The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Combination Organizational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting on the 8th day of January starting at 7:00 pm at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Ted Feury Supervisor

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green Town Attorney

Bill Hribar Jr. Deputy Hwy Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

Supervisor Feury called the meeting to order and asked everyone to please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Feury submitted a list of appointments and policies recommendations that the Town Board

 reviewed and discussed.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton to adopt the following Blanket Indemnity Addition:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Blanket Undertaking Addition |  |
|  | **WHEREAS,** Public Officers Law §11(2) provides that in lieu of any individual undertaking, as required by law, the Town Board may approve the procurement of a blanket undertaking, and |
|  | **WHEREAS**, the Officers of the Board, the Town Clerk, and the employees of the Town, must be covered in the blanket undertaking, and |
|  | **WHEREAS** it is the responsibility of the Town Board to approve the form, manner, execution, and amount of surety, and |
|  | **WHEREAS**, the blanket undertaking must indemnify against losses caused by the failure of the officers or employees to faithfully perform their duties and protect against their fraudulent or dishonest acts, and |
|  | **WHEREAS**, the Town has consistently maintained an expansive commercial package insurance policy that includes provision for indemnification against losses caused by the failure of the officers or employees to faithfully perform their duties and protect against their fraudulent or dishonest acts, |
|  | **NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town Board approves the blanket undertaking issued as part of the Commercial Package Insurance Policy MPK-TOTE-0000001-24 issued by New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal (NYMIR ) covering the period May 2024 through May 2025, to be extended to cover the subsequent year for the officers of the Board and the employees of the Town in the amount of $25,000, as well as for the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and the Assessor in the amount of $200,000. |

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor of.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy, to make the following appointments:

Deputy Supervisor Councilperson Kjolhede

Town Board Attorney Will Green

Dog Control Officer Julie Poluluch

Zoning Enforcement Officer Wylie Phillips

ZBA Clerk Bill Deane

Planning Board Clerk Bill Deane

Planning Board Attorney Jill Poulson

Planning Board Chairman Tom Huntsman

Deputy Hwy Superintendent Bill Hribar Jr.

Codes Officer Otsego County

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to set the Town Boards monthly meeting date for the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm and Mileage Reimbursement will be 70 cents/mile linked to NYS rate.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, that the banks to be used by the Town of Otsego will be NYClass, Community Bank, and Wayne Bank.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to appoint Councilperson Kennedy, to the Water Advisory Committee.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to designate the Oneonta Daily Star as the Town’s paper of record.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury read a letter of resignation from Judge Gary Kuch. His date of termination was December 31st.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy, to accept with much sadness and regret Judge Kuch’s resignation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board scheduled a Special Meeting to finalize the Organizational Appointments for Monday January 13th at 11:00 am

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the December 11, 12th, and 30th minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor .

Supervisor Feury reviewed correspondence received since last month’s meeting.

Supervisor Feury opened the floor for public comments.

Fly Creek Fire District Chairman Sam Hoskins told the Town Board that the Fly Creek Fire Commissioners are looking into purchasing an electric sign. Cost for the sign will be between $20,000 to $30,000. It is their opinion that the sign would be beneficial to all residents.

Ed Hobbie reported receiving solar farm data from Delaware Engineering who are currently involved with a 100-acre solar farm project located in Montgomery County. He offered to share his data with anyone interested.

Supervisor Feury announced that the Solar Energy Workshops are open to the public and are held on the third Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm .

Supervisor Feury closed the Public Comment

The Town Board went over all the monthly bills.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to pay the bills and make the necessary transfers

###### General: #1-#8 $ 2,500.13

Hwy: $

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury gave a Financial Report. He explained that there are three contractual bills that show up late and are due the first of the month before the Town Boards monthly meeting. They are CSEA Dues and Dental Insurance, Excellus (health insurance), and Guardian Life Insurance. All previous Supervisors paid these bills as they came in, so they never made the warrant. He requested that the Town Board pass a Resolution approving that these bills be paid as soon as they are received in the mail.

Councilperson Kennedy suggested that a Resolution be provided for consideration at their next meeting.

Planning Board Chairman Tom Huntsman gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar Jr:

* They have been, so far, keeping up with repairs.
* One of the new International 10-wheeler trucks arrived without a coupler spring and needed to be returned. The truck should be back by the end of the month.
* Still down an employee.

Supervisor Feury remarked that the correspondence he has received concerning the roads has been positive. He also reported receiving CHIP’s reimbursement.

Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy gave the Hwy Committee Report. They met with Hwy Superintendent Deputy Bill Hribar Jr. and Hwy Employee Mike Thayer.

* They talked about the Shared Service Contract with the County, which enables the towns to share manpower and equipment. This helps save money and make things more efficient.
* They discussed the Mill St. Bridge and the Fork Shop Bridge.
* Whether or not towing is included in the Towns Insurance Policy was discussed. Supervisor Feury volunteered to research that.
* Concerning all the sand on Cemetery Road was discussed.
* What roads are scheduled for maintenance on the Expenditure of Hwy Money Agreement for this year and why. Superintendent Feury thought having a color-coded map showing the condition of the roads might be helpful in deciding what roads get paved first.
* Mailbox Replacement Policy was discussed.
* Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy thought it might be good to hold public meetings letting the public know what roads and bridges will be under construction.
* The importance of keeping repair records current and changes to the inventory were discussed.

Councilperson Kennedy reported on the Watershed Committee. There is a new inspector who is replacing Al Keck. His name is Chris de Ville, and he spends 10 hours per week on watershed inspections. There are approximately 347 septics around Otsego Lake that need to be inspected once every three years. This averages out to be approximately 115 per year. The WSC will be voting on whether to recommend to the village that the homeowners get charged $150 for their inspection. Currently they pay nothing.

Next on the agenda was New Business

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to authorize Supervisor Feury to pay $5,000 to the Village of Cooperstown who will use it to pay SUNY for the work of 2024 and into 2025 of the Watershed Supervisory Science Advisor Consultant Contract.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Feury voted no. Councilpersons Kjolhede, Kennedy and Dalton voted yes.

Supervisor Feury summarized the status of the Fork Shop Bridge and the Mill Street Bridge. Fork Shop Bridge’s weight limit is 3 tons. The Bridge has been closed temporarily due to trucks over the 3-ton weight limit found crossing the bridge. The Town Board would like to get public input on whether to close the bridge indefinitely and just use it as a walking bridge or replace it. Estimated cost to replace the bridge is ten million dollars.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy to hold a Public Informational Meeting for March 6th at 7:00 pm to hear public comments on replacing the Fork Shop Bridge or retiring it and using it as a walking bridge only.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury summarized the status of the Mill Street Bridge. Delaware Engineering was hired to give a second opinion. The bridge was yellow flagged by the state because of one of the cells deteriorating on the south side of the bridge. Delaware Engineering attributed that to the salting of the sidewalk. Turns out Bassett has been salting the bridge. Supervisor Feury has asked former Town Supervisor Jay Bosley to contact the sidewalk director at Bassett and discuss other options to care for the sidewalks other than salt.

Councilperson Kennedy expressed the need for a Training Reimbursement Policy that speaks to who we reimburse and how. The Town Board agreed. She will see what the Association of Towns has on file.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to go into Executive Session to discuss an ongoing litigation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.(8:55 pm)

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to come out of Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.(9:08 pm)

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:10 pm.

Next scheduled meeting will be February 12th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk