

Town of Otego

September 9, 2020

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 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
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson
JR Hurlburt	Highway Supt.

Minutes

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by David Sheldon, to accept the minutes of the August 12th meeting. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

Mr. Hurlburt read the Supervisor's report for August:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$527,214.92
Receipts:	832.86
Disbursements:	<u>19,579.17</u>
Ending Balance:	\$508,468.61
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 27,126.99
Receipts:	260.23
Disbursements:	<u>1,189.47</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 26,197.75
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$668,788.95
Receipts:	9,510.58
Disbursements:	<u>15,897.02</u>
Ending Balance:	\$662,402.51
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$687,176.19
Receipts:	15,244.13
Disbursements:	<u>82,395.06</u>
Ending Balance:	\$620,025.26

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

Mrs. Sears read the report for July and August in Ms. Dwyer's absence.

July: 5 reports of loose/stray dogs; 2 complaints of neglect—1 unverifiable/1 spoken to; 2 calls about livestock (poultry).

August: 2 loose/stray dogs; 2 unverified/unable to catch/no complaint; 1 cat; 1 re-home.

Town Clerk Report

Teresa Sears presented the Town Clerk monthly report for August.

County Representative

Mr. Brockway shared that Otsego Now is offering \$500 grants to businesses in towns or villages in the county to help offset the cost of PPE's purchased during the pandemic.

The deadline to register to vote is October 9th for regular voting; October 27th for absentee voting. Early voting will be held at the Meadows Office Complex. Dates and times are available on the Otsego County Board of Election website.

Mr. Brockway encourages all residents in Otego to participate in the U.S. Census as this will be a help to the town.

Code Officer

Mr. Wilber sent an Order to Remedy to the Wells Bridge residence in response to a housing complaint. He met with the owner who is taking steps to comply, however, the property may go on the market.

Several permits are in the process of being issued for family homes and sheds.

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Highway Report

As anticipated, Governor Cuomo has decided to withhold 20% of CHIPS money. Mr. Hurlburt planned accordingly in his budget to prepare for this possibility.

The highway department has continued to cut shoulders and clean ditches this past month.

Planning Board

The new printer has been set up. Forms are be finalized and will be available soon. The zoning commission continues to meet weekly.

Elizabeth Callahan has resigned. The new alternate, Lonnie Ridgway, may fill the position in a few months. Residents willing to serve as alternates are needed.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the resignation of Elizabeth Callahan from the planning board. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The town board wishes to thank Ms. Callahan for her years of service.

School Land Use

Dr. Richards accepts the changes made to the contract, including fee charge removal and clarity on field maintenance.

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Royce Livingston, to accept the changed agreement. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Catskill Center for Independence

Don Wyckoff presented the town board with a request and design to build a memorial walk, accessible to those with disabilities, at no cost to the town. They would like to build it in the park near the pond, and are hoping to complete it by next May. Some funds have already been raised. He has spoken to the Otego Garden Club asking for their support in beautifying the walk.

JR Hurlburt will meet with Mr. Wyckoff to discuss details.

Layton Code Complaint

In response to an Order to Remedy, Rex Layton was in attendance to discuss his business plan for the State Highway property across from the entrance to Mill Creek Road. He has cleaned up some of the property, but would like permission to keep the trailers parked there. He plans to attend the planning board meeting on the 15th.

Mr. Wilber pointed out that only 2 unregistered vehicles are allowed on any property. Mr. Layton's property is in an R1 zone, and must have a special use permit for a business. Nothing has been submitted in writing thus far. Mr. Wilber recommends attendance at the planning board meeting, in addition to continuing the cleanup, to avoid criminal action.

Justice Court Grant

The following resolution was put forward by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown:

WHEREAS, the Otego Town Court is a local court processing traffic cases, criminal cases, and civil cases per year, and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to maintain the court facility in good working order and to maintain security,

THEREFORE, the Otego Town Board authorizes the Town Court to apply for a Justice Court Assistance Grant in the 2020-2021 grant cycle.

Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Lawsuit Representation

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by David Sheldon, to appoint Coughlin and Gerhart to legally represent the Town of Otego in the assessment grievance lawsuit. Motion: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Budget Workshop

The budget workshop will take place on Wednesday, September 30th at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building in Otego.

Warrant #9

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 Nay

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Sears
Town Clerk

_____ Town Supervisor

_____ Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.