

November 05, 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 Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll Irene Graven led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

Present: Supervisor Castellucci, Dean Morgan, Gary Hellmers, and Jonathan Marks
Absent: Craig Jochum.

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator

Absent: Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the November 05, 2025 regular meeting will stand as submitted.

C. Consideration of bids – None

D. Public Hearings –

Supervisor Castellucci open the Public Hearing for Water Extension # 13.

Consolidated water District Extension 13 has an ad valorem tax levy, calculated by the residents assessed property values. A resolution is not need due to the Ad Valorem tax levy calculation. The levy is \$3.32592/\$1000 of Assessed Value

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to approve Consolidated Water District Extension 13. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

Supervisor Castellucci opened the public hearing for District # 14.

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the following resolution regarding the Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026, of anticipated revenues and expenditures for Consolidated Sewer District, Extension 14 of the Town of Owego has been prepared and such estimate includes the cost of construction of a sewage collection system including sewage mains, laterals, and necessary appurtenances to convey said sewage from said district to an interceptor sewer connected with Water Pollution Control Plant No. 2 in said Town, including the acquisition of necessary land and an assessment roll describing the lots of land in said Consolidated Sewer District which have been benefited thereby, together with the names of the owners of said lots, and such estimate amounts to **Five Thousand Seven Hundred Thirty Dollars and Seventy Three Cents (\$5730.73)** and such estimate and assessment roll have been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Owego,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on November 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Town Board met at its meeting room at the Town of Owego Town Hall, Route 434, Apalachin, New York and to hear and consider any objections made to said assessment roll and that notice of such meeting was given by publication in the Tioga County Courier.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that as nearly as may be ascertained, the proportion of benefit that each lot or parcel will derive from the improvement in such district is equal, whether the lot is vacant or occupied;

THEREFORE, there being **69.84 units**, each unit, occupied or vacant, is hereby assessed the sum of **Eighty Two Dollars and Six Cents (\$82.055126)** as shown on said assessment roll.

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing for Sewer Extension 15.

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the following resolution regarding the Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2026, of anticipated revenues and expenditures for Consolidated Sewer District, Extension 15 of the Town of Owego has been prepared and such estimate includes

the cost of construction of a sewage collection system including sewage mains, laterals, and necessary appurtenances to convey said sewage from said district to an interceptor sewer connected with Water Pollution Control Plant No. 2 in said Town, including the acquisition of necessary land and an assessment roll describing the lots of land in said Consolidated Sewer District which have been benefited thereby, together with the names of the owners of said lots, and such estimate amounts to **Twelve Thousand Two Hundred and Eighty Eight Dollars (\$12,288)** and such estimate and assessment roll have been filed with the Town Clerk of the Town of Owego,

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on November 5, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at which time the Town Board met at its meeting room at the Town of Owego Town Hall, Route 434, Apalachin, New York and to hear and consider any objections made to said assessment roll and that notice of such meeting was given by publication in the Tioga County Courier.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that as nearly as may be ascertained, the proportion of benefit that each lot or parcel will derive from the improvement in such district is equal, whether the lot is vacant or occupied;
THEREFORE, there being **153.61 units, each unit**, occupied or vacant, is hereby assessed the sum of **Seventy Nine Dollars and Ninety Nine Cents (\$79.994792)** as shown on said assessment roll.

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to close the Public Hearing at this time. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

2. Preliminary Budget for 2026

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget for 2026.

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to pass the 2026 budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and was unanimously carried.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

INSURANCE/WORKERS COMPENSATION/RETIREMENT/ASSESSMENT

- Medical Insurance is up approximately 12%
- Dental Insurance increased 5%

- Workman's Compensation decreased approximately 9%
- Retirement increased 4%
- Liability Insurance increased 7%
- Town wide Assessments increased 6,834,996
- Outside Village Assessments increased 4,870,420

GENERAL FUND (A FUND)

- Budget is down approximately 3.76% from last year.
- Town personnel will receive on average a 5% increase.

GENERAL FUND TOWN OUTSIDE (B)

- Operating Budget is down approximately 3.76%.
- Town personnel will receive on average a 5% increase.

HIGHWAY FUND (DB)

- Operating Budget up approximately 9.33%
- CHIPS is expected is expected to stay flat
- Town personnel will receive 5% increase.

WATER/SEWER DISTRICTS

Water Districts

- \$42.00 for first 6000 gallons Min. Water bill \$89.00
- \$6.50 for each 1000 gallons after Min. sewer bill \$91.40
- \$6.00 billing each reading Min water and sewer
- \$41.00 capital each billing = \$123.00/ year \$180.40
- \$541.20/per 3 billing cyc
- Beginning January 1, 2026, the minimum usage will remain the same as 2025. Water bills will be based on a minimum usage up to six thousand gallons at a rate of \$42.00, plus the \$6.00 billing fee for a total of \$48.00 dollars per cycle. There will be a charge of \$ 6.50 per thousand/gallons for additional usage. An increase of .25 cents per thousand gallons for additional usage. Capital charges will increase \$39.91 to 41.00 per billing cycle. The annual minimal bill will be \$267.00. This rate represents an increase of \$1.09 per year.

SEWER DISTRICTS

- \$50.40 for first 6000 gallons
- \$7.42 for each 1000 gallons after
- \$41.00 Capital charge each billing = \$123.00/ year
- \$153.33 Flat Rate billing = \$459.99/year
- \$2,438/ year Marshland Links
- \$105,000/ year Lockheed Martin

- Sewer bills will remain the same as 2025.

Route 38 District 7

Water

\$40.00 min bill for first 7600 gallons
\$6.25 for each 1000 gallons after
\$5.00 billing each reading = \$20.00/ year
\$3.00 / 1000 gallons capital charge

Sewer

Flat Rate \$375/Billing \$1400/yr.
\$30/1000 gallons after 17,600
\$5/1000 gallons capital charge

LIGHTING DISTRICTS

- Generally remain the same for 2026.

New York State Property Tax Cap

- ❖ NYS limits the amount local governments and most school districts can increase property taxes to the lower of 2% or the rate of inflation. This year the Town's allowable levy is 2%
 - Allowable levy limit is \$3,725,627.70
 - Taxes proposed in Final budget to be levied are \$3,714,064
 - The Town is currently under the Tax Cap by \$11,564.00

Tax Rates

- ❖ **Townwide** taxes are paid by all property owners in the Town and Village
 - Tax Rate is \$1.579496 per \$1,000 of assessment – increase of \$0.9 from last year
 - Example – Home assessed for \$64,033 will pay \$101.14 in total Town taxes – an increase of \$5.85 from last year
- ❖ **Townwide/Town Outside Village** taxes are paid by property owners outside of the Village
 - Tax rate is \$4.615989 per \$1,000 of assessment – increase of \$0.07 from last year
 - Example – Home Assessed for \$96,992 will pay \$447.71 in total Town taxes – an increase of \$6.95 from last year

Major Purchases

Highway

Dump Truck

Utilities

Excavator \$135,000

Hopper for grit S2 plant \$80,000

Parks Ferris 6200 Mower \$22,000

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the 2026 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Peter Gordon, Town Historian, Today Peter received permission from the owners of the old Stackmore building, to remove and restore the Veterans plaque from the side of the building. The plaque will then go to the Museum on Front St.

Hank Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent, Getting ready for winter. Plows are on. No sanders yet. Leaf pick up is going slow. Hope to get second leaf blower soon. It is being built and hope to have it by next week.

Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator, Bill wanted to thank Hank Hines, Town Board, Utilities, Johnsons Pools and Spas, the attendees, Brenda Burrell, Melissa Root, Tom Ferguson, and everyone that was a part of the first Truck or Treat. There are several training opportunities coming up. December 10-12 is a mandatory training at Tioga Downs for myself and Code Officers regarding NYS Code. Also there is a Flood Plain School in Lansing Bill will attend on December 12th. Dean Morgan and Bill will be attending a class in Schuyler County on December 15th concerning 26C Markets. Bill has an opportunity to work with soil and water planting trees on FEMA buyout properties.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor, Working on Resolutions that were passed. Also, working on sewer and water relevy. The County has sent over tax totals in preparation for property tax bills.

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, Campground closed last week. Camping brought in \$293,060. This is a \$20.00 difference from last year.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney-No report

Pam Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver, Preparing for tax season.

Dean Morgan for Tyson Stiles, Utilities Director –Outside User Agreement between the Town of Owego and Mark Fedorchak which would allow Mr. Fedorchak to hook up to the municipal water and sewer district that are accessible to him but not within the Town's water or sewer district and the owner wishes to be connected to the Town's sewer and water facilities. This is for a single residence, all at owner's cost. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to allow Supervisor Castellucci to sign the Outside user agreement between the Town of Owego and Mark Fedorchak. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

There is also a Hold Harmless Agreement between the Town and Wagner Hardwoods, LLC, 4060 Gaskill Rd., Owego, NY. Wagner Hardwoods has a harvesting project on Cafferty

Ln. Endicott. It is a dead end road with no other way out. There is an issue with a culvert on Cafferty Lane with a 12 ton weight limit. Wagner Hardwoods will install metal plates which will improve the structure to accommodate trucks exceeding the 12 ton weight limit. The plates will be returned to Wagner Hardwoods. **A motion was made at this time by Councilmember Morgan to allow Supervisor Castellucci to sign the Hold Harmless Agreement with Wagner Hardwoods, LLC. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

At this time Supervisor Castellucci reported DOT is doing a paving project where the last one left off, which would run 4.2 miles west. This project will be done in 2026/27/28. Supervisor Castellucci met with Tyson and Kelly to go over new payroll company and iron out issues.

F. Privilege of the floor – Midland Asphalt Representative, Asking for payment.

H. Abstracts -

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

AO-General Fund	71,809.10
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	17,458.12
DB-Highway-Town Outside	340,607.84
FO-Water Districts	23,771.91
FA-Route 38 Water	502.40
GO-Sewer Districts	43,800.32
GA-Route 38 Sewer	13,761.26
	\$ 511,710.95

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –
Councilmember Hellmers – none
Councilmember Morgan –none
Councilmember Marks – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

L. Second Privilege of the floor – Julie Smith, Montrose Turnpike, Questioned the status of where we are year to date with the budget?

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment-**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Brown
Town Clerk & Tax Receiver