

February 6, 2024  
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  
Councilmember Marks led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

Present: Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator  
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor  
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the January 2, 2024 Organizational Meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – None

D. Public Hearings – None

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – reported that the book he most recently reedited and published  
(The Hired Man on Horseback) will be illustrated by some of the employees at Carol's  
Art Bar.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – reported that his office is busy processing exemption renewals.

Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that the truck ordered for his department in  
2022 has finally been delivered.

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – reported that she and her staff has processed  
almost \$11 million since the last meeting, for a total of \$14.3 million. This equates to

70% of her total warrant. All of the January payments were reconciled to the penny and disbursed to the proper agencies. Lastly, she stated that this is one of the smoothest starts to a tax season since she began as Receiver 8 years ago, and is very grateful for her deputies' diligent work.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported a need for Attorney/Client privilege after the meeting. Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the monthly reports of the Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning Administrator are on file in his office. Next, he stated that contract renewal with the bookkeepers has increased by only \$500 (the first increase in several years).

**Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract renewal with Local Government Support Solutions. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** The Supervisor then shared the dates that the Tioga County Board of Elections would like to use the Shared Services Building in 2024 (4/2, 6/25, and 11/2). **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to authorize the Supervisor to sign the 2024 Poll Site Agreement with the Tioga County Board of Elections.** Next, he stated the Campville Fire Department submitted a letter requesting that the Town consider milling and repaving the road that accesses their facilities. After a short discussion, it was decided that Attorney Graven would research the situation. The Supervisor then reported that there is a grant for the bridge replacement on Foster Valley Road that requires a committee and a Request for Proposals. **Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to form the Foster Valley Bridge Grant Committee consisting of: Supervisor Castellucci, Councilmember Morgan and Mike Roberts (Highway Superintendent). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** **Another motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to authorize a Request for Proposals for the Foster Valley Bridge project. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.** Lastly, the Supervisor stated that the Governor has released her proposed budget, showing no increases in local government funding. The State Assembly and Senate budgets are due in March.

Hank Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent – reported that he has been working to schedule Arold Construction to look at and assess the pipes under Griffin Drive. Next, he stated that an aluminum box culvert was ordered for Valley Road. Lastly, he reported that a permit from the DEC was necessary to do tree work on Dutchtown Road through Oakley Corners.

#### F. Privilege of the floor –

Vera Clark, Laine Court, stated she is trying to have her house hooked up to receive natural gas for heat as her furnace died. NYSEG told her that the Highway Department would not allow them to dig up part of the road for the connection. The Supervisor stated that the matter would be investigated this week.

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, asked a few questions related to the Tioga Terrace neighborhood.

Beth Paro, Debra Lee Drive, requested that Town Board meetings be streamed via Zoom for people who want to watch without attending.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, questioned some of the salaries of certain Town employees, and then began to speak about her rezoning request.

**\*\*\*At this time the Board decided to act on Agenda item 11: Zoning Change\*\*\***

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, reviewed the request, detailing that: the County Planning Board recommended approval, the Town Planning Board recommended denial and several neighbors submitted letters requesting denial. The P & Z Administrator then reviewed the SEQR for the rezoning request noting that there would be no significant environmental effects. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the SEQR as the proposed action will not have any adverse environmental impacts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried. Another motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt Local Law #1 of 2024 approving the rezoning request for 1536 East Campville Road. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks but failed to pass (0-5).**

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

1. Strawberry Festival parking request – Historic Owego Marketplace

Supervisor Castellucci reviewed that allowing parking at Hickories Park for the Strawberry Festival has worked well in the past. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to allow the Historic Owego Marketplace to use Hickories Park for parking during the Strawberry Festival on June 15, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

H. Abstracts -

**Councilmember Marks made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers. Several questions were asked by Councilmember Marks, including a request for the Parks Department to be responsible for 1/3 of the maintenance costs for the Hickories Park lift station. The motion eventually passed unanimously.**

AO-General Fund	17,674.28
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	8,150.09
DB-Highway-Town Outside	90,999.91
FO-Water Districts	39,757.72
FA-Route 38 Water	1,171.86
GO-Sewer Districts	50,402.39
GA-Route 38 Sewer	23.74
	<u>          </u>
	<b>\$ 208,179.99</b>

I. Unfinished Business –

1. Zoning Change – East Campville Road

This was addressed earlier in the meeting during Privilege of the Floor.

2. Appoint Ethics Committee

**A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the following appointments to the Ethics Committee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

Councilmember Jochum – Kelly Whittemore

Councilmember Marks – Jane Nichols  
Councilmember Morgan – Maryanne Van Burger  
Councilmember Hellmers – Debbie Howard  
Supervisor Castellucci – Cheri Grenier

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – requested Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting.

Councilmember Morgan – shared a request from Steve Palinosky, Tioga County Real Property Director, to use the Shared Services Building for a training session. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to allow Tioga County Institute for Advancement to use the Shared Services Building conference room for a training session February 22, 2024. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

Councilmember Jochum – requested Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting.

