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

Town Board Members Present:

Jay Bosley Supervisor

Tom Hohensee Councilperson

Chris Kjolhede Councilperson

Deb Dalton Councilperson

Pat Kennedy Councilperson

Also Present:

William Hribar Highway Superintendent

Pamela Deane Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Bosley asked for a moment of silence in honor for those that perished on 9/11/01

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept the August 14th minutes as amended deleting that Councilperson Dalton suggested sheep might be a way to keep vegetation down at the landfill, to it was mentioned that the use of sheep might be a way to keep vegetation down at the landfill.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the August 21st

2025 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the August 22nd Solar Energy Law Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: Councilpersons Kennedy, Hohensee, Kjolhede, and Dalton, voted yes.

Supervisor Bosley abstained.

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to accept the August 28th

2025 Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes as presented.

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

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

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to open the floor for comments.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Joan Parrillo-Hotaling stated that she is working with the Cooperstown American Legion to get hometown banners for our local Veterans to be hung on NYSEG poles on the lower south end of St. Hwy. 28 and the north end of Glen Ave. where St. Hwy 28 starts, ending at the landfill. The banners are 18” x 36” in size. She has received an application from D.O.T. and NYSEG but needs a municipality to represent the Hometown Veterans. She asked the Town Board if they would be willing to list the Town of Otsego as the applicant. No money is needed. The banners will be purchased by the Veteran or Veterans Family. Many Towns are doing it. She felt it was a great way to recognize our Veterans. The banners would be hung from Memorial Day to Veterans Day.

Councilperson Kennedy’s only concern was if the banners were allowed under the Towns Land Use Law.

Hotaling was instructed to talk to the Town’s ZEO.

Tony Kroker, who resides on Cook Rd., referenced a letter he saw in the Freeman’s Journal that the Town of Otsego was going to do extensive drainage work in 2025. The Highway Superintendent has started this extensive drainage work earlier than expected in his neighborhood. Kroker informed the Town Board that at least two of the ditches the highway crew put in are not going to drain unless someone has figured out how to make water go up hill. He told Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar that the culverts and ditches recently put in near his home are not draining and could probably be corrected quickly with a backhoe. To date Hribar has done nothing. As a taxpayer he had two questions. First, was the work done necessary and second is it being done correctly? This is just a caution point going forward. Between the rented oversized excavator, culvert pipes and labor this was an expensive project. He felt someone needs to follow up, making sure the work is necessary and done correctly.

Suzanne Summers, who resides on Stoller Hill Rd., complained that the ditches on her road are too big, too dangerous, and do not drain. She would like to see the highway crew go back to using the town’s backhoe instead of the oversized rented excavator. The average size of each ditch is 6ft. wide and 4ft. deep. The other problem is during a rainstorm the water in the ditch goes to a 90 degree turn and from there goes across the end of her driveway instead of under it and through the culvert. Lastly, she requested calcium be put on her road.

Brian Kegelman, who resides on Tripp Hill Rd., stated that Hribar insists that the Town has a 49 ft. right-of-way, but he has never produced a deed or statute that grants the 49 ft. right-of-way. The law gives the Town the right to do General Maintenance within the right-of -way but what constitutes General Maintenance.

Kegelman asked the Town Board why they and their attorneys use the term “General Maintenance” for the widening of his road and the installation of new and larger ditches on his property and other sections of Tripp Hill Rd. but in the Town’s 284 form for spending authorization that is required to comply with Highway Law 284 the same work is referred to as “Permanent Improvements” which he believes is the correct description of widening or opening a road. Kegelman also asked the Town Board what type of work they are referring to when they use the term “Maintenance” as their attorney used “, “Maintenance” to describe cleaning out existing ditches.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, 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 except for bill #111.

###### General: #106-#118 $ 9,127.94

Hwy: #173-#189 $ 37,514.05

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

General Checking: $ 324,942 HWY Checking: $ 498,189

Hwy Equipment Fund: $257,811 Building Reserve: $ 40,548

ARPA: $150,317 Special Lighting Dist.: $ 1,996

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

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

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

A Highway report was given by Highway Superintendent Bill Hribar.

* Hribar reported working on ditches on Jones Rd.
* Williams Rd. was sealed for the winter.
* Maintenance on Dana Clark Rd. has been completed.

Councilperson Hohensee asked how the salt was going to be mixed with the sand. Hribar explained that the sand will be brought over to the salt shed and mixed in front of it. The salt shed has an apron that should keep the sand and salt contained.

Councilperson Dalton reported on the Highway Committee. The Committee met August 29th. Topics that were discussed were:

* “How Shared Services work”. It is more economically efficient to share men and equipment with neighboring Towns. Highway Superintendent Hribar quite often shares services with the Towns of Hartwick and Exeter.
* The need for a new fuel pump was discussed and whether it could be covered by CHIP’s.
* Working on writing a SPOIL Policy that addresses what to do with the extra soil and debris from ditching and clearing brush along the roadside.

There was discussion concerning the Mill Street Bridge and Fork Shop Bridge, both yellow flagged by the State. Councilperson Kennedy would like Fork Shop Bridge to be closed at the same time the County closes the Toddsville Bridge on Co. Hwy. 59. Oversized trucks have already been seen crossing the Forkshop Bridge. It cannot withstand the weight and will eventually come tumbling down.

The Watershed report was given by Councilperson Kennedy A letter will be going out by the Watershed Advisory Committee requesting a proportional contribution from the Towns of Otsego, Springfield and Middlefield to cover the cost of the septic inspections that are currently being done and paid for by the Village. Further discussion on this topic was tabled for the Town Board’s 2025 Budget Workshop. Another letter written by the Chairman of the Watershed Committee, and is currently under discussion, was written warning residents of the potential health issues related to drinking water from Otsego Lake even if you are treating the water or running it through a UV System. The Watershed has not come to a decision to have the Towns send out a

*RISK ALERT* letter to their residents. A copy of the letter has been sent to D.O.H. for comment.

MOTION by Councilperson Dalton, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to accept the individual reports as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Supervisor Bosley submitted a Resolution extending the Commercial Solar Installation Moratorium passed April 10th 2024 for an additional 6 months.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to pass the proposed Resolution offered by Supervisor Bosley extending Local Law #1 for an additional 6 months.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket #188)

Supervisor Bosley felt the Delaware Engineering report on the drainage of Bibik Rd. was incomplete and that they should be pressed to complete it. The Town Board agreed.

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to hand this project over to the Highway Committee.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Councilperson Kennedy offered a Resolution recognizing Fly Creek General Store Owner Thomas Bouton. The Resolution was discussed among the Town Board members.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to adopt the Resolution.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: (Resolution Docket #189)

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to go into Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor (8:22 pm)

MOTION by Councilperson Hohensee, seconded by Councilperson Kjolhede, to come out of Executive.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor (8:40 pm)

MOTION by Councilperson Kjolhede, seconded by Councilperson Dalton, to pay bill #111 in the amount of $3,934.08 to Hancock Estabrook for Legal Services.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

MOTION by Councilperson Kennedy to adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED: All were in favor.

Meeting ended at 8:40 pm.

Next scheduled meeting will be October 9th, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pamela Deane/Town Clerk