

NEW YORK STATE
COUNTY OF OTSEGO
TOWN OF MARYLAND

Monday, November 18, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of Monday November 18, 2024 was called to order at 6:33p.m. by Deputy Supervisor Renee Gaston. Present were Deputy Supervisor Renee Gaston, Councilmembers Brian Dierks, Harold Palmer, Highway Superintendent Tim Walke, and all per attached sign-in sheet. (See attachment #1). Absent was Jason Knapp.

The minutes of the November 4, 2024 Town Board Meeting was read. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Harold, 2nd by Brian. All in favor: Renee – aye, Brian – aye, Harold – aye. All present in favor. Motion carried.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Public Forum

- Steve Barton spoke of a board meeting for the FSL; They are looking to do a mid-winter event of some sort, maybe an ice harvest.

Reports

- Tim reported on the condition of the property at East St and Division St. Without local ordinance to follow, there is nothing the town can do to require cleaning up the huge mess. Long discussion followed acknowledging the need for a committee to modify the zoning ordinance.
 - Tim then put forward some thoughts for the consideration of the Town Board and incoming Supervisor: The Town Barn is not safe much less sufficient as is. He spoke of constant damage to equipment due to not being able to clean the road salts off. The Town needs to look forward. He suggests getting the conversation started with Westford about merging. There are state incentives available for doing this and he feels we really need to look into this for the benefit of both Towns. Brian Dierks responded with his having begun doing research on exactly this project. He has found there are significant funds from the state for this, possibly as much as 95% of the costs. Long discussion.
 - Tim said there are 62 miles of Town roads, 14 miles of County roads. This 76 miles takes the crew 3 hours each to plow.
 - Tim spoke of the Allegiance Trucks issue; the company changed hands 3 times, its very difficult to figure out just what is owed to them at this time and he wants to be sure their records and his are in agreement before he puts forth a voucher to pay the amount due. He needs all the bills and invoices from 2022, 2023, 2024, from our records and from Allegiance and its predecessors.
 - The Backhoe is not yet back. It is 4 or 5 years old and is showing signs of corrosion damage.
 - There was discussion about the possibility of leasing Al Travis' property. The main opposition to purchasing this for the town is that would remove it from the tax roll.
- Allison spoke of the upcoming construction at Borst Field. The Farmer's Market would like to use Borst Field again next year but they paid rent, not using the pavilion but using the bathroom. What can the arrangement be for the coming year before the bathrooms are rebuilt? The Board has offered free rent for the farmers market during the weeks of use in which they would need to provide a port-a-jon. There was further discussion.
- Harold reported that Hometown Hauling as of today, will no longer be open on Mondays – there is not enough business for them to justify it. This will need public notice.

- Renee spoke of the FaceBook issue; the previous town page has been closed and there is a question as to whether or not the previous information can be imported to a new page. It may need to be started over.
- Brian asked about a free web page through the county, which has not been pursued. We will need to post to the community page the new transfer station information. Towns must archive comments made on any social media site.
- Brian said there was a successful meeting with the Union Rep – they came to an agreement.
- Renee asked about getting the Christmas decorations put up. The decision was to do so as soon as possible since this is weather dependent.
 - The Tannery Street Bridge needs State and Local agreement
 - Santa day is December 15th, from 2-4 at the Firehall with tree lighting to follow at 4pm.
 - Decoration judging will be on December 21st.
 - The tree? An artificial tree has been donated and will be put up outside the firehall.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m. A motion was made by Harold, 2nd by Brian. All present in favor. Motion carried.

Bills were audited and ratified for payment.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Allison Jones
 Maryland Town Clerk