OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

September 19, 2024

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Wagar. There were 24 guests.

Also present: Deputy Clerk Pat Kaiser, Fire Chief Jeff Schermerhorn, County Commissioner Clement, Deputy Boutin, Lisa McComb, Paul Slough, Rob Pallarito, NEMCOG President & Parliamentarian Randy Stults.

Roll call of Board Members Present: J Bergel; M Brown; D Pallarito; J Brown; T Wagar

Board Members Absent:

Conflicts of Interest: None

Additions to Agenda: Tom Wagar requested to have bids for Fire Department roof on agenda

Approval of Agenda: Jerry Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mary Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Brief Public Comment on agenda items: Ken Jensen thanked Jerry for his financial report.

County Commissioner Jason Clement: There is an open spot on the Road Commission vacated by Tom Wagar, you can apply online if interested. The County Commissioner's have heard from the Parks & Rec, Airport & Finance Committees when they met about the 2025 budget. There was discussion about the new courts with the plans on display at the Court House. The goal is to use ARPA and General funds and not have a millage to build it.

Lisa McComb, Otsego County Economic Alliance: Lisa provided information about grant program for small businesses. There is now a Small Business Support Hub Program that serves 6 counties. Starting in 2025 there will be grants available for small businesses, also they can ask for assistance in this program for help with many aspects of running a business. Brandy has reached out to the Clerk to see if we could schedule and host a Coffee & Connect for the local businesses. Economic Alliance is putting together a focus group on the Waters' businesses. Denise Pallarito made a motion to allow the Clerk to reach out to Brandy to schedule this, second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED.** There is an Otsego County task force coming together to help developers do an e=assessment of the housing needs. There has been an increase in 700 new jobs and no available housing for this need.

Public Hearing to Hear Objections to the Assessment Roll for Special Assessment District #2024-1 was opened at 7:20 pm. With no public comment the hearing was closed at 7:21 pm.

Resolution #2024-9 was read by the Clerk. Mary Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution; second by Jerry Brown.
Rollcall: J Bergel: Yes; M Brown: Yes; D Pallarito: Yes; J Brown: Yes; T Wagar: Yes. **Resolution adopted**.

APPROVED
BY: [illegible] DATE: 10-17-2

Resolution #2024-10 was read by the Clerk. Jerry Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution; second by Jeff Bergel.
Rollcall: T Wagar: Yes; J Brown: Yes; D Pallarito: Yes; M Brown: Yes; J Bergel: Yes. **Resolution adopted**.

Resolution #2024-11 was read by Clerk. Jerry Brown made a motion to adopt resolution, second by Mary Brown.
Rollcall: D Pallarito: Yes; M Brown: Yes; J Brown: Yes; J Bergel: Yes; T Wagar: Yes. **Resolution adopted**.

Resolution #2024-12 was read by Clerk. Jerry Brown made a motion to adopt the resolution, second by Jeff Bergel.
Rollcall: M Brown: Yes; J Brown: Yes; T Wagar: Yes; J Bergel: Yes. **Resolution adopted**.

Public Hearing to set Fire Department Millage: Opened at 7:33 pm. Clerk Brown gave the financials on the money generated on this millage. Based on this year's tax allocated operating revenue if we leave the millage at the current 1.50 mills, we will receive $320,987.00 with 1.05 for operating the fire department on $224,691.00 and putting .45 mills towards future new equipment in the amount of $96,296.00, with the additional $75,000.00 we also budget in the GL it would bring in $171,296.00 total.
If we increase the millage to 1.95 mills, we will receive $417,283.00, with 1.05 for operating the fire department on $224,691.00 and putting .90 mills towards future new equipment in the amount of $192,592.00, with the additional $75,000.00 we also budget in GL it would bring in $267,529.00. The balance on the new fire truck is $396,535.00. This will require us to finance the truck when it's time to take delivery of it. Mary will investigate Department of Treasury requirements. Jerry Brown made a motion to set the Fire Department millage to 1.95 mills, second by Tom Wagar.
Rollcall: J Bergel: Yes; M Brown: Yes; D Pallarito: No; J Brown: Yes; T Wagar: Yes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Public Comment for FD Public Hearing:
Paul Bush: Have we considered turning it over to the county?
Denise Pallarito explained some of the issues that are going on with the Fire Authority in Gaylord. City **Attorney Paul Slough** offered additional information also. The authority would be who decides on what to charge municipalities, we would have no access to the process.
Jerry Brown said response time would be impacted; it would take a long time for on scene time.
Michelle Verduce stated when her house burnt down (not in our fire department jurisdiction) The Otsego Lake Twp Fire Department was the first one there to help.
Ken Jensen asked about putting a cap on the set millage with an end date. Not allowed with millages.
Cathy Coppersmith provided information on a grant available from EGLE. She will get the information to us to look at.

Supervisor's Report: Tom thanked the board for his re-appointment to the board. He is looking forward to once again serving this community. He has resigned from his position with the Road Commission. Tom gave a status update on cemetery goals.

Approval of 2024 Tax Rate Request form L4029: Assessor Bobbi Balazovic has prepared the L4029, Supervisor & Clerk worked with Bobbi to complete the form. The FD millage that we set tonight will be

added. Mary Brown made a motion to approve the L4029 form, second by Jerry Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Meeting Minutes Presented by Mary Brown for August 15, 2024, regular meeting minutes and special meetings on August 20th, September 9th, 10th and 12th ,2024. A motion was made by Jerry Brown to accept all meeting minutes as presented for August 15th, September 9th,10th and 12th, and August 20th as corrected for the fire truck amount paid was $275,000.00; second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown**:** Township Bills for the period August 16, 2024, to September 19, 2024, with a total amount of $364,756.05. Motion made by Jeff Bergel to pay the township bills as presented; with total of $45,150.85 from the General Fund; $302,914.79 for the Fire Fund and $16,690.41 for Trash Fund, seconded by Jerry Brown. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED.** The clerk has submitted to the County Clerk for reimbursement of $702.00 for wages for the Early Voting workers. Reminder to the board of the scheduled security assessment on September 26th at 9:00. Pat & I are very busy with election now. MTA Fall Regional meeting is October 2nd at Treetops, Jeff, Denise, Mary, Jerry, Pat and Tom are registered to attend. The budget amendment the board approved on August 20th has been done from the Capitol Outlay GL. I found out recently I was approved for a $6,000.00 grant for election security from The Institute for Responsive Government. A signature is required to move forward. Mary Brown made a motion to allow Tom Wagar to sign the grant form, second by Denise Pallarito. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. The Clerk asked if Pat could cover as office assistant if Joan goes on a trip? Not sure yet if she is. The board agreed that is alright.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown**.** Motion made by Jeff Bergel to accept the Treasurer's report for August 31, 2024, second by Mary Brown. All ayes: **MOTION CARRIED.**
Bank Change for Trash Account: Treasurer requested to move the Trash account to State Savings Bank. Denise Pallarito made a motion to allow the bank change, second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**. We are clearing out the storage room to have a workstation set up for the Deputy Clerk to work at since the Supervisor will be using his office. We have two metal shelves that are not needed and will end up in the basement, Jerry offered to purchase for $20.00 each with board authorization. Jeff Bergel made a motion to allow Jerry Brown purchase 2 shelves at $20.00 each, second by Tom Wagar. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Correspondence: None

FIRE & EMS REPORT: 14 total calls, 12 EMS, 2 Fire, 0 Missed Calls. The Fire Chief gave his report. Chief Schermerhorn said the Fire Department had a good response to Thunder Over Waters, lunch was a huge success. Training this month will be on vehicle fires, Haz-Mat refresher, Pregnancy and delivery. Chief gave update on ESO program, they can now get state reports submitted.

Fire Department North Roof Bids: Note: When we purchased the building, we knew the roof needed to be replaced and we budgeted for it. Supervisor Wagar gave input on the type of metal roof quoted at lower prices. His experience at his dealership with the metal roof type there was not good. Grommets

will always leak over time. If we upgraded to a better roof now it will last many years. The quotes that Dave got are as follows: LE Roofing $35,418.00. Level Up Roofing quoted $37,700.00. If we agreed to the better-quality roof that will last for over 30 years, the quotes are as follows: LE Roofing $78,400.00. Level Up Roofing is $69,600.00. Both companies bid work pretty much the same as each other. Tom Wagar made a motion to contract with Level Up Roofing for standing seam metal roof quote of $69,600.00, second by Mary Brown. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Constable's Report: Mike was absent. Jerry Brown gave his report with everything checking out.

TRUSTEES REPORT:

Denise Pallarito:

PLANNING COMMISSION: There was a meeting where they received and reviewed proposal on new Master Plan, there have been some changes that were made. The grant was approved, deadline to spend is August 2026. Mary questioned how the money is handled, Denise said it comes to the township and we will handle the funds. Heather at NEMCOG handles the request for the first draw of $25,000.00. Mary questioned the proposed minutes from the recent Planning Meeting, it states there are outstanding invoices not paid and the Supervisor (Matelski) had signed and cancelled the existing contract. Denise explained there are no outstanding invoices, and the money authorized under old contract was depleted so the contract cancelled for that reason.

Jeff Bergel:

PARK & RECREATION COMMITTEE: No park meeting to report on. Jeff gave an update on Bob White Way being done, it's very nice. The Iron Belle Trail project is on hold while Christine waits for the person handling it is out of the office. Still nothing done about the gravity rail at the park. Supervisor Wagar knows a contact and will follow up.

NEW BUSINESS: None

OLD BUSINESS: Cemetery: Tom would like to get bids on the parking lot at the cemetery now that we have the engineering plan from Wade Trim. Jerry Brown made a motion to allow Tom Wagar to get bids on the cemetery parking lot, second by Jeff Bergel. All ayes. **MOTION CARRIED**.

Public Comment on non-agenda items:

Attorney Paul Slough introduced himself and gave his background and asked for consideration for his run for Probate Judge in the November 5th election.

Leo Sensabaugh asked about what phase of the cemetery project we are on? Would appreciate an answer within next 30 days.

Rob Pallarito announced the NEMCOG annual meeting at Garland Resort on October 11th, all members are welcome, please RSVP to Theresa Huff if you are attending.

George Lienerth who lives in Guthrie Lakes and the roads there are over 50 years old and in real bad condition, no improvements are made on them, and he hopes the board would take this into consideration.

Meeting adjourn meeting at 8:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown

Mary Brown, Clerk

Minutes approved at Board Meeting on October 17, 2024