OTSEGO LAKE TOWNSHIP BOARD

APPROVED MEETING MINUTES

September 18, 2025

The Otsego Lake Township meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7PM by Supervisor Matelski. There were 6 guests.

Also present: Fire Chief Jeff Schermerhorn, Deputy Supervisor Randy Stults
Roll call: Board Members Present: D Matelski; J Bergel; M Brown; D Pallarito; J Brown

Board Members Absent:

Conflicts of Interest: None

Additions to Agenda: FD Maintenance Program, Election Source invoice

Approval of Agenda: Mary Brown made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions, second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Brief Public Comment on agenda items: None

FD Maintenance Program: Rob from JX Truck Center, located on Dickerson Road in Gaylord gave a presentation on maintenance programs available on fire department vehicles. It keeps them all in compliance with DOT requirements and explains other benefits to a maintenance program. The chief will provide more details later for the board's consideration.

County Commissioner: Jason Clement: Absent

Public Hearing to set Fire Department Millage: The public hearing was opened at 7:15 p.m. With no public comment the Public Hearing was closed at 7:19 p.m.

Set FD Millage and approval of the L4029 Form: Clerk Brown provided information on revenue amounts generated for the township. The current FD millage is set at 1.95 mills. Leaving it the same will generate approximately $440,606.70 for operating the fire department. Once the new fire truck is paid for, we can then consider reducing the millage. Mary Brown made a motion to approve the L4029 form as presented with the fire department millage staying set at 1.95 mills: second by Jerry Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Supervisor's Report: Supervisor Matelski gave update on future roads being considered:2026 Opal Lake Road, partnering with Bagley Twp; 2027 Mountain Pass and Apple Hill; 2028 Michaywe' Dr. The Road Commission is trying to get a plan to do Old State Rd. The new Paser rating of roads has been completed by the Road Commission, copies will be available next week. Parking curbs have been placed at the cemetery to keep vehicles from hitting headstones. The snow guards have been put on the fire hall roof.

☑ APPROVED

Parking Lots, quotes to reseal & stripe: Supervisor Matelski read quotes to seal and stripe the parking lots at the township hall and both fire hall lots. Shattuck Seal Coating quoted $2,475.00 for the Township Hall and $4,277.00 for the Fire Department. An estimate from Ahrens Asphalt Paving & Seal Coating is $6,800.00 for the Fire Department, this includes fixing the area at FD North, cut out 21'x20' piece and put in new asphalt; $2,550.00 for the Township Hall. After some discussion it was determined to go with the bid from Ahrens, even though it was slightly higher. Jerry Brown made the motion to approve bids from Ahrens for a total of $9,350.00 as it is in the best interest of the Township to go with the higher bid because it includes repairing the sink hole at the FD North building; second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Splash Pad: The cost to repair the splash pad with a new modern circuit board is $4,790.00, this includes a new flange for the bucket. The timer will be set 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Jerry Brown made a motion to purchase the circuit board for $4,790.00; second by Mary Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Meeting Minutes: Presented by Mary Brown for August 21, 2025 regular meeting minutes and Special Meeting minutes for August 26th. A motion was made by Jerry Brown to approve all the meeting minutes as presented; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Clerk's Report: Presented by Mary Brown**:** Township Bills for the period August 22, 2025, to September 18, 2025; with a total of $97,908.30. Motion made by Denise Pallarito to pay the township bills with a total as presented; seconded by Jerry Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Additional bills were received after report done as follows: Dinges Fire, $1738.17 & $7,563.78; Otsego County Treasurer $6.20; Gaylord Concrete $471.80; Carrot Top $57.78 and Wakeley Painting $1,500.00 & $2,450.00. Mary Brown made a motion to pay additional bills as presented; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Mary Brown made a motion to pay Election Source invoice for $738.75; second by Denise Pallarito; **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Reminder for Dave & Jerry that we will have a Special Meeting before the Public Accuracy Test on October 9th at 10:00 a.m. to approve Election Inspectors.

