

Town of Otego

April 11, 2018

The Town Board of the Town of Otego held a regular board meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2018 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:

Teresa Sears	Town Clerk
Barbara Stanton	Councilperson
David Sheldon	Councilperson
Terry Brown	Councilperson
Royce Livingston	Councilperson
JR Hurlburt	Highway Superintendent

Minutes

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

Supervisor's Report

Barbara Stanton, filling in for Mr. Hurlburt, read the Supervisor's report for the month of March:

General Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$506,817.76
Receipts:	2,702.22
Disbursements:	<u>25,291.34</u>
Ending Balance:	\$484,228.64
General Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$ 38,068.95
Receipts:	.34
Disbursements:	<u>1,167.08</u>
Ending Balance:	\$ 36,902.21
Highway Fund townwide beginning balance:	\$517,731.34
Receipts:	859.63
Disbursements:	<u>81,281.06</u>
Ending Balance:	\$437,309.91
Highway Fund outside village beginning balance:	\$712,611.16
Receipts:	8,323.20
Disbursements:	<u>0.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$720,934.36

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

Dog Control Officer

Ellen Dwyer gave the dog report for the month of March. There were: 6 stray dogs; 2 dogs taken to shelter; 1 transport for out of county; 1 lost and then found; 1 violation of court order.

County Representative

Kathy Clark was not in attendance.

Code Officer

Mr. Wilber was not in attendance.

Planning Board

Lois Chernin reported that the planning board is continuing to work on the lot split paperwork package.

Highway

Mr. Hurlburt has met with the insurance company about the truck accident that occurred in March. The appraisal is \$12,600, which included the box on the flatbed. He is setting a date to meet with the highway committee. A buy-back program was suggested; he will look into that for the flatbed.

The highway department has been busy brooming the roads for spring. Mr. Hurlburt attended the Highway Superintendents' dinner on Monday with Senator Seward in attendance.

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Winter emergency recovery money should be arriving soon. There is a request to use the Town Hall meeting room on June 2nd for a Utah pistol permit training class. The board approved.

Town Clerk

Mrs. Sears approached the board about purchasing a Fax card for the printer in her office, to be used by the town clerk, court clerks and assessor. It was budgeted for 2017, but not purchased. The board recommended asking the town bookkeeper where that money is to be allocated in the budget.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Royce Livingston to purchase the Fax card.
Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A deputy registrar is mandated by the state. Mrs. Sears has found a person willing to serve in that capacity. The board asked that an estimated yearly time amount be presented at the next meeting to determine the compensation.

Website management is a need for the town website, as we have lost our previous web manager. David Tate, who originally set up the website, is presently cleaning up the site. He would then like to pass the monthly maintenance on to another manager. Mrs. Sears was asked by the board to have this person submit a letter of proposal to manage the website, as an independent contractor, and include a 6-12 month flat fee request.

Mrs. Sears would like to establish a Facebook page for the Town of Otego for the purpose of disseminating information more easily to the public, and reaching a greater number of people. Beth Westfall, the town attorney, shared her concerns that it not be used as a public forum to express or discuss opinions. It must be carefully monitored. If it is going to be adopted, she recommends it be treated as a government page for the purpose of sharing information, with comments disabled. Ms. Westfall asked if the new website manager would be willing to put this same information on the website page.

Repurposing Committee

Dr. David Richards, Superintendent of the Unatego School District, first thanked Mr. Hurlburt for the excellent job done by the highway department this winter. He then shared the benefit of having established a Facebook page for the school district, and offered to share the knowledge he has gleaned in the last two years of managing it.

Dr. Richards reported that the committee has completed their work, which was shared recently with the school board. He shared a summary of the final report, including the responses of the survey and the choices recommended, then presented what the next steps in the process will be. Barbara Stanton inquired into the acquisition of the land in Otego. Dr. Richards is still looking into that. He requested use of the Town Hall for the school board budget presentation on May 1st at 6:00. He will contact the town clerk to make arrangements.

The date to tour the repurposed Civic Center in Sidney is April 30th from 11:00-2:00.

New Business

1. John Escobar approached the board about the parcel of land that he owns on 116 Secor Rd. in Otego. Once commercial, it reverted back to residential. He has approached the planning and zoning boards about returning it to commercial, as he has some start-up businesses that are interested in the space. He would like direction as to how to accomplish this. Ms. Westfall pointed him to Section 909 of the code, explaining that this would actually be a rezoning of his parcel. Mr. Escobar would need to submit in writing, to the code enforcement officer, a proposal with a map of how the surrounding area is used. Then he would return to the town board who would refer the proposal to the planning board, and county planning board before it comes to a public hearing.

2. Jackie Silver lives on County Highway 5 in Otego and would like to get Internet phone to her home, but presently is unable. Though a Frontier pole is on her property, she cannot receive service from them due to a 1974 contract between the Town of Otego and Verizon to service the road. She has approached the FTC who suggested she petition the town board to change the contract with Verizon. Ms. Westfall told Ms. Silver to put her petition in writing, but doubted the Town would renegotiate their contract with Verizon. She encouraged her to pursue other avenues to settle this problem. The town clerk will begin the search for the existing contract.

Glen Seroka pointed out that in 1974 NY Telephone would have been the provider.

3. Town cleanup day will be May 12th. A list of acceptable items will be posted on the website.

Warrant #4

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown, to pay the warrant in the following amounts: General Fund vouchers # _____ in the amount of \$ _____. Highway Fund vouchers # _____ in the amount of \$ _____. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays.

A motion was made by David Sheldon, seconded by Terry Brown to adjourn the meeting. Motion: 4 Ayes, 0 Nays. Meeting adjourned at 6:43

Teresa Sears
Town Clerk

_____Town Supervisor

_____Town Clerk

_____Councilperson

_____Councilperson

_____Councilperson

_____Councilperson

_____Highway Supt.