

January 20, 2026
6:30 p.m.
2354 State Route 434
Apalachin, New York

Regular Meeting of the Owego Town Board

A. Call to order, roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance

Council:

Present Supervisor Gary Hellmers, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum,
Emily Rush McClintock

Absent: Jonathan Marks

Department Heads:

Present: Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Absent: Mark Clark, Highway Supervisor
Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Supervisor Hellmers called the meeting to order, the clerk called the roll, and Councilmember Morgan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the January 06, 2026 Organizational Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids-None

D. Public Hearings- None

E. Reports of Department Heads

Supervisor Hellmers-The Planning & Zoning monthly report is on file in the Supervisor's office. The recent flyer sent out by the Owego-Apalachin School District leads the residents to believe that the Assessor sets the tax rate, when it is the school district.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian-Working with the Waits Cemetery Association to write grants to repair the interior of the historic church.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor-Tax exemption applications coming in quickly this

year. Deadline is March 04, 2026

Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator-Finished training on new website. Will be scheduling meetings with department heads to make sure all information is correct prior to launch. Everyone needs to be patient with the new website, it is electronic and will be a work in process.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities- There was a water main break today on Meadow Ln. in Apalachin.

Irene Graven, Town attorney, no report

Pam Brown, Town Clerk, no report

F. Privilege of the floor -No one wished to speak at this time.

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers-

1. NYS Public Service Commission-NYSEG power lines will be running east to west. Will be on file in the Supervisor's office.

H. Abstracts-

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.

AO-General Fund	124,197.80
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	60,461.76
DB-Highway-Town Outside	261,721.32
FO-Water Districts	54,277.94
FA-Route 38 Water	2,600.00
GO-Sewer Districts	66,389.24
GA-Route 38 Sewer	15,259.67
L1 - Lighting District 1	39.39
L2 – Lighting District 2	199.73
L3 – Lighting District 3	77.69
L4 – Lighting District 4B	54.40
L5 – Lighting District 5	50.60
L6 – Lighting District 6	230.93
L7 – Lighting District 7	53.64
L8 – Lighting District 8	40.52
L9 – Lighting District #9	15.12
LA – Lighting District 4A	18.23
LX – Lighting District 10	<u>22.65</u>
	\$585,710.63

I. Unfinished Business-none

1. Board of Ethics-Appointments on file in the Clerk's office.
2. Revised Salary Resolution- **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the Revised Salary Resolution as submitted. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously carried.**

J. Reports of Standing Committees-

- Councilmember Morgan-None
- Councilmember Jochum- None
- Councilmember Marks- None
- Councilmember McClintock- None

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business-

1. Sewer bill adjustment request - There was a fire at 453-457 Main St. in Apalachin. The fire caused a large water leak. The owners are looking for forgiveness on the sewer part of their bill due to the water not entering the sewer system. The amount refunded would be \$2105.66 in sewer charges and \$589.95 in late fees and re-levy fees. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to issue a refund in the amount of \$2695.61. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**
2. Broome County Humane Society - **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to allow Supervisor Hellmers to sign the agreement with the Broome County Humane Society affective January 01, 2026 – December 31, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**
3. Well Head Protection Permit Application #1, 2026 – Northeast Drilling purchased property behind the Campville Fire Station to construct a metal building for storage and office space. They were provided with a copy of the well head code and they agree with the terms of the permit application. Tyson stated that they must comply with all Zone 3 specifications. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve Well Head Protection Permit Application #1, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**
4. Highway Surplus Pick-up Truck – **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to sell a surplus 2012 Ford F-250 pick-up truck from the highway department. The truck will be sold as is with a minimum bid of \$800.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously carried.**
5. 2026 Youth Bureau Agreement – **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to give Supervisor Hellmers permission to sign the 2026 Youth Bureau Agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**
6. Parks Revenue – Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor reported the revenue for Hickories Park for the year 2025. The total revenue was \$305,588.00. Camp Sites brought in \$293,393.00 and Pavilion rentals brought in \$12,165.00.
7. New Hires – Highway, **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following resolution hiring Charles Romeo as a full time MEO I position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the approved 2026 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a full time MEO I position; and

WHEREAS, this full time position is vacant and it is necessary to fill this position; and

WHEREAS, Charles Romeo has been offered and has accepted such position as of January 26, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$18.83 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 week probationary period; contingent upon his having his CDL within six (6) months from date of hire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Charles Romeo at an hourly rate of \$18.83 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective January 26, 2026 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire, contingent upon his having his CDL within six (6) months from date of hire and subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following resolution hiring Michael Garnsey as a full time MEO I. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the approved 2026 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a full time MEO I position; and

WHEREAS, this full time position is vacant and it is necessary to fill this position; and

WHEREAS, Michael Garnsey has been offered and has accepted such position as of January 26, 2026 at an hourly rate of \$18.83 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period; contingent upon his having his CDL within six (6) months from date of hire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Michael Garnsey at an hourly rate of \$18.83 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective January 26, 2026 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire, contingent upon his having his CDL within six (6) months from date of hire and subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

L. Privilege of the floor – No one wished to speak at this time.

M. Executive Session if needed-none

At this time Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator, requested Attorney/Client..

N. Adjournment-Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Morgan at 6:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown, Town Clerk