

**August 11, 2025**

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Otisco held on August 11, 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 Roger Volles  
Councilman Doug LaFrance

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; and 14 others.

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ENACTMENT OF A LOCAL LAW REGULATING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO**

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Knapp to open the Public Hearing.

Attorney Billinson gave an overview of the law and the restrictions it creates.

Ann Ruggles questioned the setbacks established in the local law and Attorney Billinson responded. She also asked if the town had considered a resolution or a moratorium on this technology. Supervisor Hall stated “not at this time.”

Jenn Schuch asked if we could ban BESS. Attorney Billinson responded that we can not ban this and wind technology, it is not defensible. Regulations could give some control.

Olin Stratton inquired about fire control. Attorney Billinson noted it is in the Local Law requiring the BESS operator have specifically trained fire fighters under contract in case of a fire, available in 2 hours or less.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to close the Public Hearing at 7:14 pm.

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

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ENACTMENT OF A LOCAL LAW REGULATING WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO**

**Motion was made** by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Volles to open the Public Hearing.

Attorney Billinson gave an overview of the law and the restrictions it creates. This law repeals and replaces local law #1 2024. This pertains to small and large wind energy systems. Extensive information is required to submit a permit to the town for large wind turbines before submitting to ORES.

Pete Sheedy stated his concerns regarding how to equip the local fire department to address any potential fires. Attorney Billinson included a requirement in the local law for automatic fire extinguishing equipment on every turbine. Developers also must include an emergency response plan on the permit application along with site specification for fire control.

Marilyn James spoke to potential traffic concerns. She also asked who is responsible for potential disruption with wells and water supply. Per Attorney Billinson, this should be covered by the required insurance policies.

Jenn Schuch asked about noise levels and Attorney Billinson addressed her concerns.

Attorney Billinson also spoke to setback requirements along with regulations on the distance turbines must be from each other.

Dave Garlock commended the work that went into writing these two laws. He also asked about permit fees, firefighting equipment, property value analysis considerations, minimum lot size, turbine removal bonds/securities, transfer of ownership and insurance.

**Local Laws #4 & #5 2025** have been submitted to the county for review. Any suggestions by the County will be considered and a second public hearing may be tentatively scheduled for the September Board Meeting.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to close the Public Hearing at 7:53 pm.

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

### **Regular Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hall at 7:54 pm**

The minutes of the July 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 Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles to accept the July 14, 2025 minutes.

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

## HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Painting has been completed on fence, rail, playground and shed
- Was only able to purchase 50 tons of salt per contract. New contract in September.
- Crew has been cutting brush
- Finished chip sealing
- Will be putting shoulders on Dutch Hill Rd to back up new pavement
- Will be working to replenish stockpiles of sand and salt.
- Truck issue remedied and back on the road
- Starting to get ready for winter.....

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to accept the July Supervisors Report.

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

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

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to pay the bills out of the proper funds. They are General Abstract # 8 in the amount of \$19,104.84 and Highway Abstract # 8 in the amount of \$245,829.94.

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

The preliminary budget meeting will be held in September during the regularly scheduled board meeting. Budget worksheets will be arriving soon.

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION**

Cell Tower –, National Grid has installed power. Shelter to be placed soon.

IT – Supervisor Hall is still working with Triple Cities on the .gov transition.

Speed Limit on Hitchings Rd. - Meghan Spaulding requested the town consider speed limit reductions on Hitchings and Case Hill Rd. The request is under consideration by the board. Supervisor Hall asked Superintendent Hoffman to place the portable speed limit sign on Hitchings Rd.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION TO ADDRESS PENDING LITIGATION**

Supervisor Hall announced that 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 was made** by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman Spaulding to enter executive session.

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp, seconded by Councilman LaFrance to exit executive session.

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles to hold a public hearing on September 8, 2025 at 7:00 pm to consider enacting the BESS Local Law immediately followed by a public hearing to consider enacting the Windmill Local Law.

(All in favor, motion carried)

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding at 8:46 PM.

All in favor, motion carried

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

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