Regular Meeting, Town Of Otto

A regular meeting of the town board of the Town of Otto, Cattaraugus County and the State of New York was held at the Otto Town Hall, 8842 Otto- East Otto Road, Cattaraugus, NY on the 18th day of September 2026.

Present:

Randy Beenau	.. Town Supervisor
Marlene Gregory	.. Councilmember
Brenda Mallaber	.. Councilmember
Paul Stang	.. Councilmember
Kevin Walker	.. Councilmember
Trisha Priest	.. Town Clerk
Robert Barber	.. Highway Superintendent

Others Present:

Sandra Hill

Randy Beenau called the regular board meeting to order at 7:07pm with a quorum present.

Privilege of the Floor

Sandra Hill addressed the Town Board with her concerns about the condition of Traffic Street in the Town of East Otto. She lives on Traffic Street and would like to see the road repaired. She has tried to reach out to East Otto and her inquiry was not received well. She mentioned the added burden on Otto Residents who now have to drive over four miles out of there way if they need to travel north. This could be a matter of life or death for someone in a medical emergency having to spend that extra time getting to a hospital because of the longer route having to be taken. She doesn't know what else she can do to persuade the Town of East Otto to reconsider repairing the roadway. She asked the Town Board if they would consider swapping roads with East Otto if East Otto would entertain the idea. She understands they feel their residents wouldn't benefit from repairing Traffic Street however we are their neighbors.

Highway Superintendent Robert Barber reported on the activities of the Highway crew.

1) We finished up Thompson Road for this year. We skid paved the edges of the road to true it up and got the corner by Don Sinn's house so it is not 20 feet all the way around.
2) Been dealing with beaver Dam issues on Colvin Road. We have cleaned the culvert 3 times, but now they have built a dam downstream so the water will not flush the culvert out and they have the dam built directly beneath the center line of the road. I have gotten a nuisance permit to take care of them
3) We all helped Mansfield Chip Seal more roads this month, Mansfield also came over to help us on Thompson Road.
4) We took down approximately 15 trees down on Forty Road before the contractor (NW Construction) started the rock job on Tuesday Sept. 8. We had to haul the stack block out as the contractor dug them out. We have about 110 blocks up to our North Otto pile.
5) We have 1385 ton of sand hauled so far
6) We helped Catt. County on County Route 6 haul millings to Five Points.
7) I worked on the budget and got it over to Randy. I am concerned that my new budget is going to be very tight with the trending price increases for 2027. Salt has increased 72% , from $52.02 ton to $89.02 Fuel is a 71% increase, plow blades are 75% increase.

Town Clerk The monthly review of the town clerk activities for the prior month.

$1473.00 was collected during the month of August 2026. The following disbursements were made:

Town Supervisor	$1087.88
Department of ag & markets	$10.00
Catt Co. DPW	$28.20

DEC	$375.12
NYS-DOH	$0.00

The Town Clerk's Monthly report was distributed to the Board.
The Dog Census is underway. So far we have issued 20 new dog licenses.
The Clerk reminded the board that the appointment for a Board of Assessment review member expired 08/31/2026 and needs to be reappointed for the next five years.

Code Enforcement Officer The Jeff Holler submitted his monthly report from 08/19/2026 thru 09/15/2026.

a) He took seventeen phone calls.
b) Completed nine inspections.
c) Two Permits were issued
   9266 North Otto Road – Generator Install
   8510 Otto-E.Otto Road – single family home
d) There were no violations issued this month
e) Attended the Planning Board meeting
f) Sent Permits to the assessor
g) Mr. Holler will be attending the code enforcement conference, which satisfies his annual training requirements.
h) Turned over $357.00 to the Clerk

Waste Water Operators Report via email
Good evening,

I am submitting this report using a new email address which I have created specifically for business related to the town of Otto. The address is otto.treatment@gmail.com. Please use this address for any future correspondence. Of course I am still always available by phone at (716) 713-0166.

As has been the developing norm, things have been reasonably calm over the last month. My understanding is that the fireworks display set off from the grounds at the sewer plant were well received and there was no associated debris left on the property. At the time of the last meeting I had not received the results of the August samples. Since that time they have arrived and all parameters were good.

Last week one of the air blowers suffered a minor issue which has since been resolved. A set screw had worked its way out causing the keyway holding the pulley on the shaft on the motor to come loose. Fortunately this occurred while I was at the plant that morning doing normal business. I simply switched back to the other blower unit until I was able to make a repair.

I received a phone call from Eric Zuech last week and it is tentatively scheduled to have sludge pumped and hauled from the primary tank on the 23rd of this month. I hope to not have issues but it might be good to have a piece of highway equipment available that day in case the pump truck has a hard time getting across the lawn, apparently this has been an issue in the past.

August reports were submitted on 9/14 and accepted the same day. The next round of samples will take place on 10/7. As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns. - Tom

Assessors Report via Email

• School tax bills were mailed on September 1. This release of school taxes, the first to be issued from the new tax roll, can make some assessment errors obvious (e.g. missing STAR exemption). If you hear of an

error, please tell that owner to contact our office at their earliest convenience: 716-938-2343.
• The Assessing Office has corresponded with several property owners about their assessments, tax bills, and exemptions.
• There were 5 property transfers in July. You can find more information about these sales here: https://www.cattco.org/real-property-and-gis/sales

Town Supervisor Randy Beenau presented the bank statements to the Town Board for review. Randy invited the Board members to attend the planning and Zoning school taking place Thursday October 22, 2026 in Fairport.
Councilmember Paul Stang attended the County EMS meeting with Randy. The County is considering staging an ambulance in or around Otto / Mansfield. Mr. Stang expressed his opinion on the Traffic Street issue in that East Otto has to be willing to work with other towns under a shared services agreement that would be covered under a LUPA grant.

Unfinished Business

The Salt Shed grant application has been submitted.
Funds received for the solar are deposited with NYClass.
The Town should have an employee handbook.
Compliance with annually required trainings.

New Business

Randy Beenau would like to get something in place for a parking ordinance.
NYS did a moratorium for solar batteries. What do we want for regulations to have them in place before the moratorium expires? This only gives us six months.
There should also be something in place for the Air BNB regarding requiring a special use permit. The owner should have to have a special use permit for short term rentals.

RESOLUTION 2026-43
Authorizing the renewal of Town Liability insurance coverage with Selective Insurance Company
On a motion made by Councilmember Walker and seconded by Councilmember Stang, the following resolution was

ADOPTED	Ayes	5	Beenau, Gregory, Mallaber, Stang, Walker
	Nays	0	

WHEREAS, the Town of Otto requires comprehensive liability insurance coverage to protect the Town's assets, properties, officials, and employees against potential claims and risks; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Otto has received a renewal application for municipal liability insurance coverage from Selective Insurance Company for the policy term commencing September 20, 2026, through September 20, 2027; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed said renewal terms and determined that continuing coverage with Selective Insurance Company is in the best interest of the Town and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Otto hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to execute any and all necessary documents, agreements, and forms required to renew the Town's Municipal Liability Insurance coverage with Selective Insurance Company for the term effective September 20,2026, to September 20,2027

RESOLUTION 2026-44
Board of Assessment Review Appointment

On a motion made by Councilperson Walker and seconded by Councilperson Gregory, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Beenau, Gregory, Mallaber, Stang, Walker
Nays 0

WHEREAS, the term of appointment for Mrs. Victoria Dickinson as a member of the Board of Assessment Review for the Town of Otto expires on September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is desirous of filling said vacancy to ensure the continued and efficient operation of the Board of Assessment Review; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Otto hereby reappoints Mrs. Victoria Dickinson to serve as a member of the Board of Assessment Review for a term of five (5) years; and be it further

RESOLVED, that said five-year term shall commence on October 1, 2026, and shall expire on September 30, 2031.

RESOLUTION APPROVING AND FILING MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORTS

RESOLUTION 2026-45
Approving and Filing monthly department reports
On a motion made by Councilmember Gregory and seconded by Councilmember Walker, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 5 Beenau, Gregory, Mallaber, Stang, Walker
Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Otto requires regular updates on the operations, finances, and activities of its various municipal departments; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Code Enforcement / Building Inspector, Waste Water Treatment Operator, and Contracted Assessor have submitted their detailed reports for the preceding month to the Town Board for review; and

WHEREAS, these reports provide essential oversight regarding departmental expenditures, collected fees, regulatory compliance, and community services rendered;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Otto hereby approves and accepts the routine monthly department reports submitted at the board meeting on September 15, 2026, by the following officials:

1. Town Clerk
2. Highway Superintendent
3. Code Enforcement / Building Inspector
4. Waste Water Treatment Operator
5. Contracted Assessor

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all such reports be placed on file in the permanent records of the Office of the Town Clerk.

RESOLUTION 2026-46

Audit of Claims

On a motion made by Councilmember Gregory and seconded by Councilmember Walker, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Beenau, Gregory, Mallaber, Stang, Walker

Nays 0

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Otto has reviewed the monthly bills and fund claims contained within Abstract No. 009 for the current billing cycle; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the Town Board to ensure all municipal expenditures are thoroughly audited and properly authorized for payment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Otto hereby authorizes and directs the payment of bills on Abstract No. 009 in the total amount of **$80,624.19**, distributed across the following specific funds and voucher numbers:

General Fund	No.	128	through	147	$51,958.59
Highway Fund	No.	95	through	107	$26,844.98
Water District	No.	31	through	34	$1,267.33
Light District	No.	9			$312.18
Sewer District	No.	25	through	26	$241.11

RESOLUTION 2026-47

Meeting Close

With no further discussion, on a motion of Councilmember Walker and seconded by Councilmember Stang, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07pm. Carried unanimously.

The next monthly board meeting will be held on October 20, 2026 at 7PM at the Otto Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trisha Priest, Otto Town Clerk