

June 21, 2022  
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 -

Deputy Supervisor Morgan called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll, and Hank Hines led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, Jonathan Marks, and Cheri Grenier

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci

Department Heads:

Present: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities

Rick Pedro, Assessor

Irene Graven, Town Attorney

Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator

Peter Gordon, Town Historian

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent

Absent: None

B. Minutes of the previous meetings - none

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Deputy Supervisor Morgan for Supervisor Castellucci – **reviewed and made a motion to adopt the following resolution honoring Rodney Valentine in his retirement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

*WHEREAS Rodney T. Valentine will retire on July 1, 2022, after 42 years of outstanding and commendable service to the Town of Owego and its citizens; and*

*WHEREAS Rodney T. Valentine began his career with the Town of Owego on May 12, 1980 as a HEO II; and*

***WHEREAS** Rodney was promoted to Water & Sewer Systems Supervisor on January 9, 1998; and*

***WHEREAS** the Town of Owego staff and Rodney's coworkers, as well as all of the Town of Owego residents, have greatly benefitted from Rodney's knowledge, experience, dedication, helpfulness and integrity; and*

***WHEREAS** throughout his years of service Rodney has served the people of the Town of Owego with dedication, fairness, and conscientious diligence;*

***NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT***

***RESOLVED**, that the Owego Town Board, on behalf of the Town of Owego and all its residents, does hereby extend its sincere and grateful appreciation for the dedicated service Rodney T. Valentine has provided to the Town of Owego, and offers its congratulations on his well-earned retirement as well as best wishes for his continues success, happiness and good health in the years to come.*

Next, Deputy Supervisor Morgan reported that the Tioga County Kennel Club is all set for this year. Lastly, he stated that the "Moving Wall" (a travelling, half-size replica of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial) will be coming to Eldridge Park on June 29, 2022 for a few days.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – spoke of Rodney Valentine's retirement party plans and then reported that he took the Backflow Preventer certification class so the Town will not have to pay for this service any longer.

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – shared the Stormwater Operation and Maintenance Plan for the Town of Owego Shared Services Facility with the Board. No action was necessary.

Bill Carrigg, Code Enforcement Officer – reviewed that the streetlights owned by the Town on State roads (and roads that abut to State roads) require a lot of red-tape to provide maintenance. He then explained that this process could be streamlined if the Town applies for a Shared Service with the State for this maintenance. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to authorize Supervisor Castellucci to sign the application for shared services for streetlight maintenance with the State. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.**

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – reported that he was invited by the State Historians' Association to give a lecture on publishing historical books.

Hank Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent – reported that they are currently paving 4 streets in Town. He also stated that the Tioga County Master Gardeners will be dressing up the front of the new building.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported that the residents of 82 Main Street were unaware there was a fee to hook up to the Town's utility infrastructure. They have signed an agreement to

pay the amount in full by installments within 12 months. The agreement states that if one payment is missed, the amount due will become a Relevy on their next Town and County tax bill. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to move forward with a resolution retroactive to June 10, 2022 allowing the owners of 82 Main Street to pay their infrastructure hookup fee in installments. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.**

Rick Pedro, Assistant Assessor – reported that the 2023 Final Roll has been issued. He also stated that Cally Fruscello passed her data collection exam.

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that she returned all unpaid 2022 tax bills to the County for final settlement. Next, she stated that her office is finally at full staff again after everyone recovered from Covid. She also reported that they will get back to full time hours beginning next week.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Else Deubler, Blodgett Road, spoke about the dangerous speeding cars on her road, as well as tall hedges on the side of Route 38 that interfere with the view intersecting roads.

Cheri Grenier, Hilton Road, stated that the Highway Department did a great job collecting brush this year.

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

1. Band Shell rental request - Lakeview Chapel

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor reviewed the request and stated he had no problem with the event taking place. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to allow Lakeview Chapel to rent the Hickories Park Band Shell August 7, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.**

H. Abstracts-

**Councilmember Marks made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote after a short discussion.**

A0 - General Fund	23,285.53
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	33,519.46
DB - Highway-Town Outside	59,804.16
F0 - Water Districts	12,718.21
FA - Route 38 Water	403.29
G0- Sewer Districts	25,218.94
GA – Route 38 Sewer	385.85
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	377,735.46
L1 – Lighting District 1	0.00
L2 - Lighting District 2	148.95
L3 – Lighting District 3	46.63
L4 - Lighting District 4B	41.14

L5 – Lighting District 5	30.42
L6 - Lighting District 6	168.71
L7 - Lighting District 7	41.25
L8 - Lighting District 8	29.63
L9 - Lighting District #9	12.03
LA – Lighting District 4A	14.38
LX – Lighting District 10	17.53
	<u>\$533,621.57</u>

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

- Councilmember Marks – no report
- Councilmember Jochum – no report
- Councilmember Grenier – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Lead Agency SEQR resolution

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator reviewed that chapter 2 in the Town Code is being amended and requires the Town to declare itself as Lead Agency and complete a SEQR. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution declaring the Town of Owego as Lead Agency in the amendment of chapter 2 in the Town of Owego Code. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

In accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) the Owego Town Board declares its intent to act as Lead Agency for the purposes of completing a Coordinated Environmental Review for the proposed adoption of local law Chapter 98 regulation Solar Energy Systems, the amendment of Chapter 125 Zoning amendment of Chapter 121 Wells.

2. Agreement to spend Town funds

**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve the Highway Superintendent’s following agreement to spend Town funds. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

The following is a list of additional paving projects to be completed for the year 2022:

Waits Road (cold mix project)	\$161,818
Cornell Hollow Road (cold mix project)	\$270,452
Foster Valley Road (3” in place recycle)	\$342,653
Tilbury Hill Road (3” in place recycle)	\$145,190

Scope, amount and distance subject to change.

TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS: \$920,113

3. Permission for the Supervisor to sign contract with M & T for credit card services  
This item was tabled until Supervisor Castellucci can be present.

L. Second Privilege of the floor – none

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk