The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Public Hearing and a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 10th day of July 2024 starting at 7:00 pm at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Benjamin Bauer Supervisor

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Tom Hohensee Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar Highway Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton to open the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Bauer explained that the purpose of the Public Hearing was to hear public comments on proposed modifications to Section 1.05 concerning non-conforming uses and adding a definition for Building Height.

There were no comments from the public.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to close the Public Hearing.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the June 12th minutes as amended.

MOTION CARRIED: Supervisor Bauer, Councilpersons Dalton, and Kjolhede, voted yes. Councilperson Hohensee abstained. Reason given for abstaining was he had not had a chance to read the minutes.

Due to not having a majority present to accept the June 20th minutes the June 20th minutes were not adopted.

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

Supervisor Bauer opened the floor to public comments.

The Chairman of the Fly Creek Fire District, Sam Hoskins, made the Town Board aware that the Commissioners are in the process of holding a referendum to establish Capital Reserve Funds for Equipment and Building Maintenance. The election will be held on August 13th at the Fly Creek Fire Hall between 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Councilperson Dalton thanked League of Women memberHudi Podolsky after tonight she will no longer be observing the Town of Otsego Town Board. Councilperson Hohensee thanked her for her feedback which he found helpful.

Sheila Ross commented that the lights on the new Salt Shed are on all night long. She did not see any reason for that.

Highway Superintendent Hribar stated that he will see what he can do about that. The lights are on a dawn to dusk setting.

Supervisor Bauer closed the floor for further comments.

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

###### General: #88-#97 $ 2,957.86

Hwy: #130-#152 $ 85,230.74

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board discussed the balances provided by Supervisor Bauer:

General Checking: $ 20,000.44 General Savings: $ 274,213.61

Hwy Checking: $ 20,129.01 Highway Savings: $ 627,929.62

Hwy Equipment Fund: $ 255,648.72 Building Reserve $ 6,364.91

Supervisor Bauer reported applying for the Towns $100,000.00 reimbursement owed by the State from the Salt Shed Grant.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Planning Board Member May Leinhart gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board.

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar.

* Hribar stated that he along withCouncilpersons Dalton and Kennedy and SUNY Professor Kiyoko Yokota walked the landfill to see the topography of the land and what challenges there might be in mowing it. He would like to see if the Town could get some help from another agency to mow the landfill.

Before the August meeting Hribar will remove the few shrubs that have started growing in the landfill area and Councilpersons Dalton and Kennedy will search for any agreement laying out the Towns responsibility for maintaining the closed landfill located north of the Village of Cooperstown off of St. Hwy. 28.

* Hribar reported that the frame on the Mack truck has been repaired and returned.
* Hribar has been notified that the 2 new 10-wheeler dump/plow trucks will be delivered in September.
* Hribar stated that Williams Rd. is about ready to be paved.
* Hribar informed the Town Board that the roller has broken down and he will be renting one with CHIP’s money at $3,500/month to complete the paving.

Councilperson Dalton gave a report on the Highway Committee. Intern Ryan Sliwiniski has surveyed 99% of the Town Roads. He will be giving a presentation on August 1st at 1:00 PM. If Sliwiniski has any extra time he will also inventory the HWY equipment which would include a photo of the piece of equipment, a label stating year purchased and cost, current condition, hours of use, cost of maintenance to date and current resale value.

Councilperson Dalton expressed concern with hanging onto our employees when the County is paying employees more.

Supervisor Bauer asked if there were any questions or concerns concerning proposed Local Law #3 amending Section 1.5 and defining Building Height in the Land Use Law.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to adopt proposed Local Law #3 as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bauer talked to Bookkeeper Karen Cropp whose firm handles the Towns of Middlefield, Springfield, and Milford Bookkeeping. He thought it a good idea for the Town Board to consider adding a bookkeeper to the 2025 Budget.

Supervisor Bauer gave an update on the NYSERDA Grant. The Town received points for LED Street Lights and Fleet Reporting. The next step is to set up the Portfolio Manager and Energy Reporting. At that point the Town will be eligible for a Building Energy Assessment. Once that is completed the Town will have $15,000.00 to spend.

Supervisor Bauer posed the question of who should be allowed to update the Town’s Website. After a short discussion it was the consensus of the Town Board that changes to the Town’s Website will be limited to the Town Supervisor, Town Clerk and the Planning Board/ZBA Clerk.

Supervisor Bauer sadly announced that he will be leaving. August 7th will be his last day as the Town Supervisor. He told the Town Board that they will need to adopt a Resolution appointing a new Supervisor ending term of 12/31/2025.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to recognize a ‘job well done’,

Given that Benjamin Bauer was new to the process of Town governance and management,

And given that Ben is a generation younger than those on the Town of Otsego Town Board with whom he was required to work,

And, given that he gave generously of his time and talents over the last many months as the

Otsego Town Supervisor, the Otsego Town Board applauds Ben’s dedication, perseverance and patience and wishes him well in the future.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8.06 pm.

Next scheduled meeting will be August 14th, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk