

March 10, 2025

Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting of the Town of Otisco held on March 10, 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 Roger Volles
Councilman Tyler Knapp
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 16 others.

REGULAR MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING

The minutes of the February 10, 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 February 10, 2025 minutes.

All in favor, motion carried

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

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Computer Fuel System installation is complete and appears to be working well.

Salt inventory should be adequate for the end of year. Received 120 tons and another 120 tons on order
Excellent job on snow removal was recognized by the board and audience members

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT:

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

Motion was made by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman Volles to accept the February Supervisors Report.

All in favor, motion carried

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

Accountant Chartrand stated that he filed the Town of Otisco Annual Financial Report with the State of New York with Supervisor Hall's assistance.

Motion was made by Councilman LaFrance and seconded by Councilman Spaulding that the annual report was filed with the New York State Comptroller's Office and that the Town Clerk will initiate a public notice to that effect and indicating the hard copy will be available at the Town Offices during normal office hours.

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

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

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

Motion was made by Councilman Spaulding and seconded by Councilman LaFrance to pay these bills out of the proper funds. They are General Abstract # 3 in the amount of \$17,575.35 and Highway Abstract # 3 in the amount of \$42,165.02.

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

Motion was made by Councilman LaFrance, seconded by Councilman Roger Volles to approve the audit of the supervisor's records.

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

BUSINESS DISCUSSION

Wind Turbines – Per Supervisor Hall the town was asked to review our current wind and solar local laws. Currently our wind and solar laws point to anything over 20 megawatts would fall under the jurisdiction of ORES. Also noted that the current presidential administration may change federal policy and funding of wind and solar projects. Considering this development the board has decided to update the current laws that may benefit the town if federal rules change. The town will be adding battery storage system requirements to the existing wind and solar laws. The timeline for the proposed changes will probably be 2-3 months. The changes made by the Town of Lafayette will be considered as a guideline.

Dave Garlock asked about “protected airspace.” Supervisor Hall said that was a topic to be discussed at a May meeting with the Town of Lafayette and Town of Tully supervisors.
Attorney Billinson also discussed the changes made by Lafayette to their zoning laws. He is intending to incorporate many if not all those requirements in future laws and amendments.
Resident Ann Ruggles spoke to the work of Southern Hills Wind Watch Group and the request that the Town create additional laws addressing other concerns.
Attorney Billinson also noted that our fire departments are probably not equipped to manage lithium battery fires.
Ann Ruggles brought up the topic of “ice throws” from the turbines and the danger that could pose especially if the winters are as intense as this past winter.
Dave Garlock asked if the Association of Towns had made any progress on renewable energy regulations. Supervisor Hall is not aware of anything.
Dave Garlock asked if we have received any results from the test towers. Supervisor Hall has not spoken with Palmer Capital since late January.

Wonderland Forest – Court date rescheduled to March 13. It was noted that there are several pending lawsuits against and within WL Forest.

Adult Use Law – Onondaga County has approved our Adult Use Local Law.

Motion was made by Councilman Knapp and seconded by Councilman Spaulding to schedule a schedule a public hearing at the April Town Board Meeting at 7:00 pm.

All in favor, motion carried

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

Cell Tower – is up. Awaiting power from National Grid.

New DEC Wetlands Information – Attorney Billinson attended a webinar on new regulations implemented in December 2024. A million additional acres of wetlands were identified, and the DEC is actively implementing new requirements for permitting development on or near identified wetlands. The DEC has released preliminary maps and recommends that the code enforcement officer become familiar with the wetlands within his jurisdiction.

Front Entrance-Councilman LaFrance will check in with the contractor on scheduling.

Permanent Outdoor Generator- The Board/Town may need to address the need for some formal regulation.

IT - Supervisor Hall will speak with Benjamin Bibik regarding transferring control of the domain name to TripleCitiesTech per Kurtis Florance’s (CEO TCT) request.

Motion was made by Councilman Volles and seconded by Councilman Knapp directing the Town Clerk to post the Standard Workday Report.

All in favor, motion carried

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to Adjourn was made by Councilman Roger Volles and seconded by Councilman Jesse Spaulding at 8:03 PM.

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

Respectfully submitted: _____
Cheryl Brunet, Town Clerk