

March 04, 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 –

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

Council:

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

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci

Department Heads:

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

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

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the February 20, 2025 Regular Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – None

D. Public Hearings – None

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Councilmember Morgan for Supervisor Castellucci, reported that the monthly reports of the Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning Administrator are on file in the Supervisor's office. Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Twenty-five of the thirty seasonal camping sites are reserved for 2025 at Hickories Park.

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, received a request from West Learning Center in Apalachin to post a speed limit sign on Academy St.

Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator, reported Tina Tamaro, Secretary for P&Z, has completed her fifty-two week probation and is now official. Office records have been boxed and moved to the vault at the Shared Service Building. Yearly Code Enforcement report has been submitted to DOS. Fire inspections have been moved to a spread sheet that will notify P&Z every time a business or rental is due for an inspection. He will be watching the river with the upcoming rain. Tina will be taking a 4 hour online Notary course.

At this time Bill asked for a motion to participate in a special program for all NYSEG and RG&E businesses, farms and non-profits. The program will provide LED lighting fixtures for free. A short application needs to be filled out and the town needs to provide a tax exempt certificate and electric bill. **A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers to apply for the EZ Energy Save program. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

Peter Gordon, Historian, Continuing to interview long term residents on Whittemore Hill Rd., Foster Valley Rd. and Day Hollow Rd. for historical information.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney, Attorney/Client

Pam Brown, Town Clerk, No Report

Councilmember Hellmers for Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, reported taxable status ended on 03/03/202. The 2025 Tax roll is now locked and any paperwork that comes in will be for the 2026 tax roll. Now in the process of calculating and inputting exemptions for those who meet the criteria, denying those who do not. Reviewing the last surge of sales from the County in order to have everything accurate for the printing of the Tentative Tax roll, 05/01/2025.

#### F. Privilege of the floor –

David and Julie Smith, Montrose Turnpike Owego, have concerns about the possible installation of Solar Farms on the Montrose Turnpike and surrounding areas. They would like to know the States influence on Solar Farm projects. Councilmember Morgan and Bill Carrigg, P&Z Administrator, offered to meet at a later date to discuss this issue more thoroughly, as it could be quite time consuming.

Barb Craig, Valley Rd., asked if it would be possible to have a community meeting about Solar Farms, as there are many residents with questions.

#### G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfer -

##### 1. Notice of Highway Department Summer hours.

Summer hours begin April 28, 2025 and end September 25, 2025. The hours of operation will be from 5:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Normal hours will resume Monday, September 29, 2025.

H. Abstracts-

**Councilmember Hellmers 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	24,030.21
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	10,852.79
DB-Highway-Town Outside	120,291.40
FO-Water Districts	29,504.64
FA-Route 38 Water	.55
GO-Sewer Districts	166,299.47
GA-Route 38 Sewer	<u>39.43</u>
	\$351,018.49

I. Unfinished Business –

1. Highway Department HEO Positions

**A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers to table acting on the HEO positions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Jochum - no report  
Councilmember Morgan - no report  
Councilmember Marks - no report  
Councilmember Hellmers - no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Proposal for new website

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the proposal for a new website hosted by Freshy, at a cost of \$2720.00 for the first year. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers. This motion is contingent upon the Town's Attorney review and Supervisor Castellucci's or Deputy Supervisor Morgan's signature.**

2. New Hire- Constable

**A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers to adopt a resolution hiring a Constable. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego recently created the position of Town Constable by duly adopting a local law; and

WHEREAS, Rudy Parker is qualified and able to take this position effective March 4, 2025, at an hourly rate of \$25.00, on an as-needed basis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that effective March 4, 2025, Rudy Parker is hereby hired to fill the position of Town Constable at \$25.00 per hour on an as-needed basis.

L. Second Privilege of the floor - none

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown, Town Clerk