The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 9th day of April 2025 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

Tom Craig Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green Town Attorney

Bill Hribar Hwy Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Craig, to approve the minutes of March 12th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Feury and Councilpersons Craig, Dalton and Kjolhede voted yes.

Councilperson Kennedy abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to approve the minutes of March 20th as presented

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to approve the minutes of March 24th as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to approve the minutes of March 31st as presented:

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury opened the floor for public comments.

Ruth Kukenberger stated that she and her husband are trying to get out of a lease agreement they have with a Solar Company to put solar panels on approximately 25 acres of land they own on County Highway 26. Their lease states that the Solar Company has two years to act, or the lease agreement becomes null and void. When the Town Board enacted a Moratorium on Solar Energy the Solar Company’s two-year clock stopped and will continue again once the Moratorium is lifted. She needs something to show the solar company that the Town will not be allowing solar development on their property.

Councilperson Dalton told Kukenberger that the Town Board has been meeting regularly trying to complete a Solar Energy Law.

Supervisor Feury closed the floor for comment.

Supervisor Feury read correspondence received since last month’s regular meeting.

The Town Board reviewed all the monthly bills.

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

###### General: #23-#24 $ 16,079.68

Hwy: #05-#31 $ 42,023.00

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury submitted a Financial Report which was reviewed by the Town Board.

General Checking: $ 17,940.85 HWY Checking: $ 66,354.32

General NYClass Inv: $404,395.21 HWY NYClass Inv: $ 676,842.88

Hwy Equipment Fund: $126,565.18 Building Reserve: $ 41,667.26

ARPA: -0- Special Lighting Dist.: $ 2,571.23

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Kennedy requested that the Hwy Warrants show what accounts each bill is coming out of so the Town Board is aware of an account in danger of being overspent. Councilperson Kennedy suggested that the Town Board establish a Finance Committee whose job would be to watch the Towns finances and notify the Town Board of any accounts that are running short of money. Supervisor Feury agreed to create a spreadsheet which will present a more visual format.

Planning Board member Meg Leinhart gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Councilperson Kennedy felt short term rentals should be addressed when considering revisions to the Land Use Law. She also felt the letter that is sent out to neighbors of ZBA or Planning Board applicants needs to be more informative. The letter does not state specific information regarding the application, such as the section of law under which they are applying for a Special Permit or Variance. She also felt this information should be on the Towns Website.

Supervisor Feury reported that he could find no other option other than contracting with the Cooperstown ASPCA to harbor stray dogs picked up within the town. He had talked to other Towns who were also unhappy with the Cooperstown ASPCA cost increase, but they too have found no other option to house their stray dogs.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to sign the ASPCA Contract for this year and continue looking for an alternative for next year.

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

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar:

* Highway Crew has been busy cutting brushes.
* Highway Crew has been busy working on the fuel pump pedestal.
* Highway Crew has been busy sweeping the roads.

Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy gave the Hwy Committee Report.

* The Town Board is considering taking out a Municipal Bond to cover the cost of paving additional roads other than the ones allocated through CHIP’s. CHIP’s money is often insufficient and does not come in a timely way.
* Councilperson Kennedy submitted a Spoil Material Policy for the Town Board’s consideration.
* Councilperson Dalton stated that the road signs are being stolen. She and Councilperson Kennedy are looking for ideas to combat the problem. The signs are very expensive to replace.
* Fork Shop Informational Meeting has been canceled for the time being. The purpose for an Informational Meeting is to hear public comments on whether to close the bridge to cars and trucks but keep it open for walking and bicycle or repair the bridge back to a 3-ton weight limit and open for traffic. A date for the Fork Shop Bridge Informational Meeting will be set at their next Highway Meeting.
* Still do not know the amount of CHIP’s money the Town will receive this year from the state.
* Lastly, they have been working with the County to move the Town’s radio antenna to the tower located on Rose’s Hill for better reception.

The next Solar Law workshop was scheduled for April 21st at 4:00 pm. Councilperson Dalton stated that updating the Comprehensive Plan will not happen until the Solar Law is completed.

Supervisor Feury stated that the Village of Cooperstown will be installing sidewalks along State Highway 28 on the southern end of Cooperstown between Linden Ave and Walnut Street. The Village would like to put the construction for the sidewalk out to bid in November. They would also like to upgrade the lighting from Cobra regular streetlights to London Street Lamps, which are the same as the ones on Main Street. That would be an additional cost to the Town of approximately $150,000.00, which the Town Board did not budget for. D.O.T. would like to meet with the Village and the Town to go over details such a drainage, when they plan to do the work and specifics concerning detours. To avoid closing the roads, D.O.T. plans on doing all the work at night.

Councilperson Kennedy felt there is a need for a Finance Committee, Building and Grounds Committee (that would take on better outside lighting and the cleaning of the walkway), and better Handi Cap accessibility sites. She also felt a cleaner should be hired to clean the inside of the Town Building and the Highway Superintendent’s Office at least once a month.

Councilperson Kennedy requested to be reimbursed $350 to attend the Association of Towns Finance Conference plus mileage and $600 plus mileage to attend the NYS Lake Association Conference in Lake George.

.

MOTION by Supervisor Feury, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to reimburse Councilperson Kennedy for the Association of Towns Finance Conference and the NYS Lake Association Conference plus mileage.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Feury, and Councilpersons Craig, Kjolhede, Dalton voted yes. Councilperson Kennedy abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy, to go into Executive Session to discuss on going Litigations.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor. (8:25 pm)

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Craig to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:49 PM.

Next scheduled meeting will be May 14th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk