

October 15, 2024  
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 Donald Castellucci called the meeting to order, the Clerk called the Roll, and Councilmember Hellmers led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent  
Laura Burt, Deputy Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian  
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

B. Minutes of the previous meeting -

**Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 1, 2024 Regular Meeting as submitted by Laura Burt. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings –

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to consider the Consolidated Water/Sewer District Extensions as specified in the Legal Notice published on October 7, 2024 in the Tioga County Courier stating the Public Hearing date and time as October 15, 2024 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

1. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing. Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor reviewed the details of this Extension. There was no one wishing to comment. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

\*\*\*\* The Board decided to act on Agenda item K1. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14 at this time. \*\*\*\*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution regarding the Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025, of anticipated revenues and expenditures for Consolidated Sewer District, Extension 14 of the Town of Owego has been prepared and such estimate includes the cost of construction of a sewage collection system including sewage mains, laterals, and necessary appurtenances to convey said sewage from said district to an interceptor sewer connected with Water Pollution Control Plant No. 2 in said Town, including the acquisition of necessary land and an assessment roll describing the lots of land in said Consolidated Sewer District which have been benefited thereby, together with the names of the owners of said lots, and such estimate amounts to **Ten Thousand, Nine Hundred and Twenty Four Dollars and Seventy Three Cents (\$10,924.73)** and such estimate and assessment roll have been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Owego,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Town Board met at its meeting room at the Town of Owego Town Hall, Route 434, Apalachin, New York and to hear and consider any objections made to said assessment roll and that notice of such meeting was given by publication in the Tioga County Courier.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that as nearly as may be ascertained, the proportion of benefit that each lot or parcel will derive from the improvement in such district is equal, whether the lot is vacant or occupied;

THEREFORE, there being **69.84 units**, each unit, occupied or vacant, is hereby assessed the sum of **One Hundred Fifty Six Dollars and Forty Three Cents (\$156.425115)** as shown on said assessment roll.

2. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing. Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, reviewed the details of this Extension. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

\*\*\*\* The Board decided to act on Agenda item K1. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14 at this time. \*\*\*\*

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution regarding the Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2025, of anticipated revenues and expenditures for Consolidated Sewer District, Extension 15 of the Town of Owego has been prepared and such estimate includes the cost of construction of a sewage collection system including sewage mains, laterals, and necessary appurtenances to convey said sewage from said district to an interceptor sewer connected with Water Pollution Control Plant No. 2 in said Town, including the acquisition of necessary land and an assessment roll describing the lots of land in said Consolidated Sewer District which have been benefited thereby, together with the names of the owners of said lots, and such estimate amounts to **Eleven Thousand, Five Hundred and Eighty Dollars. (\$11,580)** and such estimate and assessment roll have been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Owego,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Town Board met at its meeting room at the Town of Owego Town Hall, Route 434, Apalachin, New York and to hear and consider any objections made to said assessment roll and that notice of such meeting was given by publication in the Tioga County Courier.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that as nearly as may be ascertained, the proportion of benefit that each lot or parcel will derive from the improvement in such district is equal, whether the lot is vacant or occupied;

THEREFORE, there being **153.61 units, each unit**, occupied or vacant, is hereby assessed the sum of **Seventy Five Dollars and Thirty Nine Cents (\$75.385717)** as shown on said assessment roll.

### 3. Consolidated Water District Extension 13

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing. Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, reviewed the details of this Extension and explained it is an ad valorem tax levy that does not require a resolution by the Board. The Levy calculation is \$3.403158/\$1000 of Assessed Value of the parcel. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

#### E. Reports of Department Heads –

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that paving is underway in Crestview Heights. He then stated that the project in Tioga Terrace has been postponed for milder weather which he hopes will be before the company stores its equipment for winter.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – no report

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported his crew topsoil to the areas in Tioga Park that needed levelling. He also stated that camping in Hickories Park will be closed on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Laura Burt, Deputy Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – no report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the Town Clerk's Monthly Report is on file in his office.

#### F. Privilege of the Floor –

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, spoke about a garbage collection company that is servicing Tioga Terrace at 3 AM. The noise is a disturbance to residents and she hoped the Town could do something to rectify the situation. Supervisor Castellucci stated that he would call the company, but couldn't promise results. She then asked when the Highway Department would be around to collect residents' leaves. Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent stated they will begin that process when all paving has been completed. Supervisor Castellucci also said there will be a Press Release regarding this. Lastly, she inquired about budget procedures.

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

1. Monthly Report of the Supervisor - September  
This report is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

H. Abstracts-

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

A0 - General Fund	11,876.54
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	25,231.76
DB - Highway-Town Outside	683,875.31
F0 - Water Districts	9,643.82
FA - Route 38 Water	0.55
G0- Sewer Districts	32,616.55
GA – Route 38 Sewer	81.74
L1 – Lighting District 1	9.88
L2 – Lighting District 2	114.14
L3 – Lighting District 3	19.84
L4 – Lighting District 4B	32.21
L5 – Lighting District 5	12.77
L6 – Lighting District 6	124.73
L7 – Lighting District 7	33.38
L8 – Lighting District 8	21.78
L9 – Lighting District #9	10.07
LA – Lighting District 4A	12.11
LX – Lighting District 10	<u>14.24</u>
	<b>\$763,731.42</b>

At this time, Supervisor Castellucci stated that the credit card invoice for M & T Bank arrived after the Abstract was prepared, but must be paid before the next meeting. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to pay the M & T credit card invoice in the amount of \$1,940.66 in between Town Board meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.**

I. Unfinished Business - none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – stated a need for Attorney/Client Privilege

Councilmember Morgan – reported that the County Treasurer’s auction of foreclosed properties will be held next week in the Shared Services Building.

Councilmember Jochum- no report.

Councilmember Marks – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14

This was acted on earlier in the meeting during Public Hearings.

2. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15

This was acted on earlier in the meeting during Public Hearings.

3. Change next Town Board Meeting to November 6<sup>th</sup>

Supervisor Castellucci reviewed that due to Election Day, the next meeting needs to be rescheduled. **Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to change the first Town Board Meeting in November from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

4. BAR reappointments - Cacciaglia & Knapp

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, reviewed that the current Board of Assessment Review terms for Dan Cacciaglia and Betsy Knapp. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution reappointing Dan Cacciaglia to the Board of Assessment Review. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law Section 523, the Town Board of the Town of Owego is permitted to appoint members of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review; and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Owego wishes to re-appoint a member to the Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/01/24 to 09/30/2029;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Owego re-appoints Dan Cacciaglia to serve as a member of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review retroactive 10/1/2024 through 9/30/2029; and it is further

RESOLVED that Dan Cacciaglia be compensated at a rate of \$400.00 per year.

**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution reappointing Betsy Knapp to the Board of Assessment Review. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law Section 523, the Town Board of the Town of Owego is permitted to appoint members of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review; and

WHEREAS the Town Board of the Town of Owego wishes to re-appoint a member to the Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/01/24 to 09/30/2029;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Owego re-appoints Betsy Knapp to serve as a member of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review retroactive 10/1/2024 through 9/30/2029; and it is further

RESOLVED that Betsy Knapp be compensated at a rate of \$400.00 per year.

5. Schedule 2025 Budget Public Hearing

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to schedule the Public Hearing on the 2025 Preliminary Budget on November 6, 2024 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Supervisor Castellucci reported for Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator, that employees of the Highway, Utilities and Parks Departments will participate in a hearing evaluation coinciding with County employees' testing. Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, stated that he initiated this process in order to ensure hearing safety of the Town employees that work with loud machinery.

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment -

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Burt, Deputy Town Clerk