

February 17, 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 -

The Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll, and Dean Morgan led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Supervisor Hellmers, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, and Emily Rush-McClintock

Absent: Jonathan Marks

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

1. Minutes of the January 20, 2026 have been amended and are approved with amendment.
2. Minutes of the February 03, 2026 meeting stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

1. Tax Cap Override 2026- Supervisor Hellmers opened the Public Hearing. No one from the public wished to speak. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to close the Public Hearing at this time. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor- Phil has contacted seasonal campers and the park is already half booked with seasonal campers.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor- No report

Peter Gordon, Town Historian- No report  
 Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver- No report  
 Irene Graven, Town Attorney- No report  
 Mark Clark-Highway Supervisor – At this time, Councilmember Jochum read a prepared report by Mark. This report is on file in the Clerk’s office.

Supervisor Hellmers -Tuesday, February 17-Friday, February 20,2026 soil samples will be taken on Sanford Rd. from the culvert across from 1566 Valley Rd. Two men will be stationed between Chestnut Ridge and Stanford Rd. giving directions. Flyers have been passed out letting residents know what is going on. Also, on February 10,2026 myself and Councilmember Jochum were invited to a Tioga Terrace Civic Association meeting. The meeting went well and we were very well received. At this time, we were allowed to elaborate on what is going on and what is going to be done in the future.

F. Privilege of the Floor- Rose Howard, Sequoia Ln. – Rose thanked Supervisor Hellmers and Councilmember Jochum for attending the TTCA meeting. The meeting went well and many questions were answered. Is a hard copy available of the budget for 2026? There is a sizeable deficit in the budget, is there a way we can catch up without raising taxes? Will this deficit be addressed as we go through the year? The corner of Fredrick and Highland is like a pond from the water runoff. Cherry Court is bad and just wanted to remind the board of the situation. Rose does not feel it is worth patching. Residents felt like it was left behind when other paving was done. When will the web site be up and running? Did Mark start Walk-In Wednesdays?

David Smith, Montrose Tpke. - Does the town go all the way to Chestnut Ridge on Penn. Ave. in Apalachin? Is Verizon putting in Fiber Optics? Do they need a permit for this? Does the town have a responsibility for water treatment for drinking water? Do we put fluoride in the water? Has anything new come up on any solar projects? Has a moratorium been established?

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers – none

H. Abstracts- .

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

A0 - General Fund	46,670.71
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	26,553.74
DB - Highway-Town Outside	83,324.67
F0 - Water Districts	27,731.45
FA - Route 38 Water	967.22
G0- Sewer Districts	30,074.95

GA – Route 38 Sewer	410.71
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	366,908.31
L1 – Lighting District 1	0.00
L2 - Lighting District 2	140.32
L3 – Lighting District 3	40.06
L4 - Lighting District 4B	38.96
L5 – Lighting District 5	26.03
L6 - Lighting District 6	157.87
L7 - Lighting District 7	39.29
L8 - Lighting District 8	27.68
L9 - Lighting District #9	11.54
LA – Lighting District 4A	13.83
LX - Lighting District 10	16.70
	<hr/>
	<b>\$583,154.04</b>

I. Unfinished Business –

1. Budget Amendments-2024

**a. A motion was made at this time by Councilmember Jochum to approve line items ABCM for the 2024 budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.**

**b. A motion was made at this time by Councilmember Jochum to approve line items DB. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.**

**c. A motion was made at this time by Councilmember Jochum to approve line items FOFA & GOGA. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and carried on a roll call vote.**

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Morgan- No report

Councilmember Jochum- No report

Councilmember McClintock- No report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Promotions – Highway

**A motion was made by Supervisor Hellmers to approve the following promotion for Cameron Card promoting him from a MEO II position to a MEO III position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the approved 2026 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes an MEO III position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Cameron Card, currently in a MEO II position, is available and willing to be promoted to the MEO III position effective February 23, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Cameron Card is promoted to the position of MEO III, effective February 23, 2026, at an hourly wage of \$21.12 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

**A motion was made by Supervisor Hellmers to approve the following promotion for Luke Bumbalough promoting him for a MEO II to a MEO III position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the approved 2026 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes an MEO III position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Luke Bumbalough, currently in a MEO II position, is available and willing to be promoted to the MEO III position effective February 23, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Luke Bumbalough is appointed to the position of MEO III, effective February 23, 2026, at an hourly wage of \$21.12 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

2. Highway Purchase – 2(two) 2026 Ford F-350

**A motion was made by Supervisor Hellmers to approve the following Resolution to purchase two 2026 F-350 trucks for the Highway department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, in the Town of Owego 2026 budget, funds were budgeted under the Highway Machinery Equipment Fund for the purchase of a 2 (two) 2026 Ford F-350 trucks; and

WHEREAS, said trucks can be purchased from VanBortel Ford, 71 Marsh Road, East Rochester, NY 14445, State Contract # PC68953, Award #23166, Group 40440, for a total of \$104,563.56.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Owego Highway Department is authorized to purchase 2 (two) 2026 Ford F-350 trucks from VanBortel Ford, 71 Marsh Road, East Rochester, NY 14445, State Contract # PC68953, Award #23166, Group 40440, for a total of \$104,563.56.

3. Highway Purchase – Ford F-550 dump truck

**A motion was made by Supervisor Hellmers to approve the following Resolution to purchase a Ford F-550 dump truck for the Highway department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, in the Town of Owego 2026 budget, funds were budgeted under the Highway Machinery Equipment Fund for the purchase of one (1) 2026 Ford F-550 dump truck; and

WHEREAS, said truck can be purchased from VanBortel Ford, 71 Marsh Road, East Rochester, NY 14445, State Contract # PC68953, Award #23166, Group 40440, for a total of \$ 78,779.22.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Owego Highway Department is authorized to one (1) 2026 Ford F-550 dump truck from VanBortel Ford, 71 Marsh Road, East Rochester, NY 14445, State Contract # PC68953, Award #23166, Group 40440, for a total of \$ 78,779.22.

4. Highway Purchase – Milton Cat 938 Loader

**A motion was made by Councilmember McClintock to approve the following resolution to trade in equipment toward the purchase of one Milton Cat 938 Loader. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously approved.**

WHEREAS, in the Town of Owego 2026 budget, funds were budgeted under the Highway Machinery Equipment Fund for the purchase of one (1) Milton Cat 938 Loader; and

WHEREAS, said loader can be purchased from Caterpillar, Inc., 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 100, Irving, TX 75039, State Contract # PC70886, Award #23345, for a total of \$230,358.40; and

WHEREAS, the Highway Department will be trading in equipment totaling \$190,000, thus bringing the total purchase price to \$30,358.40.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Owego Highway Department is authorized to purchase one (1) Milton Cat 938 Loader from Caterpillar, Inc., 5205 N. O'Connor Blvd., Suite 100, Irving, TX 75039, State Contract # PC70886, Award #23345, for a total purchase price of \$30,358.40.

5. Upstate NY Town Association INC. Membership Dues-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to pay the 2026 Annual Membership Dues. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously approved.**

6. Parks Department Purchase –

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the following resolution to purchase a 2025 Ferris IS2600 mower with the trade in of a 2019 mower. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously approved.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego Parks Department wishes to purchase a 2025 Ferris IS2600 mower; and

WHEREAS, said mower can be purchased from CNY Farm Supply, 3865 US RT 11, Cortland, NY 13045, Buyboard Contract #611-20, at a cost of \$ 30,501.67, and the addition of mulch kit and upgrade to flat-free front swivel wheels, said add-ons totaling \$ 450.00; and

WHEREAS, the Town will be trading in a 2019 mower for a credit of \$9,000;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Owego Parks Department is authorized to purchase a Ferris IS2600 mower, with add-ons, from CNY Farm Supply, at a total cost of \$21,951.67, including trade in credit.

L. Second Privilege of the floor – Bill Chandler, Owego, What is going on with dump boxes for the new dump truck? What happened to the International dump truck?

Julie Smith, Montrose Tpke.- Was the 2024 budget amended due to the audit?

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:28 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver