

**Otisco Town Board Meeting**  
**Monday September 9, 2024, 7:00pm**

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Otisco that was held September 9, 2024 at 7:00 PM at the Otisco Town Hall, 1924 Barker Street, Tully, New York with the following present:

**Present:** Supervisor Glenn Hall  
Councilman Roger Volles  
Councilman Tyler Knapp  
Councilman Jesse Spaulding  
Councilman Doug LaFrance

**Others present:** Highway Superintendent, Douglas Hoffman, Financial Advisor, Thomas Chartrand; Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Historian; Cheryl Brunet, Deputy Town Clerk, and Mandie Young, 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk.

Also present were 11 town residents.

This meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM and the pledge to the flag was given.

The minutes of the August 12, 2024 Regular Monthly Meeting were made available via email and discussed.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to accept the August 12, 2024 minutes.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Douglas Hoffman reported:

- Paving has been completed on Fish Gulf Rd.
- The parts are on order for the speed sign. (JC Smith)
- Getting plow trucks ready for winter
- Would like to purchase more shade trees with the ARPA funds, will stay under the \$2,000 cap for expenditures. Approved.
- Basketball hoops at the community center are presenting a challenge. Addressing.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

The Supervisor's Report was given by Financial Advisor Thomas Chartrand.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp to accept the Supervisor's Report.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Knapp to approve the following Transfer of Appropriations:

GENERAL FUND:

From:				
A1990.4	Contingent	Equipment		\$9,000.00
		Total		\$9,000.00
To:				
A1421.4	Attorney (Article78)	Contractual		\$5,000.00
A3620.4	Safety Inspections	Contractual		\$4,000.00
		Total		\$9,000.00

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to take the standard rate for OCEBA health insurance for 2025 per recommendation by Financial Advisor Thomas Chartrand based on reserves in the account.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp to approve the Bank Reconciliation Statement presented to the Town Board by Financial Advisor Thomas Chartrand.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to pay the bills out of the proper funds. General Fund, Abstract #9 \$20,909.76 and Highway, Abstract #9 \$100,162.39.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding) Ayes 5 Noes 0

## BUSINESS DISCUSSION

### Referendum Results-

Votes tallied 26, 25 Yes and 1 Blank

### Wind Turbine Update

Supervisor Hall reported on a meeting with Town of Lafayette Supervisor Bill McConnell, Town of Lafayette Deputy Supervisor Mark Dissler, Joe Heath, Attorney for the Onondaga Nation, and Town of Tully Supervisor John Masters in early August to discuss top issues for the community related to the turbines. Points reviewed included Bear Mountain/mudslide potential, bird migration, potential flickering, air traffic including airport and defense, impact to community re: roads and construction.

All these things will be topics to bring to the table when the group meets with John Lemondes. The Lafayette supervisor has spoken with an attorney who has some litigation experience regarding turbines.

Supervisor Hall reported that his conversation with Onondaga Nation Attorney Joe Heath indicated that the Onondaga Nation had no interest in allowing high voltage lines to pass through their property. Technically, Honeywell still owns the property but apparently they are not interested either.

Pete Sheedy asked if the Rapid Act would give the State power to invoke eminent domain. Supervisor Hall responded that currently that is not allowed but could change in the future.

Supervisor Hall also noted that Skaneateles is constructing a solar farm on the west side of the lake which suggests that they are not immune to renewable energy projects.

Pete Sheedy asked if there were any subsequent requirements the town could implement to slow down the progress of installing the turbines. Ann Ruggles from the Wind Watch group also suggested several areas where additional regulation or laws could possibly create “speed bumps”.

The supervisors and attorneys will continue the discussion including points raised by concerned residents.

Olin Stratton inquired about maps of transmission lines. Ann Ruggles responded that the company EDR might have them.

Ann Ruggles also requested a copy of the Palmer Capital power point presentation at the Tully Town Hall meeting. The wind watch group would like to have it. Supervisor Hall suggested it might be on the website.

Supervisor Hall spoke to the County response to the wind turbines. He received an email from Troy Waffner, Onondaga County Department of Planning director on Aug 22. They were meeting internally at the county regarding the Maple Harvest Project. Supervisor Hall provided

an overview of Otisco's perspective, and he also referred him to Rich McCarron for further background.

Dave Garlock asked about the tax ramifications of the turbines. It is assumed that landowners would be reimbursed over and above the lease payments for the increased tax burden on leased property.

#### Other Misc Topics

Commercial property assessments were discussed.

Wonderland Forest is operating under court ordered stipulations on a per event basis. Residents can access the court orders on the NYeCourts website. Further discussion is tabled until the court case is decided.

The Barker Street speed limit change request has been submitted to the appropriate agency.

#### Town Hall Entrance

Councilman LaFrance has abandoned the plan to have the Tully high school shop class rebuild the town hall entrance ramp. He is obtaining estimates currently and they will be discussed at the October meeting.

#### Deputy Town Clerk

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Knapp to create the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to set the 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy salary at \$18/hr.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

Cheryl Brunet, Deputy Town Clerk, recommended the appointment of Mandie Young to 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk.

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Knapp confirming the appointment of Mandie Young as 2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Town Clerk.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)                      Ayes 5 Noes 0

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Town Board has to discuss certain matters pertaining to the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation and these discussions should take place in Executive Session with the Board meeting in private since sensitive issues relating to these matters will be discussed. Disclosure of these discussions at this time could have a significant impact on the Town Board's ability to address such matters in the best interests of the Town and the public.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles at 8:00 pm to enter Executive Session.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp at 8:50 pm to conclude Executive Session and enter back into the Regular Town Board Meeting.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)      Ayes 5 Noes 0

## 2025 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW

The tentative budget was summarized and explained by Financial Advisor Thomas Chartrand. Line items were reviewed by Supervisor Hall and the Councilmen and adjusted per discussion.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to move the 2025 Tentative Budget to the 2025 Preliminary Budget.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knap and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to set the Public Hearing for Thursday November 7<sup>Th</sup> at 6:30. The regular meeting will follow.

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)      Ayes 5 Noes 0

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Volles to  
Adjourn @ 10:31 pm

(All in favor, motion carried)  
(Hall, Knapp, Volles, LaFrance, and Spaulding)      Ayes 5 Noes 0

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Cheryl Brunet, Deputy Town Clerk