

March 5, 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 –

The Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

Present: Supervisor Castellucci, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum

Absent: Jonathan Marks and Gary Hellmers.

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the February 22, 2024 Regular Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – None

D. Public Hearings – None

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – reported that he spoke at the recent meeting of the Tioga County Historians on research techniques. He also informed the Board that he will be talking about self-publication on April 22nd.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – reported that Taxable Status Day is done and his office has about 400 exemptions to process. Lastly, he stated that he is preparing for the Tentative Roll.

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that the seasonal camping letters were sent last week and half of those sites have already been reserved. Camping will open on April 15th.

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that the results of the Griffin Road investigation have been sent to the engineers to develop a plan to properly fix the issues. Lastly, he stated they have begun site work for the Valley Road culvert replacement.

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – reported that she and her staff has processed a total of \$16.8 million. This equates to 82% of her total warrant. She then reviewed that the corporation: Lereta submitted their very large payment two days into the penalty period. With help from the Association of Towns Legal Department, she was able to enforce the penalty which resulted in almost \$17,000 of revenue for the Town. She thanked her staff for the tremendous amount of work they did to process those payments. Lastly, she stated that General Code has notified her that the Town has not readopted the Code since the 1980s, and she shared information about a recodification option offered by General Code.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the monthly reports of the Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning Administrator are on file in his office. Next, he stated that the Concerts in the Park schedule has been released. The Supervisor then explained action needs to be taken in order to apply for the Floyd Hooker Grant. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the application for the Floyd Hooker Grant which will fund the summer recreation camp. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** Next, he reviewed a resolution to apply for 100% funding for the Foster Valley bridge replacement. No action was taken as Councilmember Jochum had not been able to read it before the meeting. Lastly, the Supervisor shared an update on the Farmer Brown Solar Project: the Bond is 1.5% of the cost, the plan will be reviewed every 3 years, and there is an escalator scale of 2%.

Councilmember Morgan for Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that a new sludge transfer pump is needed at WWTP#1. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve in-kind replacement of sludge transfer pump at WWTP #1 in the amount of \$12,148 from Shrier-Martin who is the sole distributor and meets the terms of the Town of Owego Procurement Policy. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

F. Privilege of the floor –

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, asked if there are any planned paving or utility projects planned for the Tioga Terrace neighborhood. The Supervisor said there will be, but details won't be decided until funding from the State is finalized.

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

1. Letter of resignation – Lindstrom

Supervisor Castellucci reviewed the letter detailing that Joann Lindstrom's last day would be March 7th. **Councilmember Jochum made a reluctant motion to accept the resignation letter of Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator. The motion was seconded with even more reluctance by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

2. Notice of Summer hours – Highway

The Supervisor reviewed that the Highway Department will switch to 4 ten hour days beginning April 29th and ending September 27th.

H. Abstracts -

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

AO-General Fund	260,958.78
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	5,328.78
DB-Highway-Town Outside	37,420.15
FO-Water Districts	26,014.82
FA-Route 38 Water	1.75
GO-Sewer Districts	8,764.87
GA-Route 38 Sewer	23.75
HN-NY Rising-Shared Services Building	3,048.00
	<u>\$ 341,560.90</u>

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Jochum – no report

Councilmember Morgan - reported during E. Reports of Department Heads

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Truck purchase – Highway

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-750 dump truck with plow from Friendly Ford in Geneva, New York. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego adopted its 2024 budget on November 7, 2023;
and

WHEREAS, funds were budgeted under the Highway Repairs Equipment Fund for the purchase of a 2025 Ford F-750 ten foot dump truck with plow; and

WHEREAS, said dump truck can be purchased from Friendly Ford, 1077 Route 5 & 20, Geneva, NY 14456, State Contract # PC69149, Award #23166, for a total of \$122,844.56.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town of Owego Highway Department is authorized to purchase a 2025 Ford F-750 ten foot dump truck with plow from Friendly Ford, 1077 Route

5 & 20, Geneva, NY 14456, State Contract # PC69149, Award #23166, for a total of \$122,844.56.

L. Second Privilege of the floor – none

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:52 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy
Town Clerk

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