

TOWN OF OTEGO

AUGUST 11, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 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:

Barbara Stanton	Deputy Town Supervisor
Teresa Sears	Town Clerk
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson

Minutes

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the July 14th meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

Mrs. Stanton read the Supervisor's report for July in Mr. Hurlburt's absence:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$558,679.05
Receipts:	5,409.97
Disbursements:	<u>25,451.99</u>
Ending Balance:	\$538,630.03
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 31,258.39
Receipts:	240.25
Disbursements:	<u>2,183.58</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 29,315.06
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$608,640.35
Receipts:	8.90
Disbursements:	<u>6,537.30</u>
Ending Balance:	\$602,111.95
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$727,115.22
Receipts:	21,401.82
Disbursements:	<u>27,534.99</u>
Ending Balance:	\$720,982.05

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

Dog Control Officer

Ellen Dwyer gave the dog report for July 14th –August 11th: 3 reports of loose/stray dogs; 2 unverified/unable to catch/no complaint; 1 warning issued; 1 out of area possible neglect call; 1 livestock complaint; 2 bark complaints; 1 pooper scooper complaint.

Town Clerk Report

Teresa Sears presented the Town Clerk monthly report for July.

County Representative

Hazardous Waste Days are coming up on the 20th and 21st. Information is on the town bulletin board, town and county website. Paint will be accepted. Mr. Brockway put in a request for white paint for the county give-away.

The County Board is purchasing 2 ambulances to address the EMS need. It should be here in 30 to 60 days. A committee will work on staffing/hiring. The 911 coordinator's vehicle will be the fly car. The start-up cost will be funded by the rescue fund.

Mrs. Sears has a question about the traffic diversion money from the county. Mr. Wilber advised contacting Allen Ruffles or John Muehl.

Code Officer

There are a number of construction projects underway. Mr. Wilber recently received an application for a hunting cabin and 2 single family dwellings.

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Highway Report

Mrs. Sears read the report in Mr. Hurlburt's absence. The online auction ended this morning on the old midsize dump truck, with a final bid of \$15,200.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the final bid of \$15,200 on the midsize dump truck. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The highway department completed oil and stone for CHIPS on Hell Hollow, Sullivan, Sheldon, Bert Washburn, and Smith & Georgia roads. They also completed the same for 1.9 miles on upper Mill Creek Road.

Research continues on tractors and pricing to replace the old John Deere; no solid choice yet. Tomorrow is the last day to purchase tickets for the highway superintendent clambake.

Mrs. Stanton shared that the village has yet to receive reimbursement from the county for the 0-turn lawnmower purchased a few years ago.

Planning Board

Land subdivisions are still in process. A copy of the map was finally received by the county. Revision of zoning law is almost complete. The zoning commission will look at the site plan review next.

From the Floor

Mr. James Thomas shared with the board his frustration with a propane cannon, on County Highway 48, which goes off at all hours of the day and night. This is disrupting sleep, upsetting pets, and wildlife. His neighbors share his feelings. He has complained to multiple sources to no avail. He would like to know if the town has a noise ordinance.

The town attorney, Ms. Westfall, addressed his complaint. Presently, the town does not have a noise ordinance. She advised Mr. Thomas to speak to Mr. Wilber who may know if this violates any other ordinances. If not, it may necessitate civil action.

Councilman Sheldon is familiar with this property, and volunteered to contact the owner to ask that the cannon be discharged during daytime hours only.

MVP

Mrs. Sears reported that the proposed premium rate change to the town's premium is 1.2%.

NYS Department of Transportation

A representative from the DOT contacted the town clerk to ask if they may have an informational meeting at the Municipal Building in September to present the public with the proposed work on State Highway 7 next year. The town board gave their approval for that meeting.

Court Business

1. Town Justice Resignation

Raymond Maruszewski submitted his letter of resignation to the board. He will complete his term on August 28th.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to reluctantly accept the resignation of Mr. Maruszewski. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

2. Temporary Justice

Ms. Westfall spoke with Mr. Shapiro at the 6th Judicial District about appointing temporary justices to fill both vacancies in the town. The same salary would be given. Though past the primary elections, a write-in candidate is still able to be elected in November. If the vacancy continues past the end of the year, a long term temporary justice may have to be assigned.

Budget Officer

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Royce Livingston, to appoint the Town Clerk as the budget officer for the 2021 fall budget process. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Otsego Electric Cooperative

The Town of Otego was served a legal petition this week by Otsego Electric Cooperative for the purpose of tax assessment reduction. Mrs. Sears will contact NYMIR to see if this is covered under the town's insurance policy. The court date is October 1, 2021.

Cyber Security

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Royce Livingston, to hire Stephen Lawton as cyber security provider for the town. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

CCIL Committee

JR Hurlburt would like to schedule a meeting with the Catskill Center for Independent Living to discuss plans for the memorial walk in the village. Mr. Roberts will inform Mr. Hesse (village planning board) of the meeting. Ms. Chernin will represent the town planning board; Mrs. Stanton and Mr. Livingston will attend for the town board. Mrs. Sears will contact Megan Sharing, CCIL director, to see if Wednesday, August 18th, at 6:00 pm is a possibility.

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Warrant #8

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers # 154--169 in the amount of \$ 27,382.47. Highway Fund vouchers #97—108 in the amount of \$18,184.12 . Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nay

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Sears
Town Clerk

_____ Deputy Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson