

April 18, 2023
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 acting Town Clerk called the roll and Department Head Tyson Stiles led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

Present: Supervisor Castellucci, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, Jonathan Marks and Gary Hellmers.

Absent: None

Department Heads:

Present: Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent

Absent: Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver
Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the April 4, 2023 regular meeting were presented. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to accept the minutes, Councilmember Hellmers seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.**

C. Consideration of bids - none

D. Public Hearings - none

E. Reports of Department Heads

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – reported that the legal ad for notice of the tentative roll will be in this week's edition of The Courier. He also reported that times are set for this year's review and he's wrapping up the 2023 tax year.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that he has been working with Triple Cities Street Rods for their annual car show at Hickories Park in July. The car club would

like to see a better flow of traffic, proposing that spectator cars stay on the south side of the park, as well as requesting to close the dog park on the day of the event. Supervisor Castellucci will call Wendy Post of ODOG to have the dog park closed that day. The club will rent all pavilions for the day. Mr. Vasisko then reported that last week was opening week for the parks and Hickories camping is eighty percent full, receiving \$45,000 in revenue in the last week. Supervisor Castellucci stated that is about 20 percent of the annual amount. Lastly, Mr. Vasisko reported that pavilion four's electrical box is above water, just the outlets are lower.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that the automatic transfer switch on the Marshland Road generator for the sewer lift station was broken and has received a repair quote from Upstate Generator & Power LLC. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve the emergency repair at a cost of \$7,075. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.** Lastly, Mr. Stiles recommended Rob Fenner be promoted to Water Treatment Operator from Laborer, effective April 24, 2023 at the new rate of \$22.00 per hour. Supervisor Castellucci moved the resolution to the next meeting to be held on May 2, 2023.

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that his department is busy removing snow plows from the trucks, starting construction projects and a couple of employee upgrades. Mr. Roberts then requested a workshop to discuss the purchase of a leaf vacuum. He stated that this would replace the purchase of a medium duty dump truck in his budget. This purchase would reduce a number of man hours and eliminate the need for residents to purchase bags, though the machine can vacuum the bags up as well. **Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to schedule a workshop on the leaf vacuum tow behind unit. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried. The workshop is scheduled for April 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.** Councilmember Jochum stated his concern if the vacuum breaks down.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported a need for Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported brush pick up will be the first week and last week in May. Residents will still have to call in and request pick up. Kuenzli Road is open for brush drop off. There will be a press release for brush pick up. Lastly, Supervisor Castellucci reported that Congressman Marc Molinaro will be on the second floor at the Shared Services building at 12:30 on Friday, April 21, 2023. He thanked Mr. Vasisko's crew for moving all the chairs last time he was scheduled to be here.

Councilmember Dean Morgan on behalf of Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported annual tire clean up to be held this Saturday, April 22, 2023 from eight to noon. This year will include scrap metal clean up as well as electronics recycling. Supervisor Castellucci thanked all the town employees who are helping out with this event.

F. Privilege of the floor

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, requested that the assessor reassess her neighbor, Mr. Bowgren, as he has completed his barn. Supervisor Castellucci assured her that the building permit will flag a reassessment. Ms. Dole requested a decrease in her assessment based upon her

neighbor's property being so much more valuable than hers. Next, Ms. Dole thanked the highway department for painting lines at her property and adding a second driveway. Lastly, Ms. Dole gave much appreciation to the town historian for taking photos and distributing them to her.

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers

H. Abstracts

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

A0 – General Fund	1313.80
B0 – General Fund-Town Outside	1067.96
DB – Highway-Town Outside	2438.89
F0 – Water Districts	352.06
FA – Route 38 Water	16.36
G0 – Sewer Districts	433.93
GA – Route 38 Sewer	<u>16.36</u>
	\$5,639.36

I. Unfinished Business

1. Rename East River Road

Supervisor Castellucci reported that the history has been done on it, but did not get the resolution around. Renaming would only be to the Nichols line. He will get the info to board members before the next meeting on May 2, 2023. Jason Bonsignore will not need to be present at that meeting. Supervisor Castellucci will notify him that it has been pushed out one more meeting. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to table action on this topic until further information is distributed. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Castellucci and unanimously carried.**

J. Reports of Standing Committees

Councilmember Hellmers – no report

Councilmember Morgan – Councils of Governments meeting on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Councilmember Marks – no report

