

## Regular Meeting, Town Of Otto

A regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Otto, Cattaraugus County and the State of New York was held at the Otto Town Hall, 8842 Otto- East Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY on the 16th day of February 2021.

**Present:** Ron Wasmund .. Town Supervisor  
Brenda Mallaber .. Councilmember  
Paul Stang .. Councilmember  
Kevin Walker .. Councilmember via zoom meeting  
Trisha Priest .. Town Clerk  
Robert Barber Jr. .. Highway Superintendent  
Jeff Holler .. Code Enforcement Officer entered 7:36pm

**Absent:** Marlene Gregory .. Councilmember

**Others Present:** Wendy Henry of Otto

Supervisor Wasmund called the regular board meeting to order at 7:00pm with a quorum present.

**Privilege of the floor:** Wendy Henry addressed the Board with questions regarding internet access within Otto. She asked if there were any cabled internet options coming in the future. Internet that is delivered by cable is considered more secure and her employer in particular requires that she have cabled internet to work for them. There are much less weather related interruptions in service with cabled in internet.

Councilmember Stang addressed the questions and offered the latest update on DFT brining internet service. He also explained the situation with Armstrong and that while they received State funds they quickly ran short of their financial ability to bring internet through Otto.

Supervisor Wasmund mentioned that Spectrum has not offered the Town a franchise agreement and that they can't run internet without a signed agreement with the Town.

### RESOLUTION 2021-13

#### Approval of minutes

On a motion made by Councilmember Stang and seconded by Councilmember Mallaber, the following resolution was

ADOPTED      Ayes    4      Mallaber, Stang, Walker, Wasmund  
                     Nays    0

Resolved that the minutes of January 19, 2021 are approved.

### Report of town officials

**Supervisor Wasmund** Mr. Wasmund presented the Board with his monthly report.

**Highway Superintendent** Mr. Barber reported that the roads have started to heave because of the weather. The crew hit one of the high spots and did damage to the D block on the plow wing blade.

He questioned when the percentages for the pilot program should be decided on and the process .

**Town Clerk** Trisha Priest presented the monthly review of the town clerk activities for the month of January 2021.

\$6710.00 was collected during the month of January. The following disbursements were made:

Town Supervisor	\$ 6662.80
Department of ag & markets	\$ 19.00
Catt Co. DPW	\$ 28.20
DEC	\$ 0.00

The Town Clerk Reported on the status of the tax collection for this year. Collection has been a little slower than previous years but the Town's portion of the taxes have been collected.

The Town Clerk submitted the Assessors January report on behalf of the Assessor to the Town Board.

The January report is as follows:

- Completed renewal applications for the Agricultural Assessment and Exemption for Nonprofit Organizations are being returned to our office. Because these renewals are due by March 1st, notices will be mailed mid-February to all applicants who have not yet given us a renewal.
- All senior citizens who had the Senior Citizen Exemption in 2020 were contacted by my office, either by phone or mail. We told applicants that they did not have to reapply this year, but if they now have a lower income that reapplying could increase their exemption.
- If you have not already, please let me know what your decision is concerning the resolution I explained in last month's report. As a reminder, this resolution allows me to remove Senior Citizen exemptions due to:
  - 1) owner death,
  - 2) a new owner added to the deed,
  - 3) owner changed their primary residence, or
  - 4) the property transferred to a new owner. If this is not passed, then new property owners, no matter their age or income, will be allowed to keep exemptions that they would otherwise not be entitled to. Also, if you have passed the resolution and have not yet given me a copy, please do so.
- Because many towns do not require building permits for agricultural buildings, many property owners think that agricultural buildings are not taxable. This is not true—agricultural building are generally taxable. Property owners can apply for a full exemption on certain limited-use agricultural structures, such as silos, manure storage and handling facilities, bulk milk tanks, feed grain storage bins, and commodity sheds. Additionally, newly built agricultural buildings that meet certain requirements can be exempt for 10 years IF the property owner applies for the exemption within one year of completion and meets other requirements. (An informational pamphlet about farm building exemptions is included, along with a sign for the bulletin board.) All other agricultural buildings are taxable and we ask that Code Enforcement Officers let farmers know that they should contact my office whether or not a permit is required.
- Seven property transfers were added for the month of December.

**Code Enforcement Officer** Jeff Holler reported on his activities for the month from 01/01/2021 thru 02/16/2021. He took eleven calls and issued three permits. The first at 8217 N. Otto Road for demolition, and the second was issued at 8583 N. Otto Road for a barn addition, the third at 9070 Gibson Hill Road for a shed. The permits have been turned in to the County assessor and \$60.00 was handed over to the Town Clerk. He reported to the Town Board that he cannot proceed with violations until the court opens.

#### RESOLUTION 2021-14

##### Planning Board Appointment

On a motion made by Councilmember Mallaber and seconded by Supervisor Wasmund, the following resolution was ADOPTED

Ayes	4	Mallaber, Stang, Walker, Wasmund
Nays	0	

WHEREAS, the Otto Town Board is desirous of having a planning board of five members and  
 WHEREAS the Planning Board has brought forth a suitable candidate for appointment.  
 Resolved that Marsha Salisbury be appointed to membership of the planning board.

Effective today February 16, 2021.

RESOLUTION 2021-15

Audit of Claims

On a motion made by Councilmember Stang and seconded by Councilmember Walker , the following resolution was ADOPTED      Ayes    4            Mallaber, Stang, Walker, Wasmund  
                         Nays    0

Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #002 in the amount of \$ 57,847.36 have been reviewed by Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	No.	9 through 14	\$ 1149.94
Highway Fund	No.	13 through 24	\$56697.42
Water District	No.		
Sewer District	No.		

RESOLUTION 2021-16

Supervisor's Monthly Report-January

On a motion made by Councilmember Stang and seconded by Councilmember Mallaber, the following resolution was ADOPTED      Ayes    3            Mallaber, Walker, Stang  
                         Nays    0

Resolved that the Supervisor's Monthly report for the month of September 2020 be accepted as submitted.

RESOLUTION 2021-17

Town Clerks Monthly Report-January

On a motion made by Councilmember Stang and seconded by Councilmember Mallaber, the following resolution was ADOPTED      Ayes    4            Mallaber, Stang, Walker, Wasmund  
                         Nays    0

Resolved that the Town Clerk's January Monthly report be accepted as submitted.

With no further discussion, on a motion of Councilmember Mallaber and seconded by Councilmember Walker, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. Carried unanimously.

The next board meeting will be held on March 16, 2021 7PM at the Otto Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Trisha Priest, Town Clerk