Councilmember Marks – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Amend 2024 Salary Resolution

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to amend the 2024 Salary Resolution as listed below to correct the Planning & Zoning Administrator's amount. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, Town employees are paid every two weeks on Thursday, the first payday in 2024 being January 4, 2024, and those persons on the Executive Payroll will be paid for services rendered through the preceding Sunday, and

WHEREAS, those persons on the Executive Payroll will be paid the first payday in 2024 being January 5, 2024, for services rendered from December 18, 2023 through December 31, 2023 which represents ten working days, being paid at the 2023 salary, and

WHEREAS, the paychecks issued thereafter during 2024 will cover two full weeks or ten days and will represent 12/250 of the employees' salary, there being 262 working days and 12 holidays in 2024, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that annual salaries and hourly wages of the following Town officers and employees be paid from Trust & Agency Fund which serves as a payroll account, with monies transferred to such Fund from appropriations of General Fund, Town Wide at the rate stated above, while such persons are employed by the Town of Owego:

Craig Jochum	Councilman	8,240.00/yr.
Dean Morgan	Councilman	8,240.00/yr.
Jonathan Marks	Councilman	8,240.00/yr.
Gary Hellmers	Councilman	8,240.00/yr.
Patrick Hogan	Town Justice	28,987.00/yr.
Donna Joy Bennett	Town Justice	28,987.00/yr.

Donald Castellucci, Jr.	Supervisor	40,215.00/yr.
Donald Castellucci, Jr.	Budget Officer	11,550.00/yr.
Dean Morgan	Dep. Supervisor	1000.00/yr.
Mary Kennedy	Town Clerk	62,329.00/yr.
Mary Kennedy	Tax Receiver	16,712.00/yr.
Mike Roberts	Hwy. Superintendent	76,805.00/yr.
Irene Graven	Town Attorney	71,006.00/yr.
Kyle Fleming	Dog Control Off.	19.37/hr.
Angela Woodruff	P/T Dog Control Off.	
Anna Llewellyn	P/T Dog Control Off.	
	On-Call Weekday	13.10/day
	On-Call Weekend/Holiday	24.02/day
	Call-Out Up to 2 hrs	21.84/each
	Kennel Call Up to 2 hrs	16.38/each
	Office Hours	13.73/hr.
Cheryl Adams	Clerk to the Judge	22.10/hr.
Breanna Spires	Clerk to the Judge	19.30/hr.
Laurie Churchman	P/T Court Clerk Office	15.60/hr.
Connie Goodison	Secretary to the Supervisor	20.98/hr.
JulAnn Howrilka	Assessment Clerk	22.46/hr.
Laurie Churchman	PT Assessors Office	14.74/hr.
Richard Pedro	Assessor	57,881.00/yr.
Laura Burt	Dep. Town Clerk/Receiver	19.71/hr.
Pamela Brown	P/T Clerk	15.60/hr.
Shirley Holmes	P/T Clerk	15.08/hr.
Deb Standinger	P/T Typist	19.79/hr.
Kelly Olmstead	Account/Clerk Typist	21.59/hr.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that annual salaries and hourly wages of the following Town officers and employees be paid from Trust & Agency Fund which serves as a payroll account, with monies transferred to such Fund from appropriations of General Fund, Town Outside at the rate stated above, while such persons are employed by the Town of Owego:

Mary Kennedy	Registrar	925.00/yr.
Laura Burt	Assistant Registrar	514.00/yr.
Philip Baker	Park Maintenance Sup'r.	60,320.00/yr.
Joann Lindstrom	Planning/Zoning Adm.	68,621.00/yr.
Chad Harris	Park Mainten. Assistant	19.76/hr.
Glenn Ellis	Laborer	16.90/hr.
Bryan Winters	Laborer	16.90/hr.

Ronald Schmidt	On Call Mainten. Laborer	26.62/hr.
Jessica Warren	School Guard Captain	300.00/yr.
Nancy Poulton	School Guard Captain	300.00/yr.
	School Guards	14.04/hr.
To be Determined	Office Specialist II	16.50/hr.
To be Determined	Zoning Board of Appeals Sec	50.00/mtg.
To be Determined	Planning Board Secretary	50.00/mtg.
Michael Katchmir	On-Call P/T Code Enforcer Off.	23.08/hr.
Jeffrey Hontz	P/T Code Enforcer Officer	22.88/hr.
William Carrigg	Code Enforcement Officer	27.00/hr.
Brenda Burrell	Code Enforce. Officer Trainee	21.00/hr.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that annual salaries and hourly rates of the following Town Employees be paid from Trust & Agency Fund, which serves as a payroll account, with monies transferred to such Fund from appropriations of various Sewer & Water Districts at the rate stated above while such persons are employed by the Town of Owego:

Keegan, Bulgar	Wastewater Treat Plant Op. Trainee	24.60/hr.
David Coish	Wastewater Treat Plant Op Trainee	30.42/hr.
Robert Fenner	Laborer	22.90/hr.
Maurice Henning	Motor Equipment Op. II	20.09/hr.
Jerrett Thomas	Wastewater Operator Trainee	21.00/hr.
Melissa Root	Accounting Assoc II	17.88/hr.
Fritz Rudin	Wastewater Mait. Supervisor	28.94/hr.
Matt Shofkom	Chief Water Treatment Pl. Op.	30.06/hr.
Tyson Stiles	Director of Utilities	101,920.00/yr.
Kurt, Weed	Laborer	20.17/hr.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that annual salaries and hourly rates of the following Town Employees be paid from Trust & Agency Fund, which serves as a payroll account, with monies transferred to such Fund from appropriations of Highway Funds at the rate stated above while such persons are employed by the Town of Owego:

Tyler Boland	Heavy Equipment Op. II	23.47/hr.
Luke Bumbalough	Motor Equipment Op. I	18.18/hr.
David Denton, Jr.	Heavy Equipment Op. III	24.30/hr.
Mark, Decker	Heavy Equipment Op. I	22.66/hr.

Jeremy Eno	Heavy Equipment Op. I	22.66/hr.
Thomas Ferguson	Motor Equipment Op. III	20.42/hr.
Eric Frederick	Heavy Equipment Op. III	24.30/hr.
Brian Harders	Working Supervisor	26.80/hr.
Henry Hines	Deputy Highway Superint.	61,152.00/yr.
Ryan Kline	Heavy Equipment Op. II	23.47/hr.
Roger Mcfall	P/T Laborer Highway Dept.	20.70/hr.
Ryan Miller	Heavy Equipment Op. II	23.47/hr.
Charles Olmstead	Heavy Equipment Op. II	23.47/hr.
William Perry	Heavy Equipment Op. I	23.47/hr.
Clifford Shaylor	Motor Equipment Op. I	18.18/hr.
Nathan, Sorber	Mechanic Working Supervisor	29.39/hr.
Jeffery, Trafzer	Mechanic	25.57/hr.
Todd VanRiper	Motor Equipment Op. III	20.42/hr.
Tim Valentine	Heavy Equipment Op. III	24.30/hr.
Shawn Weaver	Heavy Equipment Op II	23.47/hr.

And be it further

RESOLVED, that members of the Planning Board each be paid an annual salary of \$1000.00 to be paid semi-annually and the chairman an annual salary of \$1200.00 to be paid semi-annually and members of the Zoning Board be paid an annual salary of \$800.00 each to be paid semi-annually and the chairman an annual salary of \$1000.00 to be paid semi-annually from General Fund-Town Outside:

Planning Board  
Robert Rieg, Chairman

Zoning Board  
Gary Phelps, Chairman

Lisa Baileys  
Lynne Esquivel  
Cheri Grenier  
James Tofte  
Craig Wademan

Janet Brown  
David Kresge  
Jack Legg  
Dan Myers

## 2. New Hire – Parks

**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution hiring Charles Wheeland, III as a Laborer in the Parks Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers 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, Charles J. Wheeland III has been offered and has accepted such position as of February 12, 2024 at \$16.50 per hour;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Charles J. Wheeland III is hereby hired to fill this position at \$16.50 per hour, working up to 40 hours per week, with benefits, effective February 12, 2024 with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire.

3. Declare 2005 Chevy Impala as surplus – Parks

**A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to declare the 2005 Chevy Impala used by the Parks Department as surplus that no longer necessary for Town purposes.**

4. New Hire – Highway

**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution hiring Jacob Decker as an MEO I in the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the approved 2024 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, Jacob Decker has been offered and has accepted such position as of February 12, 2024, at an hourly rate of \$18.18 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks of a probationary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, such full time position shall be filled by Jacob Decker at an hourly rate of \$18.18 per hour, 40 hours per week, with full time benefits, effective February 12, 2024, 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.

5. Vacant Board Member appointment – Planning

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution appointing Eric LaClair to fill the vacancy on the Town of Owego Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego Planning Board member David Marsh retired from that position December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Eric LaClair is willing to fill David Marsh's unexpired term;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Eric LaClair is hereby appointed to fill David Marsh's unexpired term, which expires December 31, 2025.

6. Authorize the Supervisor to sign NYS updated General Stormwater Permit

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, reviewed the amendments to the State's General Stormwater Permit, and explained that the Town needs to submit a Notice of Intent to comply with the changes. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign a Notice of Intent to comply with the updated NYS General Stormwater Permit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

7. Authorize Deferred Compensation Committee to advertise for new bids

Supervisor Castellucci explained that the law requires municipalities to request new bids for Deferred Compensation every five years. **A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Town to request new bids for Deferred Compensation. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.** The Supervisor also stated that another member to the Deferred Compensation Committee should be appointed. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to amend the Deferred Compensation Committee to include Councilmember Morgan. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.**

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Beth Paro, Debra Lee Drive, asked for information about the NYS General Stormwater Permit. Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator shared details about the permit.

John Kilmarx, East Campville Road, asked questions about the SEQR process (which were answered by the Planning & Zoning Administrator) and thanked the Board for denying the rezoning request earlier in the meeting.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, spoke about things she'd like to do to her house since the zoning request was denied. The Supervisor scheduled a meeting with her for the following day.

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy  
Town Clerk