Councilmember Jochum – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Agreements to spend Town funds – Highway

First, Highway Superintendent Mike Roberts explained that the roads that are scheduled for full depth reclamation will be rototilled and add six inches of new material and

will be oiled and stoned in the fall. These roads should last about ten years. Mr. Roberts stated that the resurfacing projects will only receive oil and stone. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to approve Agreement to Spend dated April 17, 2023 with a total estimated cost of \$486,560. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.** Lastly, Highway Superintendent Mike Roberts explained the Valley Road to Mead Road projects. Supervisor Castellucci inquired as to which end of Hakes Road is part of this project. It will be the south end of the road. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve Agreement to Spend dated April 18, 2023 with a total estimated cost of \$1,172,400. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

2. Employee Upgrades – Highway

Erik Frederick – Councilmember Marks asked if Mr. Frederick was proficient on three machines. Highway Superintendent stated that is not what the position requires, it is based on the Highway Supervisor’s recommendation. He knows that he is proficient on a backhoe, excavator and loader. Councilmember Morgan inquired if this would be a new position. Mr. Roberts stated that it is. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to adopt the following resolution reclassifying Erik Frederick as an HEO Site Leader. Superintendent Castellucci seconded and was carried with four yes votes and one abstention (Councilmember Jochum).**

WHEREAS, the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Site Leader position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Eric Frederick, currently in a HEO III position, is available and willing to be promoted to the HEO Site Leader position retroactive to April 10, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Eric Frederick is appointed to the position of HEO Site Leader, retroactive to April 10, 2023, at an hourly wage of \$26.80 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

David Denton, Jr. - **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following resolution reclassifying David Denton, Jr. as an HEO Site Leader. Councilmember Hellmers seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a Heavy Equipment Operator (HEO) Site Leader position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, David Denton, Jr., currently in a HEO III position, is available and willing to be promoted to the HEO Site Leader position retroactive to April 10, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that David Denton, Jr. is appointed to the position of HEO Site Leader, retroactive to April 10, 2023, at an hourly wage of \$26.80 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

Thomas Ferguson - Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution reclassifying Thomas Ferguson as an MEO III. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes an MEO III position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Thomas Ferguson, currently in a MEO II position, is available and willing to be promoted to the MEO III position retroactive to April 10, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Thomas Ferguson is appointed to the position of MEO III, retroactive to April 10, 2023, at an hourly wage of \$19.72 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

Todd VanRiper - Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution reclassifying Todd VanRiper as an MEO III. Councilmember Hellmers seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes an MEO III position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Todd VanRiper, currently in a MEO II position, is available and willing to be promoted to the MEO III position retroactive to April 10, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Todd VanRiper is appointed to the position of MEO III, retroactive to April 10, 2023, at an hourly wage of \$19.72 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

Michael Campbell - Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution reclassifying Michael Campbell as an MEO III. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes an MEO III position which is currently vacant; and

WHEREAS, Michael Campbell, currently in a MEO II position, is available and willing to be promoted to the MEO III position retroactive to April 10, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Michael Campbell is appointed to the position of MEO III, retroactive to April 10, 2023, at an hourly wage of \$20.41 per hour and a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks.

3. Schedule Public Hearing – EYOTA Franchise Agreement –

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to schedule the meeting for May 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

4. Railroad Easement – Utilities

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to table to add to meeting for May 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

5. Cemetery grant approval –

Supervisor Castellucci stated that \$3,000 will be funded from the A fund for this project contingent on consortium able to fund the grant study. **Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to approve. Councilmember Jochum seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.**

6. Rescission/Salary adjustment – Town Justice

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to rescind the original appointment of Donna Joy Bennett dated March 21, 2023. Councilmember Jochum seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to extend Justice Schumacher's salary until the position is filled. Councilmember Marks seconded the motion and was unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, John Schumacher currently serves as Town Justice and plans to retire, effective December 9, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Owego Town Justice Patrick Hogan has agreed to assume Judge Schumacher's duties for the balance of his term, in addition to his own duties; and

WHEREAS, in consideration thereof it is appropriate that Judge Hogan receive additional compensation for the remainder of Judge Schumacher's term, until the position is filled;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Judge Hogan receive additional compensation based upon 75% of Judge Schumacher's salary, commencing April 18, 2023 until the position is filled.

L. Second Privilege of the floor

M. Executive Session if needed

N. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Burrell, Planning and Zoning Secretary
Acting Clerk