

MINUTES OF THE 440<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
OTSEGO COUNTY PLANNING BOARD

Meadows Office Building  
Middlefield, NY

November 10, 2008  
6:00 P.M.

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1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ron Streek at 5:56pm.

2. Roll Call was called and the following members were recorded as present: Ron Streek, Phil Durkin, Tom Clarke, Jeff House, Mark Babilonia, Flo Loomis. Scott Fickbolm and Betty Ann Schwerd were absent. Also present were Terry Bliss, Karen Sullivan, Psalm Wyckoff – staff. Guests included David Parker, Jim Andela, Adrian Kuzminski, Cathy Rothenberger, and John Bolin.

3. Reading of Minutes

a. Minutes of October 15, 2008

Mark Babilonia made a clarification on Item 6.d. line 5. Mark is willing to put together an agenda to present to the IGA committee, when the county planning board has received a mandate or instruction from the county.

Upon a motion by Phil Durkin, seconded by Flo Loomis, and unanimously approved (8-0 vote), the minutes of October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008 were approved with Mark Babilonia's clarification.

4. Report of Communications

None

5. Report of Committees

None

6. Old Business

a. Filling board vacancy

There are five individuals interested in filling a vacancy on the board. They are:

Adrian Kuzminski (Sustainable Otsego, Town of Otsego)

David Parker (MOSA, Worcester)

John Bohlin (Town of Burlington)

Larry Truax (Town of Pittsfield)

Tony Zappa (Town of Exeter)

Adrian Kuzminski, David Parker, and John Bohlin each addressed the board and presented their background as it relates to planning and their particular interests.

Terry Bliss reported that the Otsego County Solid Waste and Environmental Concerns Committee has asked the County Board Chairman to appoint an Energy Authority Steering Committee. David Parker and Adrian Kuzminski have expressed interested in serving on such a committee. There has also been discussion among the county representatives that the county planning board might serve in that capacity. This additional function of the planning board may affect the appointment of individuals to fill vacancies. Discussion regarding the formation of the steering committee and its purpose followed.

b. Audit reports on energy efficiency at certain county office buildings

Psalm Wyckoff presented the status of audits conducted at the county office building by NYPA and

NYSERDA. The final feasibility study is expected from the consultant any day. The planning board will keep in touch with NYPA and NYSERDA to review the draft feasibility study.

Discussion regarding the board's interest in the audits, how it relates to the history of energy topics considered by the planning board, and potential future activities for the board regarding energy, including an energy authority steering committee, followed.

- c. Topics outlined and presented by board members on sustainability and climate protection

Mark Babilonia would like to see a resolution from the county on what an energy authority steering committee would be and what responsibilities it would have.

Jim Andela read the presentation that he gave to the County Board of Representatives in October regarding a "municipal solid waste and energy authority" that would be a semipublic business operation with a written constitution, business goals, and economies of scale that would manage county solid waste and other resources (such as natural gas, hydrologic resources, and compost) in such a way that "alternative energy" could be generated locally for the benefit of local citizens.

- d. Other business brought by members  
None

#### 7. New Business

- a. County Board considerations to address concept of forming an energy authority  
Topic covered in discussions described above.
- b. Other business brought by members  
None

#### 8. Referrals

- a. Referral #23-08-01 from the Otego Village Board of Trustees for adoption of a Comprehensive Plan (Delivered 10/20/08)

Psalm Wyckoff presented a summary referral #23-08-01 from the Village of Otego for the adoption of a draft comprehensive plan. The planning board had copies of the letter requesting the Village of Otego to consider comments for revision of the comprehensive plan referred to the board in March of 2008, and the draft Comprehensive Plan delivered via email on October 20, 2008. In response to the comments supplied by the board, the village added specific recommendations regarding housing on page 19 and added the community survey as an appendix. The draft comprehensive had seven recommendations regarding housing.

Discussion followed regarding the lack of maps, the community survey and concerns evident in the responses that were not addressed in the comprehensive plan, environmental and public health considerations. Mark Babilonia drafted a list of recommendations that he would like attached to the Notice of Action to be sent to the village.

Upon a motion by Mark Babilonia, seconded by Ron Streek, and unanimously approved, the board approved the draft comprehensive plan of the Village of Otego with the following conditions:

Condition 1: The plan should identify goals and strategies with regard to two elements addressed in the community survey. The elements are: 1) protection of natural resources and 2) improving transportation and pedestrian safety.

Condition 2: Identify important quality characteristics of the village with regard to the

environment

Condition 3: Ensure continued public health with sewer, road, and water supply maintenance and provide protection from alternative energy project development and natural gas

Condition 4: Seek the Otsego County Planning Department's assistance with mapping to identify valuable public resources and the environment.

9. Report from County Planning Director

Terry Bliss reported on various local board activities that the planning department has been involved in, including meetings with the Town of Cherry Valley zoning commission, the Town of Decatur zoning enforcement officer, and assistance to the Town of Burlington in preparing maps and data for their comprehensive planning efforts. County wide projects that the planning department is currently engaged in include housing, emergency services telecommunications, the solid waste long range plan, the hazard mitigation plan amendment, and county transportation services. Terry will seek the county attorney's opinion regarding the county planning board's involvement in/as an energy authority steering committee.

10. Adjournment 8:08pm

- a. Next meeting – December 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

Psalm Wyckoff  
Planner