

February 20, 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 Deputy Supervisor Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum,
Jonathan Marks, and Gary Hellmers

Absent: Supervisor Donald Castellucci

Department Heads:

Present: Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Pam Brown, Town Clerk
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

Absent: Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities

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

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the 1-7-2025 Organizational Meeting and the minutes of the 2-4-2025 Regular Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids-None

D. Public Hearings- None

E. Reports of Department Heads

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor-Renewals of Exemptions are coming in at a faster pace this year.

Mile Roberts, Highway Superintendent-Still dealing with a salt shortage. Three HEO II positions tabled until 03-04-2025.

Peter Gordon-None

Irene Graven-Earned nine AOT Credits at the conference in NYC. Irene also thanked the board for the opportunity to attend the Conference in NYC

Pam Brown, Town Clerk-85% of the tax warrant has been collected.

F. Privilege of the floor

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, wanted to thank the Highway Department drivers for the good job that was done on the roads during the recent bad weather. Rose also wanted to give a special thank you to Melissa Root, Utilities Department, for the great job she did keeping residents informed via face book during the recent water main break.

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

1. Water bill appeal-Amata

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to table the water bill appeal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

****At this time Deputy Supervisor Morgan made a motion to move the discussion of item, I-2. , Vestal Asphalt Bill** The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

Councilmember Morgan made a motion that check number 236291, written to Vestal Asphalt, in the amount of \$129,949.02, be voided and a new check written for \$97,461.76. The new check is for 75% of the amount owed to Vestal Asphalt. The remaining 25% owed would be paid in April after Vestal Asphalt goes back and reviews the roads. Councilmember Morgan stated Vestal Asphalt is in agreement with this plan. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

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.

AO-General Fund	33,536.39
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	24,770.20
DB-Highway-Town Outside	165,231.50
FO-Water Districts	347,491.66
FA-Route 38 Water	999.88
GO-Sewer Districts	89,898.91
GA-Route 38 Sewer	155.83
L1 - Lighting District 1	51.73
L2 – Lighting District 2	219.30
L3 – Lighting District 3	100.86
L4 – Lighting District 4B	59.23
L5 – Lighting District 5	62.77
L6 – Lighting District 6	258.03
L7 – Lighting District 7	57.35
L8 – Lighting District 8	45.47
L9 – Lighting District #9	15.80

LA – Lighting District 4A	19.17
LX – Lighting District 10	24.12
L7 – Lighting District 7	<u>57.35</u>
	\$663,001.20

I. Unfinished Business-

1. Local Law #1, 2025-Constabulary-

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to adopt the following Local Law #1 2025. Appointing Constables for the Town of Owego. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

Local Law 1 of the year 2025
Town of Owego

Appointing Constables for the Town of Owego

Section 1. Authorization of appointment

The Town Board of the Town of Owego hereby modifies the Town of Owego Code and authorizes the establishment and appointment of a Town Constable who shall possess all the powers and duties of constables as allowed pursuant to the laws of the State of New York, but only to the extent as authorized by Resolution of the Town Board of the Town of Owego. This local law is enacted pursuant to the authority of the Municipal Home Rule Law Section 10 of the State of New York, and Sections 24 and 39 of the Town Law of the State of New York.

Section 2. Purpose

It is the purpose of this law to promote the public health, safety and welfare in the Town of Owego, NY by maintaining a Constabulary that shall serve under the supervision of the Town Board.

Section 3. Establishment

The Town Board of the Town of Owego, County of Tioga, hereby authorizes the establishment of the position of Constable. The personnel shall be appointed every two (2) years by the Town Board. Said Constable shall have all the power and authority conferred upon Constables by the General Laws and Criminal Procedure Law of the State of New York.

Section 4. Qualifications

To be eligible for the position of Owego Town Constable, a person must have graduated from high school or possess a high school equivalency diploma, must have no felony convictions, must be a minimum age of 21 years at the time of appointment, must possess valid Police or

Peace Officer status with NYS Best Management Practices and must possess appropriate level NYS driver's license at time of appointment; to be continuously maintained during employment.

Section 5. Duties

The duties of the Constable shall be:

- a) To control crowds at any public function within the Town of Owego;
- b) To attend proceedings of the Justice Court and to maintain order, assist Justices and those who have business before the court;
- c) To attend meetings at the Town Hall as necessary to maintain order and remove disorderly persons from such meetings;
- d) Other duties and limitations as described in the Town Constable job description.

Section 6. Weapons

The carrying of any weapon by a Town Constable shall be approved by the Town Board and only after said Constable has received certification for use of the weapon.

Section 7. Termination of Employment

Said Constable shall serve at the pleasure of the Town Board and may be removed from office with or without cause.

Section 8. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

2. Vestal Asphalt Bill-

Moved to above abstracts

3. Appoint Ethics Committee-

Councilmember Jochum appointed Kelly Whittemore
Councilmember Morgan appointed Maryann VanBurger
Councilmember Marks appointed Jane Nichols
Councilmember Hellmers appointed Deb Howard
Supervisor Castellucci appointed Cheri Grener

4. Town Clerk Annual Report-

**Councilmember Jochum motioned to approve as submitted.
Councilmember Hellmers seconded and unanimously carried.**

J. Reports of Standing Committees-
Councilmember Jochum-None
Councilmember Morgan-None
Councilmember Marks-None
Councilmember Hellmers-None

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business-

1. Reappoint Sole Assessor-
Councilmember Marks made a motion to adopt the following resolution reappointing Rick Pedro as Sole Assessor. Councilmember Jochum seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried out.

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego Town Board had previously appointed Richard J. Pedro on August 1, 2022 to September 30, 2025, to complete the remainder of the previous six year term of Sole Assessor in the Town of Owego, which commenced October 1, 2019, ending on September 30, 2025; and

WHEREAS, Richard J. Pedro has and continues to maintain the NYS Real Property Certification and Educational requirements necessary for continued qualification as Sole Assessor in the Town of Owego.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Richard J. Pedro be and hereby is reappointed to the position of Sole Assessor of the Town of Owego, with said reappointment commencing on October 1, 2025 until September 30, 2031, a six year term.

2. New hire Parks Department-
A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to approve a new hire for the parks department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS the Town Board approved the hiring of a new employee for the position of Laborer working up to 40 hours per two week pay period, with benefits, for the Town of Owego Parks Department; and

WHEREAS Dylan Weaver has been offered and has accepted such position as of February 24, 2025 at \$16.75 per hour;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that Dylan Weaver is hereby hired to fill this position at \$16.75 per hour, working up to 40 hours per week, with benefits, effective February 24, 2025 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire

L. Second Privilege of the floor-

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, asked how many Constables we would be hiring

M. Executive Session if needed

N. Adjournment

Motion made by Councilmember Morgan to adjourn at 6:44

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown, Town Clerk