

November 9, 2022
6:30 p.m.
2354 State Route 434
Apalachin, New York

Special Meeting of the Owego Town Board

Council

Present: Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr.
Council: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum and Jonathan Marks

Absent: Cheri Grenier

Supervisor Castellucci explained that this Special Meeting was scheduled to hold the Public Hearing for 2023 Town Budget. He stated that after this meeting, the total budget amount cannot be raised without holding another hearing. He then opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the following Executive Summary which is also available at the Town Clerk's office.

This summary will focus on the highlights in the 2023 Town of Owego "Final Budget". The purpose is to give you, the Budget Officer's recommendations based on meetings he had with the Town Board, Department Heads and the Town's contracted Accountant.

FINAL BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

INSURANCE/WORKERS COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT

- Medical Insurance is up approximately 6%
- Dental Insurance increased 5%
- Workman's Compensation increased approximately 6%
- Retirement decreased 42%
- Liability Insurance increased 9%

GENERAL FUND (A FUND)

- Budget is down approximately 2.64% from last year.
- Town Supervisor salary increased 5%
- All other Town personnel will receive on average a 5% increase

GENERAL FUND TOWN OUTSIDE (B)

- Operating Budget is up approximately 23%
- Town personnel will receive on average a 5% increase

HIGHWAY FUND (DB)

- Operating Budget up approximately 24%
- CHIPS Aid from the State has been increased.
- Town personnel will receive on average a 5% increase

WATER/SEWER DISTRICTS

Water Districts

- \$37.80 for first 6000 gallons Min. Water bill
\$78.80
- \$6.18 for each 1000 gallons after Min. sewer bill
\$78.41
- \$6.00 billing each reading Min water and
sewer
- \$35.00 capital each billing = \$105.00/ year \$471.63/ per 3
billing cycles
- Beginning January 1, 2023, the minimum usage charge increase .57 cents. Water bills will be based on a minimum usage up to six thousand gallons at a rate of \$37.80, plus the \$6.00 billing fee for a total of \$43.80 dollars per cycle. There will be a charge of \$ 6.18 per thousand/gallons for additional usage. An increase of 12 cents per thousand gallons. Capital charges will decrease \$5.45 to \$105.00 per year (\$35.00 per billing cycle). The annual minimal bill will be \$236.40. This rate represents a decrease of \$14.64 per year.

SEWER DISTRICTS

- \$47.08 for first 6000 gallons
- \$7.00 for each 1000 gallons after
- \$31.33 Capital charge each billing = \$93.99/ year
- \$143.51 Flat Rate billing = 430.52/year
- \$2,300/ year Marshland Links
- \$90,000/ year Lockheed Martin
- Sewer bills will be based on a minimum usage up to six thousand gallons at the rate of \$47.08. This is an increase of .47 cents. There will be a charge of \$ 7.00 per thousand /gallons for additional usage. This is an increase of .11 cents per thousand gallons. The capital charge per unit will decrease to at \$93.99 (\$31.33 per billing cycle). The annual minimum bill will be \$235.23. This rate represents a decrease of \$9.60 cents.
- Homes that have municipal sewer but do not have municipal water will be charged \$430.52 per year (\$143.51/bill), an annual increase of \$1.42 for sewer use. The sewer capital fee will remain at \$105.00 per year (\$35 per billing cycle). Total annual bill will be \$535.52 an increase of \$4.26 per year.

ROUTE 38 DISTRICT 7

Water

- \$4.00 <8000 gallons/ day
- \$3.75 >8000 gallons/day
- \$3.00 billing each reading = \$12.00/ year
- \$25.00 capital charge each billing = \$100.00/ year

Sewer

Flat Rate \$32.00/ billing

\$23.35/ 1000 gallons over 17600 gallons

\$30.00 capital charge each billing = \$120/year

LIGHTING DISTRICTS

- Decreased rates are due to Town lighting LED project and applying fund balance. We are in the middle of a 3 year reduction in fund balances in lighting districts, with balances on hand to meet the need of the individual districts.

New York State Property Tax Cap

- ❖ NYS limits the amount local governments and most school districts can increase property taxes to the lower of 2% or the rate of inflation. This year the Town's allowable levy is 2%
 - Allowable levy limit is \$3,503,919
 - Taxes proposed in Final budget to be levied are \$3,476,918
 - The Town is currently under the Tax Cap by \$27,001

Tax Rates

- ❖ **Townwide** taxes are paid by all property owners in the Town and Village
 - Tax Rate is \$1.27990 per \$1,000 of assessment – increase of \$0.03 from last year
 - Example – Home assessed for \$64,033 will pay \$81.95 in total Town taxes – an increase of \$1.63 from last year
- ❖ **Townwide/Town Outside Village** taxes are paid by property owners outside of the Village
 - Tax rate is \$4.3726037 per \$1,000 of assessment – increase of \$0.09 from last year
 - Example – Home Assessed for \$96,992 will pay \$424.11 in total Town taxes – an increase of \$8.41 from last year
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Major Purchases

Parks

John Deere 1600 WAM

Ford F250 4X4 pick up plow

Block Storage Building @ Hickories Park

Highway

2 F350 XL

International Tandem

Utilities

½ Ton pick up

Sewer line camera

Public Comment:

Ann Mallozzi, Long Creek Road, stated that she feels the Board should not vote on this until the Town website is fixed and the budget can be viewed there by residents. She also asked about the State Comptroller's Office audit of the Town. She voiced concerns over the transference of balances between Town funds.

Supervisor Castellucci thanked all of the Department Heads and the Board members for their help with the budget process. He also expressed his gratitude that the Town has been able to stay fiscally solid even through this difficult time in our Country.

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2023 Town Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

Motioned by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk