

October 18, 2022
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 -

Deputy Supervisor Morgan called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll, and Joann Lindstrom led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, Jonathan Marks, and Cheri Grenier

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci

Department Heads:

Present: Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: none

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the September 20, 2022 meeting will stand as presented

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings –

1. Consolidated Water District Extension 13

Deputy Supervisor Morgan opened the Public Hearing and reviewed that this special district is an ad valorem charge. There was no one wishing to speak.

Councilmember Grenier made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Consolidated Water District Extension 13. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

2. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14

Deputy Supervisor Morgan opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the details of this special district which is the Toby Road/ Debra Lee Drive area. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Grenier made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

3. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15

Deputy Supervisor Morgan opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the details of this special district which is the Stephens Road area. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Grenier made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

4. Consolidated Water District Extension 20

Deputy Supervisor Morgan opened the Public Hearing and reviewed the details of this special district which is the Tioga Terrace area. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Grenier made a motion to close the Public Hearing for Consolidated Water District Extension 20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – no report

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that bio-solids are being spread this week. He also stated that his last Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator has given resignation notice. The lack of Operators will create major problems for the Town if the situation is not rectified soon.

Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – no report other than there will be a Planning Board meeting next week.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that she has interviewed and chosen a person to work in her office Part Time from December through February. Lastly, she also shared a resident request for penalty forgiveness due to loss of work during the Covid pandemic. This resident had submitted this request in early 2022, but never heard back from the Town Board.

Deputy Supervisor Morgan – reported that he had a meeting with a FEMA representative regarding reimbursement for the Long Creek Road Bridge replacement project. After four years and several Town appeals, \$180,000 will be reimbursed.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, requested to buy a piece of Town land near her house and have a Post Office put there. Deputy Supervisor Morgan explained that it was not for sale. She also stated she wants to buy another parcel set to have a Dollar General Store, or have it spot zoned as a sanctuary for birds. The Deputy Supervisor stated she would have to speak with the current owners about purchasing that parcel.

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices and Transfers – none

H. Abstracts-

Councilmember Marks 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.

A0 - General Fund	13,150.90
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	94,351.10
DB - Highway-Town Outside	68,300.07
F0 - Water Districts	30,061.55
FA - Route 38 Water	85.52
G0- Sewer Districts	480,217.29
GA – Route 38 Sewer	292.39
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	101,458.54
L1 – Lighting District 1	79.13
L2 - Lighting District 2	208.36
L3 – Lighting District 3	92.43
L4 - Lighting District 4B	56.45
L5 – Lighting District 5	60.32
L6 - Lighting District 6	244.45
L7 - Lighting District 7	55.00
L8 - Lighting District 8	42.98
L9 - Lighting District #9	15.24
LA – Lighting District 4A	18.48
LX – Lighting District 10	23.10
TA – Trust and Agency Fund	<u>3,471.17</u>
	\$792,284.47

I. Unfinished Business –

1. Employee upgrades – Highway

Deputy Supervisor Morgan stated that this will agenda item will remain tabled until the next meeting.

- J. Reports of Standing Committees –
Councilmember Marks – no report
Councilmember Grenier – no report
Councilmember Jochum – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14

Deputy Supervisor Morgan reviewed the details for this Special District.

Councilmember Marks made a motion to adopt the following resolution establishing the assessed 2023 rate at \$163.25 for each unit of Consolidated Sewer District Extension 14. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2023, 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 **Eleven Thousand, Four Hundred and One Dollars and Forty One Cents (\$11,401.41)** 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 October 18, 2022 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 **One Hundred Sixty Three Dollars and Twenty Five Cents (\$163.250)** as shown on said assessment roll.

2. Consolidated Sewer District Extension 15

Deputy Supervisor Morgan reviewed the details for this Special District.

Councilmember Grenier made a motion to adopt the following resolution establishing the assessed 2023 rate at \$78.90 for each unit of 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, 2023, 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, One Hundred Twenty Dollars (\$12,120)** 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 October 18, 2022 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 Eight Dollars and Ninety Cents (\$78.901)** as shown on said assessment roll.

3. Consolidated Water District Extension 20

Deputy Supervisor Morgan reviewed the details for this Special District. **Councilmember Grenier made a motion to adopt the following resolution establishing the assessed 2023 rate at \$260.84 for each unit of Consolidated Water District Extension 20. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, an estimate for the fiscal year commencing January 1, 2023, of the cost of the construction of the water distribution system for Consolidated Water District, Extension 20 in the Town of Owego has been prepared, and an assessment roll describing the lots and parcels of land in said district together with the names of the owners of the several lots and parcels, and such estimate amounts to **Sixteen Thousand, Four Hundred, Eighty Seven Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$16,487.50)** 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 October 18, 2022 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 63.21 units**, each lot or parcel, occupied or vacant, is hereby assessed for its respective number of units at **Two Hundred, Sixty Dollars and Eighty Four Cents (\$260.837) per unit** as shown on said assessment roll.

4. Schedule public Hearing – DeGroat Road rezoning

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to schedule a Public Hearing on November 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM to consider rezoning sections along DeGroat Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.

5. Schedule Public Hearing - Private Outdoor Recreation Special Permit amendment

A motion was made by Councilmember Grenier to schedule a Public Hearing on November 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM to consider an amendment to the Erik Gillette Special Permit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

6. New employee hire – Highway – Decker

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to table this agenda item. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

7. New employee hire – Highway – Stocks

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution hiring Garrett Stocks as MEO I in the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, the approved 2022 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a full time MEO I position; and

WHEREAS, this full time position is vacant and it is necessary to fill this position; and

WHEREAS, Garret D. Stocks has been offered and has accepted such position as of October 17, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$16.48 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Garret D. Stocks at an hourly rate of \$16.48 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective October 17, 2022 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire, subject to satisfactory license/background check and meeting all requirements of pre-employment drug testing.

8. Reschedule Public Hearing – 2023 Town Budget

A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to reschedule the Public Hearing for November 9, 2022 to consider the 2023 Preliminary Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, stated that if the Town can buy a skid steer for more than \$80,000, then it can afford to paint lines on her road. Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent, explained that in New York State, roads that are maintained by Towns shall not have painted lines (roads maintained by the County and State get painted lines).

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk