

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 14, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M.
OTISCO TOWNSHIP HALL

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor, Desmond Pike.

Roll Call: John Feuerstein, Trustee; Joe Borek, Trustee; Paula Byrne, Treasurer
Lynda Sower, Clerk; Desmond Pike, Supervisor

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A short Prayer was given by Pike.

Approval of Agenda: Feuerstein moved to approve the agenda and Borek supported. 5-0
Approved.

Borek made a comment that he wanted to see the time limit on public comments
by three minutes for first comment time and five minutes for the last comment time.

Jeff Hunter ask about a bill from the lawyer that has time on it for Ross Gregory.

Cara Johnson ask about the General Appropriations Act under New Business – it is supposed to be in a Public
Hearing and there is no hearing listed on the agenda.

Approval of minutes: Feb. 14, 2023 – Bryne approved the minutes with a correction on page
One; spelling error in first paragraph. It should read a. open bids. Borek supported. 5-0 approved
Feb. 28 2023 - Feuerstein moved to approve the minutes and Borek supported. 5-0 approved

Approval of Payable & Payroll: Borek moved to approve the bills, than Borek rescind his motion and stated
that he would approve all bills, except the lawyer until we find out what that is about, and supported by
Byrne. 5-0 approved

Payroll	\$ 9,998.66	
Accts Payable	\$ 4,961.23	
Sheriff	<u>\$ 3,538.07</u>	
Total	\$18,498.96	Total does reflect omitted Lawyer bill of \$1,157.50

Reports:

Deputy: Deputy Tefft presented a report to the clerk. He stated that there were 11 noise calls.
And one call at Long Lake about a child left in a car alone. The usual crashes with the snow,

Assessor: The board received a report from Sally Frain. She will be holding hours for the Board of Review on
Wednesday, because of a mix-up on the tax statements.

Cemetery Committee: Laura Staats ask the board to sign the resolution that she gave us at the last month's
meeting. Pike ask the crowd how many would be interested in having your ashes in the Memorial Garden, no
one responded. There will be a cemetery meeting April 20, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m.

County Commissioner: Dave Hodges reported that they are working on getting new upgraded radios for the
fire dept. He made note that there are some townships that have extra money.

Resolution about Law Enforcement to Protect the Children. Hodges stated that he was ask to talk to the
residents about the recalls and how they affect the people in the township. He believes that recalls are for
criminal actions on the parties not to just recall people.

Planning Commission: Had a meeting about the Ellis Acres PUD. They need to look into the noise ordinance.

Zoning Administrator: Larry Mercer reported that he received one complaint – five updates and 5 new permits. A summons has been delivered and he needs to go out and do some measuring.

A gentleman came walking up to the boards table and stated since he said drama, here's your drama. He threw some papers on the table by Feuerstein and stated, "You've been served".

Unfinished Business:

Budget Amendments: Feuerstein moved to use the numbers in the budget that Delbert Pike came up with for the budget amendment and Borek supported. Roll Call Vote: All members voted yes.

Audit: Sower will call Gabridge to see about the booklets that we should get from their audit. Pike reported that we had a Forensic Audit and that they found that all the money that the Township has is accounted for.

Hall Expansion Planning: Pike stated that they were going to start interviews for Architects For this project.

Recycling Bids: Gib Brown was the only bid. He was asking for \$500 monthly to do the recycling once a month for a year. There was talk about insurance for him and the volunteers.

Sower moved to accept Gib's bid and Borek supported. Roll Call Vote – Sower=yes, Bryne=no, Borek – no, Feuerstein=no, Pike=no. 1-5 not approved. Matter tabled for 2 months

New Business:

Resolution Amendment: Feuerstein moved to amend the 2022-2023 budget to show increases.

Res. 2025-05: Increase salary cap on all deputies to \$8,000. Bryne supported. Roll call vote, 5-0 All members voted yes.

Deputy Assessor: Pike stated that Sally Frain, Assessor, needs temporary help for this year. They figure that we need approximately 200 parcels looked at to see if there are any changes.

Costerisan Engagement Letter and Bill: Pike read the letter to the public. He stated that they did an audit for us for this past year and found that all monies were account for. Borek moved to Hire Costerisan to assist us and help us with audits, problems through the year and prepare us for an audit, and Feuerstein supported.

Roll Call Vote: Pike=yes, - Bryne=yes, Borek=yes, Feuerstein=yes, Sower=yes. 5-0 approved

Bill: \$11,433.97 Borek moved to pay the bill minus interest, Bryne supported. 5-0 approved

ACTUAL COST SENT- \$11,299.61

General Appropriations Act Resolution and Budget: Pike Read the Resolution. **Copy of Resolution is attached.**

Pike requested a motion from the board to adopt this resolution.

