

October 07, 2025  
6:30 p.m.  
2354 State Route 434  
Apalachin, New York

A. Call to order, roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance

Council:

Present Supervisor Donald Castellucci Jr., Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum,  
and Gary Hellmers

Absent: Jonathan Marks

Department Heads:

Present: Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Pam Brown, Town Clerk  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian  
Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Absent: Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor  
Mike Roberts, Superintendent  
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities

The Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Clerk called the roll, and Phil Baker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

Minutes of the September 16, 2025 meeting stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids-None

D. Public Hearings- None

E. Reports of Department Heads

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor- This weekend a 5K was held at Hickories Park hosted by Waterman Center. Camping season is winding down.

Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator- At the last fire department meeting a suggestion was made to organize a Truck or Treat at Hickories Park on October 31, 2025. Local Fire, EMS, and Police Departments will be there with trucks and ambulances. Local businesses could also set up and give out candy, but would not be allowed to sell their products. WEBO will be broadcasting live. **A motion was made by Council Hellmers to approve the Truck or Treat in the Park. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

Peter Gordon, Town Historian- No report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney- No report

Pam Brown, Town Clerk- A phone call was received from Mark Johnson, who had attended a previous meeting, with a complaint about a culvert in his yard. He wanted to thank the Highway Department for the excellent job done on the culvert.

Supervisor Castellucci- Planning & Zoning and Town Clerk's Monthly Reports are on file in the Supervisor's office. There was a vehicle accident in front of the Shared Services Building involving a Town pick up truck. The accident involved two other vehicles. The driver was underinsured and the claim is being worked through. Supervisor Castellucci is sending an email tomorrow to Department Heads to determine when they would like to meet to go over their budget. Budgets will be received by close of business day 10/09/2025. He will be out of town October 17, 22, and 31.

#### F. Privilege of the floor-

Meredith, Tioga Terrace- The Tioga Terrace Civic Association would like permission to clear invasive plants growing on the path between Glann Rd. and Brookside Ave West.

Rose Howard, Sequoia Ave.- When will storm drain's be cleaned out?

Matt, works for Wagner Lumber- Matt bought timber from a property on Cafferty Ln. and recently found out that a pipe needs to be replaced to be able to drive the lumber trucks over. What and when can something be done.

Jim Tomaine, Crestview-When they worked on the road they took up the black top and then tarred and graveled. What was the purpose of doing that.

Dave and Julie Smith, Montrose Tpke.- Concerned there is no Solar development plan to organize why we are doing this. Nothing in it for residents. Could destroy farm land. David has been in energy busy for over 25 years. Residents need to understand what is going on. Would like to see public meeting informing residents what is going on. David does not see any tax benefits to this. What do we do when we are left with a mess? No benefit to this. Is this going to build our community up or tear it down?

Meredith, Tioga Terrace, - Gives Town Board credit for being knowledgeable about solar.

#### G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers- none

#### H. Abstracts-

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

AO-General Fund	\$17,784.77
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	17,310.35
DB-Highway-Town Outside	303,378.81
FO-Water Districts	18,782.84
FA-Route 38 Water	1,346.93
GO-Sewer Districts	11,771.03

	173.48
L1 - Lighting District 1	29.22
L2 – Lighting District 2	163.69
L3 – Lighting District 3	58.06
L4 – Lighting District 4B	44.99
L5 – Lighting District 5	37.83
L6 – Lighting District 6	187.64
L7 – Lighting District 7	44.73
L8 – Lighting District 8	32.90
L9 – Lighting District #9	12.79
LA – Lighting District 4A	15.45
LX – Lighting District 10	<u>18.93</u>
	\$371,194.44

I. Unfinished Business-

1. Decommissioning Plan for Valley Solar NY LLC-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the Decommissioning Plan for Valley Solar NY LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and approved on 3-yes to 1-no (Councilmember Jochum) vote.**

For the record Councilmember Morgan wanted it noted that on March 27, 2025 the Decommissioning agreement was \$124,091.00 and on September 23, 2025 the Decommissioning Agreement is \$6,412,146.00.

J. Reports of Standing Committees-

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

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business-

1. Congressional Resolution Supporting Energy Choice

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum support the following resolution supporting Energy Choice. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONGRESSMAN NICK LANGWORTHY’S ENERGY CHOICE ACT (H.R.3699, S.1945) AND IN OPPOSITION TO GOVERNMENT-MANDATED NATURAL GAS BANS**

WHEREAS, affordable and reliable energy is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of New York families, businesses, and communities; and

WHEREAS, natural gas remains a dependable, cost-effective, and clean-burning energy

source used by millions of New Yorkers to heat their homes, cook their food, and power their businesses; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, New York State enacted the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA), which mandates aggressive emissions reductions and serves as the foundation for sweeping energy restrictions, including efforts to phase out natural gas; and

WHEREAS, building on the CLCPA, Governor Kathy Hochul and the New York State Legislature in 2023 enacted provisions in the state budget banning natural gas and other fossil fuel hookups in most new residential and commercial buildings, effective 2026 for smaller buildings, and 2029 for larger buildings, thereby eliminating consumer choice and limiting access to affordable energy; and

WHEREAS, Governor Hochul has publicly supported these bans and related measures as part of her administration's climate and energy agenda, despite widespread concerns that such mandates will increase costs, strain grid reliability, and restrict energy diversity; and

WHEREAS, these top-down policies undermine affordability, threaten reliability during peak demand, and strip away the freedom of consumers and businesses to choose the energy sources that best meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Congressman Nick Langworthy of New York and Senator Jim Justice of West Virginia introduced the Energy Choice Act (H.R.3699. S.1945), federal legislation that ensures state and local governments cannot restrict consumer access to natural gas and other affordable energy sources, thereby protecting freedom of choice for New Yorkers and all Americans; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Choice Act would safeguard households, small businesses, hospitals, farmers, and manufacturers from harmful government overreach and preserve access to an "all-of-the-above" energy strategy that strengthens reliability and affordability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Owego Town Board strongly supports the Energy Choice Act as introduced by Congressman Langworthy (H.R.3699) and Senator Justice (S.1945) and stands firmly opposed to New York State's natural gas bans, the CLCPA-driven restrictions, and other state energy mandates that eliminate consumer choice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Owego Town Board urges Congress to pass the Energy Choice Act to defend consumer choice, protect energy affordability, and preserve reliable access to natural gas for New Yorkers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be sent to Congressman Nick Langworthy, Senator Jim Justice, the New York Congressional delegation, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, Governor Kathy Hochul, and leadership of the New York State Legislature.

2. Schedule 2026 budget Public Hearing-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to schedule a public hearing on November 05, 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

3. Sign Proposal for Doug Hurley-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to table the Sign Proposal for Doug Hurley. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

4. Proposal for Holmes Rd. Culvert Replacement-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to table the Proposal for Holmes Rd. Culvert Replacement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

5. Proposal for Cafferty Lane Culvert Replacement-

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to table the Proposal for the Cafferty Lane Culvert Replacement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

L. Second Privilege of the floor

M. Executive Session if needed

N. Adjournment

**Motion made by Councilmember Morgan to adjourned at 7:42 pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Pam Brown, Town Clerk**

