

The April meeting of the East Otto Town Board was called to order at 8:10 PM by Supervisor James Beach on Tuesday April 12, 2016. Jim led the pledge to the Flag.

Present were councilmen Dave Forster, William Spors, Mike Poch and Sidney Barber, Highway Superintendent Tom Benz, Assessor Jeffrey Forster and CEO Jeff Holler.

Guests present were Bob Bowen, Michael Guerin and Legislator Richard Helmich

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Sid Barber to authorize the Supervisor to pay all general and highway funds bills audited. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

	Abstract #	Claim #	Amount
Highway 1	102	02	\$ 862.06
Highway 3	304	31-43	\$ 6,133.76
Misc.	M01	01	\$ 23.00
General	004	27-41	\$ 4,588.84

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Mike Poch to accept the audit of the Feb. and March prepaid utility bills audited. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Bill Spors to approve and waive the reading of the March 8, 2016 meeting minutes. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk paid to Supervisor \$421.40 for March 2016 fees and commissions and \$4,075.84 for the March interest collected and late fees

Jim stated that the March Budget report contains a copy of February's information not March due to an error in printing.

Jim read a letter from Assessor Jeffrey Forster to resign his position as of March 30, 2016.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Sid Barber to accept Jeffrey Forster's resignation as Assessor contingent on his eligibility to retire. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

Jim read a letter from Jeffrey Forster asking to be reinstated as the Assessor for the Town of East Otto for his current salary for 2016 contingent on his eligibility for retirement.

A motion was made by Mike Poch and seconded by Bill Spors to reappoint Jeffrey Forster as Assessor contingent on his eligibility to retire effective April 1, 2016. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

Jeff addressed the board on the progress of the re-evaluation. It all seems to be going smoothly and according to past experience. It seems that land values have increased at a more rapid pace than housing stock. Any calls received by the board should be directed to Jeff. The BAR (Board of Assessment Review) will meet on the fourth Tuesday of May, Tuesday May 24th from 4PM to 8PM.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Bill Spors to open lawn mowing bids received. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

The following bids were received from Deanna Bowen:

One bid was received from Deanna Bowen for mowing of the Town Hall, Ball Diamond and Historical Building in the amount of \$2,700.00.

One bid was received from Deanna Bowen for mowing of the Brooklyn Cemetery in the amount of \$1,050.00.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Bill Spors to close the lawn mowing bids. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Bill Spors to award the bid for mowing of the Brooklyn Cemetery to Deanna Bowen for the 2016 season in the amount of \$1,050.00. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Mike Poch to award the bid for mowing of the Town Hall, Ball Diamond and Historical building to Deanna Bowen for the 2016 season in the amount of \$2,700.00. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

Highway: Tom gave an update on the gravel pit. He contacted a contractor who believes he can make the necessary repairs to the pit for under \$2,000.00 if the town will do the mulching and reseeded. There was some additional discussion on the gravel pit and how long the board is to be responsible to continue repairing acts of nature if there is no growth because of washout. Jim suggested meeting again with the Sportsman's club.

The ditch between Bowen Rd. and Razy Rd. is still not completed. The contractor now needs to wait until the ground dries out some.

A motion was made by Jim Beach and seconded by Mike Poch per the telephone survey of board members, the board unanimously agreed to allow the Highway Superintendent to bid on a used roller up to \$3,999.00. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

Tom received a letter from the office of Senator Kathy Young with the projected CHIPS payments for 2016. This year we are projected to receive \$107,765.42 for 2016 down \$5.91 from last year. It also stated that the extreme winter repair that has been received for the last few years will no longer be available. Instead the state is operating under a plan called Pave NY. Under the plan we are estimated to receive \$24,598.53 an increase over previous funding of \$9225.65. Tom reminded the board that this is only tentative and no confirmation has yet been received.

Councilman Bill Spors asked why it took so long to open Traffic Street since by having it closed most of the winter it was in better shape earlier than usual. Tom stated that it was opened and maintained when it was supposed to be on April 1st. Tom stated that he let it closed longer because he felt that more damage would be caused if he opened it sooner. It was less money for the maintenance to get it opened by keeping it closed longer. Mr. Spors felt that the reason for keeping it closed may have been more personal but Tom insisted it was not.

The town website is up and running. The web address is: townofeastotto.org. Everyone was encouraged to review the information and offer any suggestions as well as submitting items to be added.

Tax collection has been completed.

CEO Report: Jeff answered 14 calls, completed 7 inspections, issued 1 permits He deposited to the clerk \$40.00 for permits issued. Jeff is out now looking for property violations.

Jim is trying to contact the owner of the property bordering the playground to have the tree on their property removed or trimmed so that it does not fall on the shelter.

Jim received a letter from the Cattaraugus County Treasurer concerning the property on East Flats Rd. and is waiting for a response from them about the Town taking ownership.

On Thursday DFT Security will be coming to install the security cameras. They believe it will take 2 days. A motion was made by Mike Poch and seconded by Sid Barber to authorize Jim Beach to pay DTF for the installation after completion and inspection. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Mr. Guerin asked what was being done to get the website information out to the public. He was informed that it will be included in the survey letter being sent out by the planning board. He asked if individual email addresses would be available for the board members. Jim stated that would be up to each individual board member. He asked what the change in tax rates would be now that the assessment has gone from 58 million to 84 million. He again asked if the board would work with him to create a plan to pave Traffic Street. Jim explained that any tax changes would be addressed at budget time. Jim also stated that Traffic Street, as well as other roads in the town, was discussed during the budget preparation. Mr. Guerin asked for a report on the roads that Tom plans to work on this year. He was instructed to file a foil request with the records officer.

A motion was made by Sid Barber and seconded by Dave Forster to cancel the April 26, 2016 meeting. The next meeting will be May 10, 2016. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

Clerk's books will be audited at the next meeting.

A motion was made by Bill Spors and seconded by Mike Poch to enter executive session to discuss a personnel issue. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Dave Forster and seconded by Mike Poch to leave executive session. Forster, Spors, Poch, Beach and Barber were in favor. Motion carried.

During executive session the board agreed to introduce a statement to address a safety issue that was reported to them and which occurred in the Town Highway building at least twice. Because it is an unsafe practice as determined by the town board, they are recommending and enforcing that certain practices for cleaning shop towels end immediately and going forward another safer method will be instituted including possibly having the towels cleaned professionally. All board members signed the statement and it will be presented to the highway employees personally by Councilman Spors and Supervisor Beach. If the practice continues further disciplinary action will occur as warranted.

Councilman Dave Forster feels there should be more communication from the highway department when things happen that are outside of the normal daily routine such as when a truck goes in the ditch or equipment is involved in any accident or interaction with the public which others may see as inappropriate.

A motion was made by Mike Poch and seconded by Sid Barber to adjourn at 11:00 PM. Forster, Poch, Spors, Barber and Beach were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Ann Rugg
Town Clerk

