The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Informational Meeting and Regular Monthly Meeting on the 12th day of February starting at 6:15 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 Hwy Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Feury explained that the Town Board has been meeting for about a year on the third Thursday of every month to work on a Solar Energy Law. A moratorium on all applications or permits related to solar energy in the Town of Otsego was passed last April for 6 months then extended an additional 6 months, terminating this coming April. The proposed Solar Energy Law is on the Towns Website.

Supervisor Feury opened the floor up for public comment.

Eileen Kukenberger strongly objected to the proposed setbacks of 30ft front setback, with a 15ft. side setback, and 25ft rear setback. She stated that originally 500ft -1000ft setbacks were discussed, It was felt that larger setbacks would better mitigate noise, glare, and property devaluation. The Zoning Tables mentioned in the proposed Solar Energy Law do not fit with the existing Zoning within the Land Use Law. Kukenberger sent each Town Board Member a three-page list of her concerns with the proposed draft.

Councilperson Kennedy pointed out that there needs to be a definition for non-participating occupied residents.

John Phillips believes that the future of this country lies with electrical energy. He has been researching Solar Farm Fires and has found that even though they are making improvements everyday fire fighters cannot put out a Solar Farm Fire and the fumes burning solar batteries give off are extremely toxic and deadly.

Supervisor Feury closed the Informational Meeting and called the regular monthly meeting to order. He then asked everyone in attendance to rise for the pledge of allegiance.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to approve the minutes of January 8th, January 9th, January 13th and January 21st as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury opened the floor for comments.

Connie Hobbie stated that she fully endorses Eileen Kukenberger’s letter concerning the Solar Energy Law *draft*.

Otsego County Treasurer Alan Ruffles wanted the Town Board to be aware that a number of tax collectors will be retiring next year, and towns are having a problem finding people interested in applying for Tax Collector vacancy positions. The County will be offering free tax collection software to all towns in the County and are willing to take over the tax collection for any town not able or willing to do their own. The County will also be offering to assist with any towns tax collection, meaning property owners would be allowed to pay either to the town or online to the county.

Supervisor Feury closed the floor for further comments.

Supervisor Feury read correspondence received since last meeting.

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 once all bills have been signed:

###### General: #1-#14 $ 23,658.14

Hwy: #258-#285 $ 53,297.39

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury gave a Financial Report.

The Town Board discussed the balances provided by Supervisor Feury:

General Checking: $ 20,287.96 HWY Checking: $ 20,634.24

General NYClass Inv: $ 540,621.10 HWY NYClass Inv: $ 915,805.68

Hwy Equipment Fund: $ 125,390.69 Building Reserve: $ 41,374.76

ARPA: $ 187.59 Special Lighting Dist.: $ 2,656.12

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept the Financial Report as given.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Planning Board Member Elizabeth Horvath gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar:

* Presently there is a shortage of salt. Hribar has 5 deliveries coming.
* Hribar announced the hiring of a new employee. This brings the total number of Hwy employees to six.

Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy gave the Hwy Committee Report.

* Councilperson Kennedy explained how the 284 Expenditure of Highway Money works. The Hwy Superintendent makes a list of roads he feels needs maintenance and the Town Board either accepts it or amends it. CHIP’s money from the state is usually around $400,000.00, or more and pays for road maintenance and some equipment.
* A company named Yocum Full-Service INC. has quoted $36,585.00 for parts and labor to fix the Hwy’s fuel pump.
* Hribar has been in touch with D.O.T. discussing what roads are eligible for maintenance cost reimbursement after 5 years rather than 10 years. Some roads don’t hold up as long as others.
* Hribar has given the committee a 5-year plan for equipment replacement.

 An Informational Meeting is scheduled for March 6th to hear public opinion on whether to replace the Fork Shop Bridge.

* The March Agenda will include a Spoil Plan which will state what will be done with excess soil from ditching.

Supervisor Feury informed the Town Board that Delaware Engineering has informed him that a section of the Mill Street Bridge is rotting, and this is caused by salt being used on the sidewalk. To replace the bridge was estimated to cost $10 to $12,000,000.00. The bridge is currently yellow flagged by the state.

Councilperson Kennedy reported on the Watershed Committee. The Village is considering charging residents $150 for their Septic Inspections done once every 3 years. If the Village decides to enact this fee they would like to know if the Towns of Otsego, Springfield and Middlefield would like to collect it from the residents for the Village. On another note, the Village has hired a consultant to run the entire watershed plan for the next 3 years paid for by Otsego Lake Nine Element Watershed Protection Plan Grant of $750,000.00, State and Federal Funded.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept Yocum Full-Service Proposal of $36,585.00, Proposal Number CC2-7-2025.(replacing the fuel pump and fuel reader)

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to purchase the tractor and flail mower system not to exceed $99,900.00 .

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to decline from collecting $150.00 charge from Town of Otsego residents on Otsego Lake for septic inspections.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to schedule a Public Hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Law for March 12th at 7:00 pm at the Town Build.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:25 pm.

Next scheduled meeting will be March 11th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk