing the gravel bank mining permit.

Mr. Hurlburt has gotten three quotes to get a truck sandblasted and painted. A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to hire Tepco equipment in Bainbridge to sandblast and paint the box and frame of one of the highway trucks. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

### Gas Drilling

Mother Raphaela addressed the board and the public urging all residents to build community and listen to everyone. We all don't see things the same way and we need to work through the democratic process.

Carolee Byrnes submitted a letter expressing her disappointment in her treatment at the last board meeting. She feels that she was spoken to rudely when other attendees have spoken at length and been treated more courteously.

Katie Higgins thanked the board for following through on the moratorium issue.

Brian Foley doesn't want to pit neighbor against neighbor, but he feels that people in favor of gas drilling have used unfair tactics.

Mark Dye gave the town board copies of New York Town law and Village law addressing the separation of the town and village where it concerns the comprehensive plan.

Stuart Anderson addressed the board about his dissatisfaction with the board allowing the rants of some citizens that he feels amounts to

bullying. He also was angry that someone who is against gas drilling was spoken down to and no one spoke up in her defense.

Grievance Day

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to hold grievance day on Wednesday, May 23, 2012 from 4-8 pm at the Municipal Building.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Basketball

A motion was made by George Dolezel, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to purchase four basketball backboards and baskets for the rec fields.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The highway department will do the installation.

Warrant 5

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers

# 79-96 in the amount of \$ 57,823.86. Highway Fund vouchers # 74-89 in the amount of \$ 15,743.11.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Maryalice Brown  
Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Councilperson

\_\_\_\_\_ Highway Supt.

