

**September 8, 2025**

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Otisco held on September 8, 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 6 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 Knapp and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to open the Public Hearing.

Attorney Billinson gave another overview of the law and the restrictions it creates. He noted that the Onondaga County planning board did not have any substantive comments on either the wind turbine or the BESS local laws. The planning board reviews proposed local laws and other actions such as zoning ordinances, and certain actions affecting real estate to make sure that they are not in conflict with similar laws of other municipalities or the counties Laws and regulations. The planning board does often make comments and suggestions on these types of actions but didn't do so on the winter turbine and BESS local laws. However, the county's comments or a lack there of is not an approval of a local law or action local laws and actions can be challenged.

Bob Burns asked about built in fire suppression and attorney Billinson assured him that it is required under our local law in addition to contracted fire fighting specialists that are trained to combat the unique fires BESS and large-scale turbines could potentially have. Bob also recommends the building permit includes these requirements. The building permits have not been developed yet.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp to close the Public Hearing at 7:16 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 Volles and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to open the Public Hearing.

Attorney Billinson gave another 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 asked about liability if damage to adjacent properties, specifically wells, would be remedied by the turbine owner. Attorney Billinson stated that a \$10 million insurance policy would be required for environmental damage. Bob Burns asked about an escrow account for potential damage. Attorney Billinson said it could be addressed at the time of SEQR request/review.

Ann Ruggles noted the potential extra costs to homeowners adjacent to the turbines, including but not limited to well testing and homeowners' insurance.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles to close the Public Hearing at 7:34 pm.

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

**The Regular Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Hall at 7:34 pm**

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to adopt the **LOCAL LAW REGULATING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO**

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

An official copy of **LOCAL LAW #5 2025 REGULATING BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS (BESS) WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO** will be provided to Cheryl Brunet, Town Clerk.

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to adopt the **LOCAL LAW REGULATING WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO**

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

An official copy of **LOCAL LAW #4 2025 REGULATING WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS WITHIN THE TOWN OF OTISCO** will be provided to Cheryl Brunet, Town Clerk.

The minutes of the August 11, 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 LaFrance to accept the August 11, 2025 minutes.

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

### **HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

- Getting plow trucks ready for winter
- Finishing up mowing, brush cutting and ditching
- Hauling run a crush
- New plow truck guestimate to be finished Fall 2026
- No projection on salt until the new contract comes out
- Per Councilman Spaulding, salt is up to \$60/ton from \$50 last year.
- Under 200 ton unmixed salt in barn
- Dutch Hill shoulders are done and project is complete

### **SUPERVISOR’S REPORT:**

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to accept the August 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 # 9 in the amount of \$21,227.84 and Highway Abstract # 8 in the amount of \$53,135.45.

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles to approve the following Transfer of Appropriations dated September 8, 2025:

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

**GENERAL FUND:**

From:				
A1990.4	Contingent	Contractual		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
			Total	\$6,000.00
To:				
A7110.4	Parks	Contractual		<u>\$6,000.00</u>
			Total	\$6,000.00

**BUSINESS DISCUSSION**

Cell Tower - Vertical Bridge is done. Verizon is being billed but awaiting receipt of a part to be operational. Other carriers are interested. No names yet.

IT – Supervisor Hall and Town Clerk Brunet are still working with Triple Cities on the .gov transition.

Speed Limit on Hitchings Rd. – The Board considered the request by Meghan Spaulding for speed reductions on Hitchings and Case Hill Rds. The following motion was made.

**Resolution #21 2025**

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to reduce the speed limit on Hitchings Rd to 40 miles per hour.

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

Other comments, suggestions, and questions were heard from the attendees.

Bob Burns addressed his concern with the heavy, fast traffic on Bailey Road. He asked for any relief, noting the many children and pets that live on the road. Superintendent Hoffman offered to put the portable speed limit sign.

Pete Sheedy had many concerns regarding the racetrack. Supervisor Hall responded.

Tim Creamer spoke on behalf of the Otisco Lake Community Association. He was requesting the town assist in paying for internet access at the center. He approximates the cost at \$1,200. He highlighted the advantages to residents of Otisco. He is also looking into grants.

### **2026 PRELIMINARY BUDGET REVIEW**

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to move the 2026 Tentative Budget to the 2026 Preliminary budget.

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

**Motion was made** by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to set the public hearing for Thursday, November 6, 2025 at 6:00 pm. The regular meeting will follow.

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

### **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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to Adjourn** was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding at 9:57 PM.

All in favor, motion carried

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

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