

TOWN OF OTEGO

July 14, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, July 14, 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 cover any other business coming before the board.

The following members were present:

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

Minutes

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the June 9th meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the June 18th special meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hurlburt read the Supervisor's report for the month of June:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$568,681.07
Receipts:	11,140.97
Disbursements:	<u>21,142.99</u>
Ending balance:	\$558,679.05
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 32,318.06
Receipts:	205.26
Disbursements:	<u>1,264.93</u>
Ending balance:	\$ 31,258.39
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$612,631.79
Receipts:	8.66
Disbursements:	<u>4,000.10</u>
Ending balance:	\$608,640.35
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$861,331.66
Receipts:	22,142.64
Disbursements:	<u>156,359.08</u>
Ending balance:	\$727,115.22

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

Ms. Dwyer gave the report for June 8th through July 13th. There were: 9 reports of loose/stray dogs; 3 unverified/unable to catch/no complaint; 1 warning; 5 taken to the shelter for a total of 136 miles; 1 bite report/rabies verification/no complaint; 1 lost--out of area; 1 neglect—unfounded; 1 abandoned—out of area; 1 livestock; 1 wildlife—out of area; and 1 ongoing dangerous dog investigation with hearing, motion to vacate, default judgement received.

Town Clerk Report

Mrs. Sears presented the town clerk monthly report for June.

Tax Collector Annual Report

Mrs. Sears presented the board with the annual report for the 2021 tax season. All records were returned to the county on May 18th, with total payments to the county equaling \$616,164.95.

Town of Otego/July 14, 2021

County Representative

The county has received the Covid recovery money from the state. Mr. Brockway supported the proposal to allow 12-13 year olds to hunt big game; that proposal was passed this week.

Adopting the MUNIS tax system is postponed until 2023. The county will continue with ATC taxes next year.

There are two household hazardous waste day's this year: Friday, August 20th at the Unadilla Highway Building, from 8:00--11:00 am; and Saturday, August 21st at the Meadows Office Complex from 8:00 am—1:00 pm. A question was raised about the free paint giveaway. Mr. Brockway will find out if that is being done again this year.

There is a 2,200 acre solar farm project planned for the town of Laurens. The Laurens town board is putting a moratorium on this in hope of slowing down this project.

Code Officer

Mr. Wilber is surprised at how busy he has been considering the cost of lumber. He has received applications for: solar projects, sheds, barns and a septic system.

Mr. Wilber shared his concern for the Emergency Medical Services that are experiencing problems statewide. He is involved at the county level with finding a solution. Responding to an emergency call may take as long as an hour, and EMS personnel are facing burnout as well as frustration. The county is considering backup services, at the county level, to assist local facilities. To address this crisis, the county may have to push an adaptable plan through without a fully determined financial solution. With a shortage of EMS staff, the salary offered will have to match the high standard needed.

Highway

Mrs. Sears read the highway report in Mr. Hurlburt's absence. Truck #6 has been listed for the auction, which begins July 27th and runs for 2 weeks. The bid offer will be voted on at next month's meeting. The signs for non-ATV use came in on Monday. They will be installed this month.

Mr. Hurlburt met with a State Trooper from Sidney again about the missing road signs. Otego has had 24 street signs stolen; Unadilla has had 26. There are suspects being investigated for these thefts.

Recent severe wind and rain has caused several trees to come down, as well as many culvert washouts in the town. With the help of the Town of Laurens and Village of Otego highway workers, most has been repaired. Wheaton Creek was hit hardest; recovery will take longer, possibly a month or longer.

Mr. Hurlburt would appreciate any inquiries about the buildings or grounds of the Highway Department be addressed to him, as he is the responsible party according to Town Highway Law. He is willing to answer any questions/concerns.

There is a County Highway Superintendent Clam Bake on Thursday, August 19th, at the Wells Bridge Fire Department pavilion in Wells Bridge. Tickets are on sale now for \$45.

Planning Board

Lois Chernin reported on planning board activity. The subdivision for Troy Hurlburt is complete. The Birch subdivision is still in process. The long awaited map is on hold due to county computer issues.

The zoning commission is working rapidly on completing the updated site plan review.

Destruction of Records

The Town Clerk presented a schedule for the destruction of certain fiscal records, as attached.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the destruction of records as presented. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Court Business

1. Town Justice Resignation

Supervisor Hurlburt read the letter of resignation from Kenneth Olsen. Though satisfied with the working environment and those he works with, the position requires more time than Mr. Olsen is able to give at this time in his life.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Barbara Stanton, to accept the resignation of Mr. Olsen. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The next judicial training is in December, so no appointment may be made until then unless the candidate is an attorney. A temporary appointment of a justice from another town could be made. Ms. Westfall, the town attorney, will speak to the OCA about this possibility. Mrs. Sears will advertise the position on the town website, town sign and in The Daily Star.

Town of Otego/July 14, 2021

2. Deputy Court Clerk

In early July, the town justices, court clerk, and Councilperson Stanton interviewed Cindy O'Hara for the deputy court clerk vacancy. All who attended approved of her appointment for this position.

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to hire Cindy O'Hara as Deputy Court Clerk beginning September 1, 2021 at a rate of \$14.50 per hour.
Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

Ms. Westfall reviewed the county mitigation plan. They attached a segment for each town in this particular plan, which she believes is an improvement. Mrs. Stanton found a few typos in the document, which should be corrected by the county.

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Cyber Security

A cost comparison of two providers was presented to the board. Ms. Westfall thought the comparison was helpful.

Since the board recently heard a presentation by one provider for clarification on their proposal, they would like to meet with the second. Mrs. Sears will contact this provider to arrange a meeting.

From the Floor

Buzz Hesse provided flyers for both the bank closure and the erroneous sign on I88. Concerning the bank closure, the village mayor, town supervisor, and Mr. Hesse communicated their feelings to those directly involved with the decision to close Community Bank in Otego, as the town residents do not wish to see this happen. Contact information is on the flyer; all are encouraged to call.

Mr. Hesse also encourages calling to protest the sign on I88 (see June meeting minutes). Numbers were provided on the flyer. A newspaper article and/or petition would also be helpful.

Other Business

Supervisor Hurlburt read a letter from an Otego resident commending the town assessor, Mr. Mario Arevalo, for his professionalism and helpfulness.

Warrant #7

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers # 134--153 in the amount of \$27,753.15. Highway Fund vouchers # 82--96 in the amount of \$11,420.09.
Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by Royce Livingston, seconded by David Sheldon, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Sears
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.