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 August 2026.

Present:

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

Others Present:

Thomas Lippard, Mary Dankert

Randy Beenau called the regular board meeting to order at 7:03pm with a quorum present.

RESOLUTION 2026-41

Approval of minutes

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

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

Nays 0

Resolved that the minutes of the July 2026 Regular Meeting of the Town Board is approved with correction in the investment funds resolution.

Privilege of the Floor

Mary Dankert discussed the state changes regarding dog kennels. Mary will be starting the Dog census. At the end of the day Mary will send a list of dogs that were caught in the census. Any resident caught with an unlicensed dog during the census will be charged a $10 penalty per dog at the time of Licensure.

Thomas Lippard represents the local 621 labor unit. He is working on a game plan to get local labor's jobs working at the solar farm in Otto. He discussed the various barriers preventing him from getting his members on the jobsite. He has asked the Board to reach out to him early on when there is a major project coming in so he can get labor contracts signed and get our local labor units hired for those jobs.

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

1) This last month we helped East Otto chip sealing their roads and put shoulders on Bailey Hill Road. We helped Catt Co DPW, and we got more millings off of the Reed Hill job. We have those stockpiled at Scott Corners Road and County Route 13. We also helped Mansfield with their soil and water project on Wilson Road. We used our excavator to place the rock in the ditch going up the hill.
2) On Friday July 24,2026 Chuck Biniarz called me and stated that he was concerned about the road cross culvert pipe in front of his residence, stated that it had a huge crack in the road and it was going to collapse like the county road did. I went and inspected it, and I continue to do so. The crack is 1/8 th wide and it is common for this to happen; it's just the ditch line from when we changed the culvert. Almost all culverts have this happen.
3) Got the new pickup truck, and it's a Chevy.
4) We changed 2 road cross culverts in Town, one on Lange Road and one on Thompson Road. We are also fixing the corner on Thompson Road to increase visibility and get rid of the severe crown in the road.

5) Been mowing roadsides and hauling in sand for in between work.
6) Soil and Water is going to award the bid for our Forty Road rock job, this job should be completed by the 17th of September
7) We are scheduled for our CHIP's project on September 3 rd , the weather has been getting us pushed back, Lakeshore Paving is doing the work off the Catt. Co. material bid

Town Clerk The monthly review of the town clerk activities for the prior month.
$2221.00 was collected during the month of July 2026. The following disbursements were made:

Town Supervisor	$2177.80
Department of ag & markets	$15.00
Catt Co. DPW	$28.20
DEC	$0.00
NYS-DOH	$0.00

The Town Clerk's Monthly report was distributed to the Board.

Code Enforcement Officer The Town Clerk presented Jeff Holler's monthly report from 07/22/2026 thru 08/18/2026

a) He took nineteen calls.
b) Completed eleven inspections.
c) three Permits were issued
   9740 Gibson Hill – Deck addition
   9038 Otto-E. Otto Road – Rebuild roof
   9221 Forty Road -Garage
d) one violation notice was mailed.
e) Attended the Planning Board meeting
f) Sent Permits to the assessor
g) Turned over $96.00 to the Clerk

Waste Water Operators Report via email
Good evening,
I only have two items to include in this month's report for the board. The first being the matter of an unpaid invoice from Delmar electric. I received a phone call on August 7th inquiring on the status of payment for the spare RBC drive motor that was authorized by you and subsequently procured by Delmar. After correcting a mistake in the email address they were using to send the invoice we believed the issue was resolved. I later received a second call stating the email with invoice attachment has been kicked back. I requested that the invoice be sent to me directly and I would handle it from there. As such, you should have an invoice tonight in the amount of $823.41 to be paid.
Secondly, I am inquiring as to the state of the signage which is to be placed at the outfall at the sewer plant. I believe that this was to be procured from the county sign shop. If provided with the sign and a post I will place the sign in accordance with the SPEDES permit issued to the facility.
July reports were submitted to the DEC on 8/3 and accepted the same day.
The latest round of sampling will took place on 8/5, no results received at this time. The next round of samples will be collected on 10/7. This will include the final Fecal Coliform sample of the 2026 disinfection season.
As always please feel free to reach out with any questions that may arise. -Tom

Town Supervisor Randy Beenau presented the bank statements to the Town Board for review.
Mr. Beenau spoke with Sandy Hill regarding the East Otto End of Traffic Street. He would like to speak with East Otto about getting that portion of the road to the same condition of the rest of the road. He feels our residents would benefit

from having the culvert project completed. One option could be to trade Safford and Thompson Roads. The cost of the project would then be Otto's responsibility.
Sheridan Benefits sent a quote to provide the services for annual training requirements of $295.00 per month.
Mr. Beenau will check with the Association of Towns to see if there are other options.

Councilmember Paul Stang had ten road signs made at the County sign shop. The signs are to designate solar truck traffic. He spoke with John from Radial Power and they will reimburse us for the cost of the signs. They will also be responsible for a $1000 fine for commercial trucks that are found to be off route. A picture of the Truck as proof is needed to go after the $1000.

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 2026-42
Amendment to organizational minutes regarding IRS business mileage reimbursement rate

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Otto established the official Town employee mileage reimbursement rate for authorized business travel at its annual Organizational Meeting held on January 6, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the policy of the Town Board is to align municipal mileage reimbursement rates with the standard mileage rate set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS); and

WHEREAS, the IRS announced an updated standard business mileage rate of 76 cents per mile ($0.76/mile), effective July 1, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby amends the Organizational Minutes of January ___, 2026, to update the mileage reimbursement rate for officers and employees using personal vehicles for official Town business to $0.76 per mile, effective retroactively to July 1, 2026; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all authorized claims for mileage reimbursement incurred on or after July 1, 2026, shall be calculated at the revised rate of $0.76 per mile.

RESOLUTION 2026-43
Liability insurance policy renewal
On a motion made by Councilmember Walker and seconded by Councilmember Stang, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Beenau, Mallaber, Stang, Walker
Nays 0

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF TOWN LIABILITY INSURANCE POLICY WITH SELECTIVE INSURANCE COMPANY

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 August 20, 2026, through August 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 August 20,2026, to August 20,2027

RESOLUTION 2026-44
Audit of Claims
On a motion made by Councilmember Stang and seconded by Councilmember Walker, the following resolution was
ADOPTED Ayes 4 Beenau, Mallaber, Stang, Walker
Nays 0
Resolved that the bills contained on Abstract #008 in the amount of $ 60,665.28 have been reviewed by Town Board and are authorized for payment in the following amounts:

General Fund	No.	113	through	127	$41732.54
Highway Fund	No.	84	through	94	$16064.88
Water District	No.	27	through	29	$1006.08
Light District	No.	8			$319.08
Sewer District	No.	21	through	24	$1542.70

RESOLUTION 2026-45
Meeting Close
With no further discussion, on a motion of Councilmember Walker and seconded by Councilmember Stang, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm. Carried unanimously.

The next monthly board meeting will be held on September 15, 2026 at 7PM at the Otto Town Hall.

Respectfully Submitted,
Trisha Priest, Otto Town Clerk