FD Spectrum bill: Currently the fire department monthly bill is $97.00 higher than the township hall because it includes 300 TV channels. Chief indicated that it is not needed. Mary Brown made a motion to discontinue the TV channels at the fire hall; second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Mary will call to cancel.

FEMA: Mary has been working with FEMA rep and so far, Category A has been completed and submitted. Mary will submit the Category B expense next week. We have received payment of $8,200.00 from our insurance company for the fence at the cemetery.

Treasurer's Report presented by Jerry Brown**.** Motion made by Denise Pallarito to accept the Treasurer's report for August 31, 2025; second by Jeff Bergel. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Security Cameras and Internet at the Park: Jerry had received a quote from Cutting Edge for cameras for $5,229.89. He talked to Mike at Cutting Edge; they can use Star Link to work with the cameras at the

park. The Star Link plans start at $80.00 per month, Mike said if that doesn't work, we can jump up to the next plan. Denise Pallarito made a motion to purchase the cameras for the park and go through Star Link per quotes presented; second by Mary Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote. Denise Pallarito made a motion to amend her motion on cameras and make sure the cameras will in fact work with Star Link before spending the additional money on splash pad; second by Mary Brown. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

Correspondence: The clerk received letter from the IRS that they received the bond form on the fire truck purchase.

FIRE & EMS REPORT: The Fire Chief gave his report: A total of 25 calls, with 6 missed calls. 506 apparently has a water leak. Chief met with technician from Spencer who said he would have to take the truck back to Spencer to complete the repairs, it would take a couple of weeks as they would need to take apart the roof, make repairs and then repaint the roof. Supervisor Matelski was made aware of the leak and contacted Mike Clear. Mike can reseal the roof to take care of the leak for $1,500.00 and get it done in a couple of days. Chief will contact rep at Spencer to see if they will allow this under warranty and let Dave know by Friday. Jerry asked if the department had any billable fire runs, none have been turned in since June.

Fire Chief's Contract: The contract terms were changed to a three-month contract, October 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025. Chief Schermerhorn does not want to go in to closed session. There have been issues for several months that have continued, and there is a lack of communication between the fire chief and the township board. The fire chief was upset about the terms of the presented contract, said "F---it I reject the contract and I'm not signing it", walked out of the meeting. No action was taken. The board will have a special meeting on September 23, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss process to move forward.

Board Approval of new FD Members: No new members

TRUSTEES REPORT:

Denise Pallarito:

Trustee Pallarito advises a traffic study is being done for one week by NEMCOG. It is a traffic device available, and Denise has reserved it for the Fourth of July to determine traffic count during holiday time.

Planning Commission:

Denise said the planning members are reviewing maps

Jeff Bergel:

Iron Belle Trail Update: Christine Boyak-Wohlfeil was unable to attend but gave update to Clerk. The extension was approved by the DNR, Christine will bring the form in on Monday for Mary to sign. Waiting on approval from DNR for the fence at the trail head. Quinn is in contact with Sawicki Construction for pricing on the trail head project. If the numbers are within our grant funds, then Wade

Trim will publish to get bids again. Quinn is waiting for three bids for the lighting, hopefully the DNR will approve a bid to do lighting at least.

Old Business: The fence at the park should be done next week. Supervisor Matelski said the large pieces of concrete that need to be removed from gravity rail area would cost about $1,200.00, this includes hauling it away. Mary Brown made a motion to allow the Supervisor to make the arrangements needed to remove the concrete for $1,200.00; second by Denise Pallarito. **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous vote.

New Business: None

Public Comment on non-agenda items: Randy S advised everyone that the new County Administrator is in place.

Board Comments: Denise, Jerry & Mary made board comments

Meeting adjourn meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Mary Brown

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Brown, Clerk

Approved at Board Meeting October 16, 2025