Cara Johnson (public) stated that you never stopped the meeting and started the public hearing. Pike than stated that he will close this meeting now 8:42p.m.and open up the public hearing at this time.

Pike than stated that he needed a motion to amend the agenda to show that a public hearing would take place for the Resolution, and he wanted the motion to include the Fire Contract with Belding, that we had agreed to at a previous meeting. Borek made a motion to amend the agenda and to approve the Fire Contract and it was support by Bryne. Roll Call Vote; Feuerstein=yes, Borek=yes, Sower=yes, Bryne=yes, Pike=yes 5-0 approved

Pike than called for a motion to approve the Appropriations Act 2023-08. Delbert Pike stated that he has been working with the CPA and he stated that it will get better every year. Delbert that stated that he was proud of what the board was doing tonight. Joana Johnson commented about Delbert's adoration for the board was commendable. But she did not see the newspaper article on this public hearing. Sower stated that she had read in the focus magazine that the law was changed to allow internet postings. Joana than asked if we are going to stop putting things in the newspaper. Supervisor Pike stated that he does not know what we will do. Pike stated that the board will have to discuss this and it will probably require a resolution.

Public Hearing closed at 8:46 p.m. Regular meeting was opened at this time.

Pike now asked for a motion on Appropriations Act Resolution 2023-08, Borek moved to accept this resolution and Feuerstein supported. Roll call vote – Bryne-yes, Feuerstein-yes, Borek-yes, Sower-yes, Pike-yes 5-0 approved

Fire Agreement with Belding Fire Dept.: Borek moved to accept the agreement and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved **copy of agreement attached**

Simon Salvage Yard Renewal: Feuerstein moved to renew for 1 year and Bryne supported. 5-0 approved

Land Splits: Mike and Bev Brownell are adding to their property. The Assessor and Zoning Administrator are fine with this split. Borek moved to grant the Brownell - Bel Harvest land split and Feuerstein supported. 5-0 approved

Extended Public Comment: Laura Staats wanted to know how the tree cutting at the cemeteries was going. Borek stated that the arborist had to leave town for a family emergency. Pike stated that he is going to call a special meeting to get this figured out.

Jeff Hunter ask the board to give up the raises that they are going to get after April 1, 2023. Hunter stated do you have minutes where you voted to hire a lawyer to sue Rick Anderson This should be stopped now. He asked Joe Borek to step down tonight. He mentioned that Borek tried to attack Pat Haney at the last meeting. Pike spoke to Hunter telling him that there are five board members that voted to get the raises.

Cara Johnson wanted to know who hired the attorney to sue Rick Anderson and who's money is being used to pay the attorney. She feels that the Gregory should be suing the township and not the township suing one of its residents. About recycling – The people in the township will be disappointed if we do not have recycling. Pike asked Johnson when was the ordinance to pave private drives made, it was not on our watch.

Ross Gregory stated that everyone is talking about me and Rick Anderson. It's not about him, but he made money and after the third house it was supposed to be paved. Joana Johnson stated that she has read the paperwork about Coyote Trail and that he was supposed to pave one third of the drive at a time. It's not this board's fault that this did not happen. The paperwork states that the road has to be paved was done after Rick put his road in. Rick did put in the curbs at the beginning of the drive which the county wanted. Who contacted the lawyer to start legal actions? She stated about training she believes that all members of the board should get training. There is a lot of virtual training that could be done.

Craig Crebessa spoke about the public hearing meeting about Ellis Acres, he is for the project, but wondered why there was nothing on the agenda that stated it, but people had received paperwork about it. Chair and

Vice-chair were not present and he felt like the meeting should have been canceled until both of them were present and all the other members for the public hearing.

Keith Simon ask if Pike would be comfortable with a house in his back yard.

James Conley wants to know what is going on in this township. The board shouldn't get raises. He stated that Pike just said we were going to spend more money than we have coming back in, and you gave yourselves a raise. The board should be ashamed of themselves.

Kristie Warner-Walls stated that the recall of two board members is ridiculous. When all five members voted for the budget, why only recall two? She stated that Cara Johnson removed a box and garbage bag from the township hall this was a sworn statement by Lynda Sower. Kristie stated that the server and computer were striped of information. The law states that the Clerk should keep all papers and such safe, and Sower watched the box and bag being taken out and did not ask questions. Also Sower voted for the budget, but she was gathering signatures for the recall. Others had to get the minutes caught up. Walls ask Sower to resign and step down from her position.

Meeting Adjourned at 9:35 p.m. Minutes Submitted By: Lynda Sower – Otisco Township Clerk