

May 12, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Otisco held on May 12, 2025 at 7:00 PM at the Otisco Town Hall, 1924 Barker Street, with the following members present:

PRESENT: Supervisor Glenn R. Hall
Councilman Jesse Spaulding
Councilman Tyler Knapp
Councilman Doug LaFrance
Councilman Roger Volles

OTHERS PRESENT: Thomas Chartrand, Financial Advisor; Douglas Hoffman, Highway Superintendent; Craig Billinson, Attorney for the Town; Cheryl Brunet, Town Clerk; Mandie Young, Deputy Town Clerk; Tim Cusick, Code Enforcement Officer and 11 others.

The Regular Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hall at 7:00 pm

The minutes of the April 14, 2025, Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting have been distributed via email to all members of the town board by the Town Clerk prior to the meeting.

Motion was made by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to accept the April 14, 2025 minutes.

All in favor, motion carried

(Hall, Spaulding, Knapp, Volles and LaFrance) Ayes 5 Noes 0

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dead ash trees that need removal have been identified. Highway crew will work on them over the season and Superintendent Hoffman is working with Michael Grimm on trees that are too large for them to manage. Should have quotes this month.

Paving projects lining up. One on Octagon Rd from Rt 80 to Barker, and one on Dutch Hill Rd from Otisco Rd to the top of the hill. Not scheduled yet.

Also, about 13 miles of Chips sealing to do this season.

Catching up with water issues and mowing.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

Thomas Chartrand, Financial Advisor, gave an overview of the monthly spending and revenue for April 2025.

Motion was made by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp to accept the April Supervisors Report.

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

Motion was made by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman LaFrance to approve the bank reconciliation.

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

Motion was made by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Knapp to pay the bills out of the proper funds. They are General Abstract # 5 in the amount of \$15,088.35 and Highway Abstract # 5 in the amount of \$53,433.88.

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

Financial Advisor Chartrand gave an overview of some of the items in the New York State Budget that may be of interest to the Town and the Fire Department.

BUSINESS DISCUSSION

Cell Tower – National Grid has received the work order to run power to the tower.

Wonderland Forest –Supervisor Hall discussed the favorable ruling on the lawsuit(s) brought by Wonderland against the town regarding the noise ordinance and the mass gathering permit ordinance. Wonderland has filed a notice of appeal; they have 6 months to move forward with an appeal. But the laws are enforceable as of now. The Code Enforcement Officer is a Peace Officer, and he has the authority to cite violations. Supervisor Hall will continue to measure noise level as he has in the past. He has updated the equipment needed. It is noted that the outside company is not needed now that the lawsuit is over.

Dave Garlock had many questions regarding the details and enforcement of the mass gathering permit. His questions were addressed by Supervisor Hall, Attorney Billinson, and Councilman Spaulding in great detail.

Jayne Baritell asked about notifications to all local businesses impacted by the results of the lawsuit. Attorney Billinson said that letters will go out via certified mail this week to all properties that may be affected by the Mass Gathering Local Law along with copies of the judge's ruling.

Other issues discussed, emergency medical requirements for events, road closure, police presence and traffic.

Wind Turbines – On May 9, Supervisor Hall, Lafayette Town Supervisor, his deputy and Joe Heath from the Onondaga Nation met with Rachel May to address their concerns with the wind turbine project. She and her staff listened. One of her staff was very knowledgeable regarding the Fenner wind turbine project and the dissatisfaction of residents with the upgraded wind turbine project. Supervisor Hall felt that the meeting went well but did not get the sense that there was any significant change in the pending legislation.

Supervisor Hall also reached out to Jim Walsh, former congressman, to see if he had any names to contact to learn how the State processes applications to ORES. Supervisor Hall spoke with two “Public Liaisons” with ORES, and they had not yet heard about the proposed Palmer project. Upon research they found a wildlife survey that had been submitted. Palmer has not submitted a 60-day notice of letter of intent of applying. Several surveys and documents would need to be filed before they could file the letter of intent. One public liaison said he felt that Palmer was at least a year away from submitting a letter of intent to apply.

Supervisor Hall feels these contacts will be valuable for ongoing information.

Power transmission paths are still an issue. Eminent domain is not in play at this point.

Bob Burns reiterated that the local volunteer fire department is not equipped to deal with fires at turbine, solar and battery sites. He also asked about the future of federal funding for the wind turbine project. There is no information specific to the Palmer Project.

Dave Garlock reiterated his observations, objections and concerns related to wind turbines.

Upcoming Local Laws - In process are amendments to the Solar and Wind laws. Attorney Billinson gave an overview of what he learned at a Webinar sponsored by NYSERDA last week about battery storage systems (BESS) and the issues they present. His main takeaway from the webinar was the challenges the local fire departments will face with battery storage systems as well as wind and solar projects as noted above.

IT – Supervisor Hall and Town Clerk Brunet worked with TripleCitiesTech to amend and renew the contract with both TripleCitiesTech and Microsoft. As timing was a consideration, Supervisor Hall signed the contract with verbal approval of the board members.

Motion was made by Councilman Spaulding, seconded by Councilman LaFrance to retroactively authorize Supervisor Hall to sign the contract with TripleCitiesTech and Microsoft.

All in favor, motion carried

(Hall, Spaulding, Knapp, Volles and LaFrance) Ayes 5 Noes 0

Transfer of the domain name to a .gov will be coordinated with TripleCitiesTech and Ben Bibik.

Back porch/deck/roof – Councilman LaFrance has reached out to the builder. His schedule was set back 2 weeks due to illness.

Additional Comments – Bob Burns asked about the Bailey Rd property. Code Enforcement addressed Bob's questions.

Olin Stratton asked about chainsaw training. Superintendent Hoffman said it was completed by his highway crew.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS

The Town Board has to discuss certain matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation involving the Town and these discussions should take place in Executive Session with the Board meeting in private since disclosure of these discussions at this time could have a significant impact on the Town Board's ability to properly defend such lawsuit in the best interests of the Town and the public.

Motion to Enter into Executive Session was made by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Knapp at 8:03 PM.

All in favor, motion carried

(Hall, Spaulding, Volles, Knapp and LaFrance) Ayes 5 Noes 0

Motion to Exit Executive Session was made by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman LaFrance at 8:32 PM.

All in favor, motion carried

(Hall, Spaulding, Volles, Knapp and LaFrance) Ayes 5 Noes 0

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding at 8:34 PM.

All in favor, motion carried

(Hall, Spaulding, Volles, Knapp and LaFrance) Ayes 5 Noes 0

Respectfully submitted: _____
Cheryl Brunet, Town Clerk