

NEW YORK STATE
COUNTY OF OTSEGO
TOWN OF MARYLAND

Monday, August 5, 2024

The Regular Town Board Meeting of Monday August 5, 2024, was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Deputy Supervisor Renee Gaston. Present were Deputy Supervisor Renee Gaston, Councilmembers Brian Dierks, Harold Palmer and Jason Knapp and all per attached sign-in sheet. (See attachment #1).

The minutes of the July 1st Town Board Meeting was read. A motion to accept the minutes as amended was made by Jason, 2nd by Harold. All in favor: Renee – aye, Brian – aye, Harold – aye; Jason - aye. All opposed - 0. Motion carried.

The Flag Salute was recited.

Deputy Supervisor Renee opened with thanks to Brian Bookhout for his many years of service to this Town. Brian Dierks has been appointed to complete the town council term for 2024. Brian introduced himself to all present and spoke a little about his history.

Thanks also expressed to Paul Neske for his many years of service to the town as zoning enforcement officer. His resignation was effective July 15th.

- Steve Barton reported on the swim program. The first Saturday there was an issue with alcohol on the beach; Tim Walke was called to assist and resolved it quickly. It turns out there have been some days when only one lifeguard is available. Steve spoke of how this has been handled non-confrontationally for the sake of everyone's safety.
 - 3 of the 4 lifeguards are going to college at the end of August so the last day for the swim program will have to be August 18th. There is another possible lifeguard from Worcester to contact.
 - Steve then spoke of the smoking issue; he does not believe we ever had a no-smoking rule for the Park or the Lake. He asked if this is a state law and what does the Town Board want to do.
 - The kayaks are nice but have no storage. Steve will build a stand for the kayaks for next year.
 - Steve received an email from the County about their having a grant program to help with the swim program costs. More info is needed.
 - In October, Steve will be presenting some project ideas for the Park.
- Jerry Dufresne spoke of seeing flags – like bandanas – tied to some road signposts. He asked if anyone here knew what they are for. No one does at this time.
- Ted Stucka said he needs more information about the cell tower issue; Jason said he will get him that information
- Tim Walke reported that he is finishing the CHIPS paperwork; he will need copies of the relevant signed vouchers
 - The County picked up our repaired tractor from Binghamton. Sadly, the same part broke again at 3:45 its first day back at work. Now the tractor has to go back to Binghamton again. There was discussion about possible explanations for this recurring break.
 - Tim spoke of the broom incident; our tractor and brand new broom were rear ended a few weeks ago, driver of the tractor not injured, luckily, but the broom was destroyed and the driver of the truck totaled his truck. That driver's insurance will cover the cost of replacing the new broom.
 - The newly paved roads have now been sealed.
- Steve Barton spoke about the signs for directing people to the Park, there was discussion about the legality of the placement of such signs. Harold Palmer stressed that the Town cannot approve placing signs on State or County signposts.

- Tim Walke reported receiving an email about an intersection that was claimed to be dangerous due to vegetation
- Ted Stucka reported the ZBA held a meeting 2 weeks ago which closed quickly because no one was present. There was discussion about the confusion surrounding this.
- Allison asked about having help from Steve Lawton regarding relocating the zoning program to the office desktop computer. She is struggling to make sense of what is in the laptop. Brian Dierks offered to help try to make sense of the documents and program before bringing Steve on board.
 - The Town needs to post the vacancy of the ZEO position; on the website, the facebook page, the post offices, the next Hometown Advantage edition.
 - Allison will be off on Thursday Aug 8 and Monday Aug 12. Stephanie will cover the office hours those days.

New Business

- Renee reported that the Tannery Street Bridge grant has been awarded to the Town. The Town will be working with McFarland-Johnson again on this project and they are helping with the initial paperwork.
 - Regarding the Loft Road Bridge; there have been serious delays due to the right-of-way acquisition difficulties. Negotiations have finally been accepted by the two landowners involved. The increase in price will still be within the budget and now the bridge will be straight, not curved.
 - At the request of the State, a motion to accept this administrative offer was made by Jason, 2nd by Brian. All in favor: Renee – aye, Brian – aye, Harold – aye; Jason - aye. All opposed - 0. Motion carried.
- Renee reported on Resolution 17-2024, which was subject to a permissive referendum. No petitions were filed during the 30-day period and the permissive referendum has now expired. Resolution 17-2024 is now fully accepted and signed.
- Regarding the Transfer Station; Hometown Hauling has been the only company to place an offer to privately manage to Town's transfer station.

Communication and Events

- August 10th is Town Yard sale Day, from 8am-2pm
- The Fall Festival will be joining with the PTO and will be held at the school on October 26th, from 3pm-7pm, indoors if needed.
- The Canoe Regatta will be held at the Lake on August 24th. Steve Barton found a sponsor for the Homebuilt Race which is open to any group or team. Registration is at noon, and the race begins at approximately 1pm.
- The Farmers' Market continues on Saturdays at Borst Field from 9am-1pm.

Old Business

- Jason is still working on the Pavilion project. It seems we may not have enough money in the ARPA fund to complete this project but the ARPA money needs to be used by December 2025.
- The Town has received thanks for having paved Cemetery Rd.
- There was discussion about the letter from Debbie MackKensie, the new County Historian.

At 7:37 the Board moved to executive session. Executive session ended at 8:40.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:41p.m. A motion was made by Harold, 2nd by Brian. All in favor: Renee – aye, Brian – aye, Harold – aye, Jason – aye. All opposed - 0. Motion carried. Bills were audited and ratified for payment.

Respectfully Submitted,
Allison Jones
Maryland Town Clerk