

July 21, 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 -

Supervisor Hellmers called the meeting to order, the Clerk called the Roll, and Councilmember Morgan led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Mark Clark- Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the July 7, 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 – reported that the Tioga County Kennel Club’s dog race this past weekend at the Hickories Park was a success. The club called and thanked him and his workers for the excellent job they did in preparing the park.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – No report

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – No report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – No report

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities- No report

Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver- No report

Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent – Report on file in the Clerk’s office

Supervisor Hellmers- A camera on Dutchtown Rd., that was used for weather conditions and measurements, has been vandalized. The camera looked like it was hit with a hammer and spray painted blue. The camera is not covered by insurance. Supervisor Hellmers requests Attorney/Client after the meeting.

F. Privilege of the Floor –

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, Now that things are settled with the budget, will a new report be released to reflect how things came about? Also, will there be a new budget released

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

1. Budget Amendment Transfer – **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the Budget Amendment Transfer’s. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

H. Abstracts- **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to amend the Abstract. The amendment includes Chemung Supply Corp, \$45,125.45, EE Root \$4,850.00, and Holbrook’s Precast, INC \$2,600.00. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried. After the amendment was carried a motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the abstract with the above exclusions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried on a roll call vote.**

A0 - General Fund	175,553.03
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	18,764.74
DB - Highway-Town Outside	434,368.17
F0 - Water Districts	11,993.24
FA - Route 38 Water	1,552.02
G0- Sewer Districts	141,707.08
GA – Route 38 Sewer	625.24
L1 – Lighting District 1	25.17
L2 - Lighting District 2	164.61
L3 – Lighting District 3	53.44
L4 - Lighting District 4B	45.43

L5 – Lighting District 5	32.93
L6 - Lighting District 6	186.22
L7 - Lighting District 7	45.58
L8 - Lighting District 8	32.57
L9 - Lighting District #9	13.23
LA – Lighting District 4A	15.86
LX – Lighting District 10	19.30
	\$785,197.86

I.Unfinished Business - None

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember McClintock- Did work on forms of gender-based violence. Also, set up a number for employees to call concerning workplace violence.

Councilmember Morgan – no report

Councilmember Jochum- Read Mark Clark’s Highway Department report.

Councilmember Marks – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Agreement to Spend-Highway- Crestview/Tioga Terrace-**A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to approve the Agreement to spend for the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

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

Paving – Crestview Heights	
Glenbrook Drive	\$147,619.16
Glenbrook Court	\$ 47,221.76
Total:	\$194,840.92
Paving – Tioga Terrace	
Glann Road	\$317,564.94
Overbrook Drive	\$111,464.40
Hilltop Road	\$111,789.40
Cherry Court	\$ 49,635.98
Total:	\$590,454.72
Total Estimated Costs of Projects:	\$758,295.64

2. Agreement to Spend- Highway- Guiderail – Degroat Rd., South Apalachin Rd., Cafferty Lane-**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to table the Agreement to Spend for the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

3. Concrete Quotes – Parks- After a discussion with Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to accept the bid from Concrete Principles to install a 24’x32’ concrete pad under the pavilion at Tioga Terrace Park at a cost of \$13,089.00. This bid was felt to be the best value. The motion was seconded by Councilmember McClintock and unanimously carried.**

4. New Hire – Highway- **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following Resolution to hire Irely Merritt as a full time MEO III at the hourly rate of \$22.18 per hour, 40 hours per week. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks 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, Irely Merritt has been offered and has accepted such position as of July 27, 2026, at an hourly rate of \$22.18 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 Irely Merritt at an hourly rate of \$22.18 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective July 27, 2026, with a probationary period of up to 52 working weeks from date of hire, subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

L. Second Privilege of the floor – Beth Paro, Debra Lee Dr., Apalachin, would like to know if Academy St. in Apalachin will be paved this year.

M. Executive Session –

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver