

TOWN OF OTEGO

September 8, 2021

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, September 8, 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
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson
JR Hurlburt	Highway Supt.

Minutes

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Terry Brown, to accept the minutes of the August 11th meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Supervisor's Report

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

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$538,630.03
Receipts:	104,305.97
Disbursements:	<u>18,117.37</u>
Ending Balance:	\$624,818.63
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 29,315.06
Receipts:	50.25
Disbursements:	<u>1,077.66</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 28,287.65
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$602,111.95
Receipts:	59,746.17
Disbursements:	<u>2,682.20</u>
Ending Balance:	\$659,175.92
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$720,982.05
Receipts:	529.27
Disbursements:	<u>37,115.76</u>
Ending Balance:	\$684,458.56

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

Dog Control Officer

Ms. Dwyer gave the dog report for August 12—September 8th. There were: 7 reports of loose/stray dogs; 6 unverified/unable to catch/no complaint; 1 dog taken to the shelter (61 miles total); 2 dangerous dogs/bites; 1 livestock call; 1 neglect unverified; and 2 out of the area. A pitbull mix escaped from a motor vehicle accident and is still lost.

Town Clerk Report

Teresa Sears presented the Town Clerk monthly report for August. She shared a note of thanks from Gretchen Brown for the town's response to the propane cannon complaint, and announced the Department of Transportation's public information meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 22nd, at 5:00 pm at the Otego Firehouse to discuss next summer's project on Main Street.

County Representative

The county hired an administrator yesterday. Hazardous Waste Day was successful. Unadilla had 240 vehicles and Cooperstown had 656 vehicles participate. Two requests have been submitted for white paint; no word on this yet.

Town of Otego/September 8, 2021

Mr. Brockway and Mr. Wilber shared an update on the new EMS service. Twenty people are being hired for this: 8 advanced level; 8 basic level; 2 part time advanced and 2 part time basic. There will be 2 ambulances that will respond to the highest need areas. Transport will only be for 911 calls. Ways to fund this are still being considered.

Code Officer

Projects are moving along. There is a manufactured home being installed. Mr. Wilber has again contacted the owner of the green house on the outskirts of town with safety concerns. It is supposed to be demolished soon.

Custom Electronics is interested in setting up a section of their business in the former Hometown Auto location. All agree that this will benefit the town, but it will require board action to change the zoning to light manufacturing. Mr. Wilber will set up a meeting with Custom Electronics to discuss their interest.

Highway Report

CHIPS sealing is now complete. The highway department is waiting for the money on this. They have yet to receive the salt check from the village too. Tractor prices are still being compared.

A highway committee meeting to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act was arranged for Monday, September 13th at 4:30. Mr. Hurlburt has been working on highway department payroll for submission.

Court Report

1. Temporary Justice Claudette Newman introduced herself to the board. She is an attorney with 25 years' experience in supreme and county courts. She is presently the town justice in Butternuts also. Ms. Newman agreed to fill this temporary vacancy because of Katharine Davis, Court Clerk for the town, whom she believes to be well respected in this judicial district.
The town board welcomed Ms. Newman and expressed appreciation for her willingness to serve.
2. Peter McCann, of Morris, is the second temporary justice appointed for the town. Both justices will receive the same compensation as the former town justices.

Justice Court Grant

The following resolution was put forward by Royce Livingston, seconded by Barbara Stanton:

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 2021-2022 grant cycle.

Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Planning Board

There will be a public hearing on Tuesday, September 21st, at 7:00 pm at the Municipal Building. Mike Perry, of Ridgetop Rentals, is seeking a special use permit to operate a special event venue located at 215 Anderson Lane, tax map number 317.00-1-31.41.

The zoning commission is still working on the site plan review law.

Budget Workshop

The budget workshop will take place on Tuesday, September 21st at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Building in Otego. A possible second date for continued work is Monday, September 27th at 6:00 pm. Mrs. Sears will confirm these dates with the bookkeeper.

Otsego Electric Cooperative Lawsuit

A motion was made by Royce Livingston, seconded by Terry Brown, to appoint Coughlin and Gerhart to legally represent the Town of Otego in the assessment grievance lawsuit against Otsego Electric Cooperative. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Memorial Walk Update

J.R. Hurlburt, Mrs. Stanton, and Ms. Chernin met with representatives from the Catskill Center for Independent Living (CCIL) to discuss plans for the memorial walk. CCIL provided clarity on why Otego was chosen for this walk. A ten foot octagonal gazebo will be set up near the pond, and the walk will extend from the pavilion to the gazebo. A plaque in memory of Theresa Wiedeck will be placed at

the entrance to the walk. Any maintenance or repairs needed for the gazebo or walk will be the
Town of Otego/September 8, 2021

responsibility of CCIL.

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Royce Livingston, to approve the plan, as mentioned above, for the memorial walk. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Cyber Security Transition

Steve Lawton began the IT work last week to make the town compliant with NYMIR cyber security recommendations. He plans to install Bit Defender on the town clerk, assessor, and highway computers next week. Ms. Westfall, the town attorney, recommended we obtain Mr. Lawton's insurance coverage information.

MVP Renewal

Paperwork has been sent by the health insurance representative. Renewal deadline is December 1st of this year. The town board will decide on renewing with MVP after the budget workshop.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Royce Livingston, to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Enter Executive Session: 7:40 pm

A motion was made by Terry Brown, seconded by Royce Livingston, to exit executive session. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Exit Executive Session: 7:43 pm

Highway Department Position

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Terry Brown, to hire Thomas Goodrich as a highway department CDL driver and laborer at a rate of \$17.75 per hour. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

Warrant #9

A motion was made by Barbara Stanton, seconded by Royce Livingston, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers # 170--190 in the amount of \$28,953.97. Highway Fund vouchers # 109—116 in the amount of \$ 56,850.13 . Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nay

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Sears
Town Clerk

_____Town Supervisor

_____Town Clerk

_____ Councilperson

Town of Otego/September 8, 2021

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Councilperson

_____ Highway Supt.