The Town of Otsego Town Board held a Regular Monthly Meeting on the 14th day of August 2024 starting at 7:00 pm at the Town Building in Fly Creek, NY.

Town Board Members Present:

Tom Hohensee Deputy Supervisor

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Also Present:

Will Green Town Attorney

William Hribar Highway Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee explained that former Supervisor Bauer has resigned, and he is filling in until a new Supervisor is appointed.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the July 10th minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Deputy Supervisor Hohensee, and Councilpersons Kjolhede and Dalton voted yes. Councilperson Kennedy abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept the July 18th Solar Law Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Deputy Supervisor Hohensee, and Councilpersons Kjolhede and Dalton voted yes. Councilperson Kennedy abstained.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee reviewed correspondence received since last month’s meeting.

Among the correspondence was a letter from Byron and Mary Thomas requesting a speed reduction to 30 mph on Stonehouse Rd.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to forward Thomas’s request to the County Highway Superintendent for review.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee opened the floor to public comments.

Denny Mower of Bibik Rd. asked if the Town has a set of plans from The Patent Construction Company dating back to 1986 or 1987 and approved by the Town. He feels somewhere along the way thousands of yards of fill were brought in, raising Bibik Road 4ft. That area was part of an old Indian Village, of which there are graves on the Island that exist now. He felt there needs to be more evidence for the Town Board to make an educated guess as to where the drainage was prior to the creation of Bibik Road.

Brian Kegelman, 51 Tripp Hill Rd. Fly Creek, referenced NYS Highway Law pointing out that Highway Superintendents need permission from the landowners when widening a road beyond the Town’s right-of-way. He then accused Hribar of starting a project listed on the amended Agreement of Highway Expenditure Money, otherwise known as Highway 284, before it was approved by the Town Board. Another issue Kegelman had was that the excess dirt from ditching was taken to Hribar’s house. In closing he let the Town Board know that he has alerted the Comptroller’s Office.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy, to close the floor for further comments.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

###### General: #99-#106 $ 6,861.89

Hwy: #153-#172 $ 65,580.11

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

The Town Board discussed the balances provided by Deputy Supervisor Hohensee:

General Checking: $ 20,000 General Savings: $ 248,209

Hwy Checking: $ 20,018 Highway Savings: $ 565,825

Hwy Equipment Fund: $ 256,749 Building Reserve: $ 6,392

ARPA: $ 150,132 Special Lighting Dist.: $ 2,081

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee pointed out that sales tax income is up over last year.

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Jay Bosley gave a report on applications currently being reviewed by the Planning Board. He also reported on the Land Use Law Committee progress. Tom Huntsman agreed to Chair the Committee. Chris Kjolhede agreed to act as Secretary. The Committee will continue to meet once a month.

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar.

* Hribar reported that the Landfill has been mowed.
* Hribar further reported that the Mill Street Bridge has been yellow flagged which means the bridge can continue to stay open until it is red flagged. Once it is red flagged the bridge will have to be closed until repaired. The Highway Committee has reached out to the Village of Cooperstown and the Town of Middlefield to collectively decide where to go from here.
* Hribar asked that the Town Board pass a Resolution making it mandatory that all mailboxes located on Town Roads be located on the backside of the ditch, not in front of the ditch, so as not to be in the way of the plow in the winter and equipment used to clean the ditches.
* Hribar stated that he has $59,000.00 of CHIP’s money.

Councilperson Dalton reported on the Highway Committee. The Committee is pursuing options for mowing the Landfill in the future. It was mentioned that the use of sheep might be a way to keep vegetation down at the landfill. Councilperson Kennedy estimated to hire the mowing out would cost between $2,500/$4000.

College Intern Ryan Sliwiniski had recommended keeping roads most traveled a priority and first and foremost keeping in good condition. He further stated that it is important to keep up with ditching. Councilperson Dalton and Councilperson Kennedy are still working toward finding documentation that states the Town is obligated to mow the Landfill indefinitely.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to adopt Highway 284 Agreement as proposed.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Watershed report was given by Councilperson Kennedy who reminded the Town Board that the WSC (Water Shed Committee) is waiting for a recommendation from the Town of Otsego’s attorney on what to do about the one resident along Otsego Lake whose septic system is still not in compliance.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee submitted a bookkeeper proposal offered by Karen Kropp which was reviewed by the Town Board. The Town Board decided to add that the contract will terminate at midnight on the 31st day of December 2025.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept Kropp’s proposal.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee reported that he has been working with Amanda Whalen from the NYSERDA Clean Energy Program on how to receive the $10,000.00 the Town is close to being eligible for. Deputy Supervisor Hohensee agreed to find out if it could be used for a new gas pump.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee announced that the Town did receive a report from Delaware Engineering concerning Bibik Road. Councilperson Kennedy felt the report was vague.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee reminded the Town Board that the ZBA needs 2 Alternates. ZBA Chairman Greg Crowell recommended the Town Board appoint Corlisa Card.

MOTION by Deputy Supervisor Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kennedy, to appoint Corlisa Card to the ZBA Vacancy created by Correen Armstrong’s resignation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Deputy Supervisor Hohensee reminded the Town Board that the Planning Board has a vacancy that needs to be filled, and the Town Board Supervisor position also has a vacancy that needs to be filled.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to appoint Jay Bosley to the Town Supervisor vacancy which expires 12/31/2025.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

Town Clerk Pam Deane administered the Oath of Office to Bosley.

After a short discussion it was decided that the Town Board would hold a 2025 Budget Workshop at the Town Building on August 21st at 1:00.

MOTION by Supervisor Bosley, seconded by Councilperson Hohensee, to go into Executive Session to discuss

Ongoing Litigation.

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

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor (8:59)

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

Next scheduled meeting will be September 11th, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk