

**July 15, 2025**  
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

Council:

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Pam Brown, Town Clerk  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

Absent: Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent  
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor

The supervisor called the meeting to order, the clerk called the roll, and Gary Hellmers led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting are not complete and will be presented at the August 05, 2025 meeting.

C. Consideration of bids-None

D. Public Hearings- None

E. Reports of Department Heads

Councilmember Hellmers for Rick Pedro- A request for Julie Howrilka and Rick Pedro to attend the NYS Assessors Association Training and Conference on October 5-9, 2025 in Lake George, NY with all reasonable expenses paid. They have implemented arrangements for coverage in the office while attending the conference.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve Julie Howrilka and Rick Pedro attending the NYS Assessors Association Training and Conference on October 5-9, 2025 with all reasonable expenses to be paid. The motion was seconded by Council Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

Peter Gorton, Town Historian- Janna M. Rudler, Grants and Technical Services Manager for the Preservation League of New York State, met with the Waits Cemetery Corporation at the Southside Fire Station to give advice on rehabilitation, restoration and reuse of the historic Waits Church structure. The Town Historian is applying to the Pomeroy Foundation for an historic marker for that church.

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor- Hiawatha Soccer would like to put a shed by the Dog Park to store their equipment. Hiawatha Soccer would have their own key and have their own insurance.

**A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to approve Hiawatha soccer installing a shed, to hold equipment, behind the dog park. Hiawatha Soccer will have their own key. The shed and its contents will be covered under Hiawatha's insurance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities, no report  
Irene Graven, Town attorney, no report  
Pam Brown, Town Clerk, no report

Don Castellucci Jr., Town Supervisor-Valley Rd. over Pumpelly Creek (BIN 2218790) Bridge Replacement- At this time **A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to allow Supervisor Castellucci to sign the Architectural/Engineering Consultant Contract and send a check for up to \$1500 to get the project started. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

The children's summer camp at Waterman is going well. The Town is being asked for an additional \$2,000 from Waterman for their summer camp program. The previous contract was \$30,000. The town received \$6,500 from the Floyd Hooker Foundation this year and are waiting to hear from the Tioga County Youth Bureau to see how much funding we will receive from them. Last year we received \$9,000 from the Bureau. We have budgeted \$28,000 for the Town. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the new contract for \$32,000 with Waterman. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

Planning & Zoning's June monthly report is on file in the Supervisor's office. The Town Clerk's May & June monthly report is on file in the Supervisor's office. No monthly report from the Supervisor as the Bookkeeper has been quit ill. Hopefully the previous three month's reports will be available for the next Town Board meeting.

F. Privilege of the floor-

Rose, Sequoia Ln., Happy to hear highway is on track with their budget. Would like to know the plan for purchasing salt this year.

Bill, S. Owego, His windshield was hit and broken with a stone from an unsecured load on a Town truck. Drivers need to check tailgate and top shoot box for loose stone.

Paul, Lori Dr., Previously owned Farmer Brown's. The person he sold it to let the property go unattended. Farmer Brown kept the property in top shape. Everyone should follow the same rules. Farmer Brown asked if Code Enforcement could tell the new owner to clean the property.

Paul, Owego, Would like to know if the Rhodes Rd. Bridge would ever be fixed.

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers-None

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.**

AO-General Fund	111,797.59
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	18,804.38
DB-Highway-Town Outside	492,701.17
FO-Water Districts	11,864.21
FA-Route 38 Water	1,375.75
GO-Sewer Districts	29,655.32
GA-Route 38 Sewer	13,344.75
L1 - Lighting District 1	37.26
L2 – Lighting District 2	183.40
L3 – Lighting District 3	73.19
L4 – Lighting District 4B	50.02
L5 – Lighting District 5	47.74
L6 – Lighting District 6	212.50
L7 – Lighting District 7	49.14
L8 – Lighting District 8	37.32
L9 – Lighting District #9	13.89
LA – Lighting District 4A	16.72
LX – Lighting District 10	<u>20.73</u>
	\$680,285.08

I. Unfinished Business- None

J. Reports of Standing Committees-

Councilmember Morgan-None  
Councilmember Jochum- None  
Councilmember Marks- None  
Councilmember Hellmers- None

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business-

1. Well Head Permit- Planning & Zoning-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to grant the Well Head Protection Permit, Wellhead permit #2-2025, submitted by Sure Scan Corporation, 941 Rt. 38, Owego, NY. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously approved.**

2. Proclamation- Kuhlman Family, Tioga Gardens-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers to adopt the following Proclamation honoring the Kuhlman Family & Tioga Gardens. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

**WHEREAS**, in 1975 the Kuhlman family had a vision and started Tioga Gardens as a produce farm, with one greenhouse; and

**WHEREAS**, over the years, the business has expanded to include a 16 greenhouse garden center, the centerpiece of which is "The Dome", which contains an indoor tropical garden; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga Gardens is a well-respected nursery and landscaping enterprise; and

**WHEREAS**, most recently added was Reflections event venue that brings individuals to enjoy their beautiful grounds; and

**WHEREAS**, Tioga Gardens employs over 35 members of our community and supports our local businesses; and

**WHEREAS**, the Owego Town Board would like to honor the entire Kuhlman family;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the Owego Town Board proclaims Wednesday July 16, 2025 as Tioga Gardens Day in the Town of Owego and would like to thank them for their numerous contributions to our community over the past fifty years.

L. Second Privilege of the floor- No one wished to speak at this time.

M. Executive session if needed-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to enter Executive Session at 7:05. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to exit Executive Session at 7:14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve a Temporary New Hire for the Town Clerk's office. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

N. Adjournment- Motion to adjourn at 7:16 by Councilmember Morgan

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Pam Brown, Town Clerk**