

The regular meeting of the Oswegatchie Town Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Alfred Nichols with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilman Mike Stoner
 Councilman Ken Wilson
 Councilman Bruce LaRose - Absent
 Councilwoman Lillian LaRose

Others: Bill Dashnaw, Budget Officer
 Tim Tuttle, Crematory Manager (left at 7:25 pm)
 Mark Schnorr, Assessor (left at 7:35pm)
 Joe Lightfoot, County Legislature (left at 7:40pm)
 Ray Pohl, Water Chestnut (left at 6:21 pm)

Privilege of the floor

Ray Pohl was present to discuss the on-going water chestnut issues. Feels that the mechanical harvester used to cut/pull weeds last year may have made it worse. Realizes it is a learning curve. Asking the board if they would support a not-for-profit organization in the Town of Oswegatchie starting with a 3-year plan. The board of directors would like to pay people to hand pull instead of investing money into the harvester. Much discussion was held.

Joe Lightfoot, SLC Legislature, was present to update the Town Board. The Public Safety building is in the process of a yearlong transformation. The County has added an additional much needed Family Court Judge. Discussion was had.

Crematory

The number of cremations is similar to last year thus far. Retort rebuild was successful and up & running. Matthews will be having an inspection on February 22nd and will be warranted for 1 year. Boiler issues at the mausoleum. Four out of twelve pumps are not working. Will need to move thermostat on wall for glass niche installation. Tim Kelly is now certified until October; at that time, he will need to re-take in Albany.

RESOLUTION 2024-23

ACCEPT CREMATORY REPORT

On a motion by Lillian LaRose, seconded by Ken Wilson, the following resolution was ADOPTED –
 Vote – Yes - All

RESOLVED to accept the crematory report as presented.

Assessor

Discussion held regarding the volunteer fire personnel exemption. Town Attorney, Charles Nash, has recommended the Town adopt whatever the County decides on. Step by Step has applied for tax exempt status. Just wanted to let the board know that the application will be denied as it is not currently being used as a not-for-profit. Been notified that the Town's equalization rate is estimated to drop to 80%. We are currently at 92% and it is recommended that a reassessment needs to be done soon. Mark Schnorr, Assessor, is proposing a firm should be hired to do it and he is willing to seek some quotes. Much discussion was held.

RESOLUTION 2024-24

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (3)

On a motion by Lillian LaRose, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED –
 Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to authorize Assessor, Mark Schnorr, to seek a minimum of three (3) proposals for a municipal-wide reassessment.

RESOLUTION 2024-25

ACCEPT ASSESSORS REPORT

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept the Assessors report as presented.

RESOLUTION 2024-26

JANUARY MINUTES - APPROVE

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of January 2024 minutes as presented.

Received a lease/service agreement request for dog pound/shelter services from Dan Moyer, Dog Worden. \$300 for calendar year 2024. Agreement reviewed and discussed.

RESOLUTION 2024-27

DOG POUND/SHELTER AGREEMENT

On a motion by Lillian LaRose, seconded by Ken Wilson, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to sign \$300 agreement for dog pound/shelter with Dan Moyer for year 2024.

There will be a public hearing on February 27, 2024, at the HVFD to discuss the proposed Fire District. Discussion held regarding selecting commissioners and attorney fees.

Code Enforcement

ABSENT – Report left.

Highway Superintendent

ABSENT

Budget/Grant Report

Bill Dashnaw informed the board that they have been rewarded with a \$100,000 grant for water chestnuts. Been working with a biologist from SLU who is doing extensive research. DEC is on board with plans to purchase a puller eco-harvester along with chemicals. The second water test will be in March for Collin’s property clean-up project. Discussion was held.

RESOLUTION 2024-28

WATER CHESTNUT GRANT

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Lillian LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to approve, accept and advertise for necessary bids for eco-harvester.

RESOLUTION 2024-29

ACCEPT GRANT REPORT

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept grant reports as presented.

Town Clerk/Mausoleum Report

Mausoleum software is finally up and running. A lot to learn and enter. Glass niches are expected to be installed at the end of April beginning of May. Discussion was held.

RESOLUTION 2024-30

ACCEPT TOWN CLERK REPORT

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Lillian LaRose, the following resolution was ADOPTED – Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED to accept Town Clerk report.

Supervisor Report

Received an email requesting a letter of support for Gouverneur and Riverview Correctional Facilities as they could possibly be on the list of prison closures this year. Town Clerk, Vicki Thornhill, will send a letter of support to NYS Governor, Senators, and Assembly Members.

RESOLUTION 2024-31

BILLS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT

On a motion by Ken Wilson, seconded by Mike Stoner, the following resolution was ADOPTED - Vote – Yes – All

RESOLVED that the following bills were approved and presented to the Supervisor for payment.

Warrant #2 Vouchers numbered 1-43	General Fund	\$ 26,831.26
	Highway Townwide	21,930.84
	Highway Outside	2,308.63
	Fire District	132,311.00
	Memorial Park	31,510.53
	Trust & Agency	30,600.22

Other Disbursements: \$0

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:33 pm

Vicki L. Thornhill, Town Clerk