

OTISCO TOWNSHIP REGULAR MEETING
JULY 13, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.
Otisco Township Hall

The Meeting was called to order by supervisor, Desmond Pike

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

A short Prayer was given by Pike.

Roll Call: Joe Feuerstein, Trustee; Joe Borek, Trustee; Paula Bryne, Treasurer
Desmond Pike, Supervisor

Absent: Lynda Sower, Clerk

Approval of Agenda: Pike stated that the agenda needed some addition; money for covid, roads, side walk. Bryne moved to approve the agenda with addition and Feuerstein supported.
4-0 approved-

Approval of Minutes – June 8, 2021- Feuerstein moved to approve the minutes and Bryne supported. 4-0 approved

Approval of Payables and Payroll: Pike moved to approve the payables and payroll and Bryne supported. Approved 4-0

Accts payable	\$ 13,240.34
Roads	\$ 359.02
Sheriff	\$ 3,498.73
Payroll	<u>\$ 8,932.71</u>
TOTAL	\$ 26,030.80

Reports:

Township Deputy: Deputy Teft is our new deputy. He had 53 calls and only 3 were criminal.

Assessor: All board members have a copy of her report.

County Commissioner: David Hodges reported that they hired someone to fill the opening from the retirement of Jim Valentine in the central dispatch dept.

They are looking at the pensions of the county, they seem to be in good shape.

Pitsch Landfill is making plans to add onto the landfill which will take in Otisco Property.

They have bought 40 acres. They are getting a committee together with 2 representatives from each area of Orleans, Belding, and Otisco before any decision is made. We would receive revenue from this.

Zoning Administrator: Roger Vandermolen stated the board had his report for the month. Someone ask about the Octagon House on Whites Bridge Rd. Vandermolen stated that a ticket has been sent to them on July 1st.

Pike forgot about the Planning Committee report: Borek reported that they had two public hearings: one for the Bar and outside entertainment and passed; one about a barn on Ag. property and they want to put a house there and add onto the barn.

ZBA: Feuerstein reported that they had a meeting: They talked about the Bar and the construction – it was put on hold. Someone applied for a variance on property on Fisk Rd. to be split and had less than an acre this was granted. There was another variance on Bricker Rd. wants to build unto his garage and would be in violation on the setbacks – this was granted.

Unfinished Business:

Roadside Mowing: Pike has been in contact with Joe Jablonski. He turned in his bid late and the previous year he mowed it for \$53 a mile and he raised it to \$75 a mile. We have no other bids and he has already mowed half the township and Pike would like a formal motion for a single year bid. Feuerstein moved the mowing bid go to Joe and Borek supported. 4-0 approved

Sign Upgrade: Bryne called and talked to a gentlemen at Steward Signs about the sign on the outside of the hall and he is checking with upper management, to see if we can trade this one in and get a discount, the sign was purchased in 2018 they normally give a one year period. Bryan has a meeting with him on the 14th at 2:00.

Tree Removal around the hall: Pike stated that they were going to open up the floor to the resident for public comment to get your ideas about the trees because you have all came out to be heard , so we will hear you out before the board makes any decisions and votes. Yes, John and I marked the trees. I do not like trees. Pike was ask why he wanted the trees removed. Pike answered "I want a drive way and I want a parking Lot. I want to enter on the west side and exit at the current drive. I would like to make a horseshoe driveway, I would like to slant the parking spots. Kind of in a NE and a SE, so if you want to use the playground to park on the west side, if you want to come to the hall you come to the hall. If we put another row of parking out front, if we put parking out front we will only get about 8or9 more spaces. We're not going to bring voting back to the hall with no parking, if there's a chance to bring voting back to the hall, some people say no and some people say yes." There was some discussion from the public. " Pike stated that it would be nice for the Treasurer to have her own office and the Clerk her own. Pike brought up the fact that some people would like to be able to come in and talk to him and don't want to talk to Roger or Sally. Some more discussion in audience about the Supervisor not having office hours to talk to him. Pike stated a conference room would take care of that, or if someone wanted to talk to anyone they could use the conference room. There was more thoughts from the crowd about the voting and why people can't just see that we are not the only township that does not vote in our hall. Pike stated that we have a playground for the kids and it is hidden by the trees. At this point Frank Mason wanted to make a statement. "Everyone in this room knows me and knows that I served on these committees for half of my life. Part of the reason we left

these trees out here were because we were given an assignment to develop this township property into a park. This is not a yard over there it is a park. Approved by the planning commission across the board. These trees were left for a reason. It was for the parents to sit close to them to avoid anything happening. Now are there some trees that need to come down, yes, there's a dead one in the hedge row and the pine tree in front could come down, but the rest should stay. And if you need the apple tree trimmed I will do it for nothing, I've done a few of them in my life. And I'm pretty good at it. About the addition we had a plan for that and it was put on hold, why not bring that back. I'm going to put this on you people too. You were elected to represent the whole township and not just a special group. You may not like trees, but I like trees and half the population has trees in their yards. Now I had my say and I'm leaving." Pike stated to Mason that he really appreciated his comments. Several other people gave their thoughts about the playground and the trees, one grandmother stated that she comes to this playground and brings her grandchildren and do enjoy the pavilion and playground very much. Lynn Mason stated that she did not like the markings on the trees and she did some research about the township and the master plan. She read some of the things that she picked out and told the public that they might like to look into this Master Plan, developed in 2020. It talks about developing of all the grounds in the township. She stated that she knew people that had come and had family gatherings out there and only heard compliments about the grounds and how nice it was. Pike gave a rundown on each of the trees and what he thought should happen. There was talk about how the board should work together and the public wanted to know about the minutes for meetings and why they are not on the website. Some people wanted to know why we don't work on the roads and not the trees. Pike entertained a motion to trim trees and cut down trees as in the bid packet, Feuerstein moved that we put the trees out for bids as the packet states Pike moved to support it. Byrne ask if the other members say no, is it a tie and is it over. Borek stated that he had six calls complaining about cutting the trees down and in my opinion; trim them yes but cut them down no. Roll Call Vote-Paula-no; Joe-no; John-yes; and Des-yes. Motion fails two-two.

New Business:

Approval of Drain Resolution: Pike reported that he has talked to the drain commissioner and stated that he has worked on the snow drain and wants us to pay the twenty-three percent of the bill. Snow drain is Ingalls Rd., north and goes to Benton Rd. and had to put in new culverts, so this is an agreement that he would like us to agree to pay on the snow drain. 4-0 approved

Approval of Land Split: Vandermolen explained that the property involved in this is 10299 Fisk Rd. and 10309 Fisk Rd. – the property owner would like to cut off a strip on the 10309 property to make the property lines straight. It went before the ZBA and they approved it. Borek moved to except the land split – Byrne apposed. Pike stated he needed board comment. Feuerstein ask if this is not approved what happens? What would be the next step be? Pike stated lets vote, all those in favor, Pike yes, all others no. 1-3 did not approve. No votes were, Feuerstein; Borek and Byrne.

Landfill Expansion: Pike stated that he has ask George Chickening to be on the committee to represent Otisco and Paula Bryne is willing to be on the panel, Lynn Mason is willing to be on the panel. David Hodges stated that they only wanted two representatives from each section. It ended with George and Lynn being the ones for the panel.

Phones and Answering Machines: Pike stated that some people would like to be able to be connected to the person they are looking for and not just someone else that answers the phone. Sheriff Noll stated that they use to have the system that we have at the present time but got a new system, Noll stated that no one is happy with the new system.

Township Covid Relief: Bryne stated that we have three options, there is a dead line of July 27th. They will pay out \$99 per person the options are as followed – decline the money and suggest that it go back to the state-We can chose which treasury or sent it to another applicate party- Or we can get the funding. The money does not have to be spent for a few years out. Lynn Mason suggested that we have a Public Hearing to see what the people would like it spent on. Her suggestion was a broad ban.

Roads: Pike talked with the road commission, to see if we are going to get the bill for all the ditching done in the township or if that is pasted to the state. He was told that this is on the state. We buy limestone, gravel, brine, trim trees. We have a road millage for about ~~\$120,000~~ 156,000.

Sidewalk: Pike would like to put in a new sidewalk. Borek moved that we investigate pricing for a new sidewalk out front, and Bryne supported. 4-0 approved

Public Comment: Lynn Mason would like to see about junk cars be enforced. Jeff Hunter suggested again that the board make rules that the township not hire people that work for the township not to do the work and get paid for jobs that should be contracted out. Laura Staats would like to see monthly the revenue and expenditures of the township. Website needs to be updated.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Minutes Submitted By: (From Recorder)

Lynda Sower