The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 11th day of December 2024 starting at 7:00 pm at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Ted Feury Supervisor

Tom Hohensee Councilperson

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green Town Attorney

William Hribar Highway 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 Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the November 13th and November 21st minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor with one exception. Councilperson Kennedy abstained from voting on the November 21st minutes.

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

Supervisor Feury opened the floor for public comments.

Joan Hotaling asked that the Town Board withdraw her last month’s request that the Town act as the applicant for getting permission to hang hometown banners on NYSEG poles in recognition of our local Veterans. Hotaling stated that she has stepped down from the project. She thanked the Town Board for their time.

Commander of the Cooperstown Vet Club, Floyd Bourne has met with Senator Oberacker and Assemblyman Tague who seem to be behind the project 100% . They would like to name the area where the banners will go the “Corridor of Heros”. It was suggested that the 69 Veteran Baseball Players, EMS, Firemen and Police be included.

Supervisor Feury closed the Public Comments.

The Town Board went over all the monthly bills.

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

###### General: #144-#155 $ 17,098.43

Hwy: #227-#246 $ 26,384.60

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board discussed the balances provided by Supervisor Feury:

General Checking: $214,236 HWY Checking: $ 40,427

General NYClass Inv: $245,264 HWY NYClass Inv: $ 302,364

Hwy Equipment Fund: $261,138 Building Reserve: $ 41,071

ARPA: $150,880 Special Lighting Dist.: $ 1,741

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

Supervisor Feury reported that he is in the process of setting up a Facebook Page for the Town. The Town Board agreed that it should prove to be a good way to keep people informed.

Supervisor Feury made the Town Board aware of a problem ZEO Wylie Phillips is dealing with. A resident on Brody Mt. has clear cut his lot within 500 ft of Otsego Lake. Phillips has issued the resident a Violation Notice.

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar:

* Yocm Fuel Company has installed a fuel alarm system requested by DEC.
* One of the two brand new 2025 International Trucks has been delivered and is now Inservice. The second one should be delivered in a few weeks.
* Hribar reported that ALTA needs to know ASAP whether the Town is going to purchase one of their new rollers.
* Hribar stated that he needs to advertise a fuel bid by the end of the month or piggyback on the Counties fuel bid.
* Roads scheduled for maintenance next year are Cook, Williams, and Glimmerglen.

Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy gave the Hwy Committee Report. The Town of Middlefield has decided to get an engineer to look at the Mill St. Bridge. To keep the salt away from the structure of the bridge Middlefield would like to seal the bridge and pave over it. Supervisor Feury stated that they will be seeking a second opinion. Councilperson Dalton asked if the Village of Cooperstown could be held to contribute to the cost of the bridge repair. According to Village Attorney, Martin Tillapaugh, the cost of the repairs to the bridge solely lies between the Town of Otsego and the Town of Middlefield.

Councilperson Kennedy thought that once the Town Board gets some idea what the repairs on the Fork Shop Bridge will cost it might be good to hold a public hearing and get public input on whether the bridge should be fixed, replaced or just left to be a foot bridge. It is their hope to apply for the Bridge NY Grant. The bridge is closed for the time being.

Lastly, Councilperson Dalton suggested the Town Board adopt a Mailbox Replacement Policy.

Watershed Committee Report was given by Councilperson Kennedy. None of the septic systems along Otsego Lake are in the Village. The Town of Otsego has the most septic systems. The Town of Middlefield would like to see law made stronger than the State Law.

The WSC has a proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) presently under consideration**.**

The next WSC meeting will be held on December 18 at 3:00 pm. SUNY student / intern will be reporting on his findings after examining the paper septic files and moving them to data-based programs with mapping and a new way to record relevant info.

Supervisor Feury asked for discussion on the Veteran Banners.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to table further discussion at this time.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to purchase the new roller from Alta for $86,000plus the town’s old one.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Feury read a letter of resignation from Councilperson Hohensee.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, accepting with sorrow and great gratitude Councilperson Hohensee’s letter of resignation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Hohensee read off a list of unfinished business the Town Board should remember to revisit. Some things Councilperson Hohensee mentioned were:

* Following the tragic on the job death of 27 yr. old highway employee, Adam Burgess on 11/23/15, we established a Safety Committee that met quarterly for several years but was discontinued several years ago. Councilperson Hohensee stated that he has reached out to Otsego County Health and Safety Officer Bob Satriano and found that he has restarted training.
* He reminded the Town Board that they have budgeted $3,000 to upgrade the Towns Fire Alarm System
* Councilperson Hohensee urged the Town Board to consider a streamlined process in crafting a revised Comprehensive Plan to expedite the process for updating the document. He believes the Plan largely remains in line with the current vision of the town residents.
* Councilperson Hohensee thought the Town Board should consider upgrading their WiFi.
* The Town Board scheduled their Year-End Meeting for December 30th at 10:00 AM.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to appoint Jay Bosley and Mike Hodgman to the Planning Board.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:39 PM.

Next scheduled meeting will be December 30th, 2024, at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk