

June 02, 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 Councilmember Jochum led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

Present: Supervisor Hellmers, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, Jonathan Marks, and Emily McClintock

Absent: None

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent
Bill Carrigg, Planning and Zoning Director
Tyson Stiles, Utilities Director

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of June 02, 2026 Regular Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids - none

D. Public Hearings - none

E. Reports of Department Heads -

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Things are on track and we are getting ready for the Catfish Derby.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney, no report. Requests Attorney/Client.

Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Director, Report on file in the Clerk's office.

Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent, Report on file in the Clerk's office.

Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver, no report

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, Grievance Day is completed. There were three non-appearing and nine settled before grievance day.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian, Historians of Tioga County, which includes nine towns and six villages, were asked to write a brief history of their Town or Village. That history was then put into a sixty-eight-page book. The book was published with a grant from the State. The book is free for anyone that would like a copy. The book will also be sent to Public Libraries and schools.

Gary Hellmers, Town of Owego Supervisor, Reported on the upcoming exit and lane closures due to the ongoing construction on Interstate 86.

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

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

1. Owego Lodge No. 1039 Flag Day Observance Ceremony- Supervisor Hellmers read the details of the Lodge’s Flag Day Observance Ceremony taking place at the Owego Elks Lodge located at 223 Front St., Owego on Friday, June 14th, starting at 1:00 pm, inside the Lodge ballroom.

H. Abstracts -

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

AO-General Fund	27,025.57
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	6,483.97
DB-Highway-Town Outside	167,665.92
FO-Water Districts	11,393.73
FA-Route 38 Water	862.75
GO-Sewer Districts	46,328.93
GA-Route 38 Sewer	3.14
	<u>\$ 259,764.01</u>

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember McClintock- no report

Councilmember Morgan - no report

Councilmember Jochum -A County project that involved replacing culverts would involve a detour going onto Foster Valley Rd. Foster Valley Rd. is scheduled to be paved this year. The County has moved that project to 2027. The State has moved mandates on electric dump trucks further down the road. Mark had a salesman from Burr Trucking wanting to sell the Highway Department two electric dump trucks at a cost of \$606,000.

Do we want to schedule a workshop or talk with Mark Clark directly Strongly suggest we talk with Rick, Budget Officer.

Councilmember Marks - no report

Councilmember McClintock - no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Proclamation- A New Hope Center- **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to present to A New Hope Center a proclamation to celebrate 40 years of service to the community and to recognize the efforts of all the members of the organization who have worked to provide services to families in crisis in our community and to thank the residents for their support. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

2. Appoint new member to Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review-**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to appoint Douglas Barton to serve as a member of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review retroactive 04/28/2026 through 09/30/2027. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

3. Appoint new member to Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review- **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to appoint David Allen to serve as a member of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review retroactive 05/26/2026 through 09/30/2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

4. Highway- new hire Kenneth G. Wall, **a motion was made by Councilmember Marks to approve the following amended resolution hiring Kenneth G. Wall in a full time MEO III position. 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 III position; and

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

WHEREAS, Kenneth G. Wall has been offered and has accepted such position as of June 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.12 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Kenneth G. Wall at an hourly rate of \$21.12 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective June 8, 2026 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire, subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

5. Highway-new hire Benjamin G. Poirier, **a motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following amended resolution hiring Benjamin G. Poirier in a full time MEO III position. 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 III position; and

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

WHEREAS, Benjamin G. Poirier has been offered and has accepted such position as of June 8, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$21.12 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Benjamin G. Poirier at an hourly rate of \$21.12 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective June 8, 2026 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire, subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

6. Highway- Agreement to spend- Foster Valley/DeGroat Rd.- A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following Agreement to Spend allowing paving on Foster Valley Road and DeGroat Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

The following is a list of paving projects to be completed in the year 2026 by Broome Bituminous:

Foster Valley Road – pave (approx. 76,314 sf)	\$112,274
DeGroat Road – pave (approx. 75,600 sf)	\$107,010
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROJECTS:	\$219,284

Scope, amount and distance subject to change with index and inflation.

7. Highway-Agreement to Spend-Beach/Barton Rd.-A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following Agreement to Spend allowing paving on Beach Rd. and Barton Rd. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously carried.

The following is a list of paving projects to be completed in the year 2026 by Suit-Kote:

Beach Road – (2.3 x 22’) shim/true & level, fog seal, pave	\$131,141
Barton Road – (800’ x 22’) shim/true & level, fog seal, mill, pave (1 mi x 22’)	\$126,312
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS OF PROJECTS:	\$257,453

Scope, amount and distance subject to change with index and inflation.

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

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:02 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver