

March 21, 2023
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

Supervisor Castellucci called the meeting to order, the acting clerk called the roll and Councilman Marks led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

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

Department Heads

Present: Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Henry Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Irene Graven, Town Attorney

Absent:

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Pedro, Assessor
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

B. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids - none

D. Public Hearings

1. Unsafe Structure – 5099 State Route 17C

Supervisor Castellucci opened the public hearing. Code Enforcement Officer Bill Carrigg once again gave the history of the unsafe structure, going back to 2017 and the well-documented efforts by the Town to get the owner to either repair or demolish the building. In accordance with Town of Owego regulations, CEO Carrigg posted the property and hand delivered a notice of this public hearing to the property owner. **There being no one present to address this issue, Councilman Morgan made a motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Marks seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.**

Councilman Morgan made a motion that the Town move forward to take the steps necessary to remove the building and place the cost of the project as a lien on the

property if not reimbursed by the property owner. Councilman Marks seconded this motion.

At this time, Christine Urban, the property owner arrived. She stated that she was unaware of the Town requirement that the fire-damaged structure be removed or repaired within 60 days of the event. CEO Carrigg reviewed the correspondence sent to the property owner from the Town since 2017, as well as notes made in the file by the previous CEO. Ms. Urban replied that she has had major health issues since the fire and has now retained the services of a local contractor to make the necessary repairs. Her intent is to use the structure as an outbuilding, not as a residence.

CEO Carrigg is concerned with the current condition of the structure and stated that an engineering study, as well as an asbestos survey, would be required. He is willing to meet with the contractor to determine next steps.

Councilman Morgan made a motion to table action on this matter until the April 4, 2023 meeting. Councilman Jochum seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

*******Supervisor Castellucci then moved Agenda Item K-3, to appoint Joy Bennett Town Justice to this time.**

Councilman Jochum made a motion to appoint Joy Bennett to the open Town Justice position contingent upon her receiving all required training and certification. Councilman Hellmers seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

E. Reports of Department Heads

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator - reported the tire event has been confirmed for April 22, 2023, 8am-12pm, moved from May due to the availability of trailers. Tioga County can arrange to have an electronics recycling company at the event. The only cost to the town would be to dispose of electronics that are not accepted. Ellen Pratt estimates this may be approximately \$75, which can be paid for with the funds received from the tires. There will be volunteers at the site to guide the public on what is allowed. **Councilman Morgan made a motion to authorize Supervisor Castellucci to sign the contract with Tioga County. Councilman Marks seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.**

The Dollar General project in Campville is moving forward, having received approval of the submitted SWPPP. Construction is expected to begin in May or June. CEO Carrigg attended Code Enforcement training in Rochester last week and has all of his required hours completed. Mike Katchmir has also completed his required hours for this year.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian - reported that he and Joann continue work on the grant to identify historic buildings in the Town that are in disrepair. He will also be providing additional photos for the Town's webpage.

Henry Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent - reported that he is working on updating the Local Highway Inventory (LHI), noting that he has found some inaccuracies. Councilman Morgan volunteered to assist in this endeavor.

*******Supervisor Castellucci then moved Agenda Item K-5, to create a new highway position to this time.** Deputy Superintendent Hines explained that the position to be created is Heavy Equipment Operator Site Leader. The plan is to restructure the highway department to be more efficient and organized by creating three teams of workers. Tioga County Civil Service provided the job description and the job will be posted

Supervisor Castellucci - reported that on April 3, 2023 at 4:30 PM, 19th District Congressman Marcus Molinaro will hold a Town Hall Meeting at the Shared Services Facility (2nd floor).

Town property on Kuenzli will be available for brush drop-off April 12, 2023 – October 21, 2023, Wednesdays from 5:00 PM-7:00PM and Saturday from 8:00AM to 1:00PM.

Supervisor Castellucci requested an attorney client privilege. He reported the 2022 audit will begin April 14, 2023 and hopes to have the GOSR project closed out by July. He also reported the Town will be receiving funding from FEMA for damage to the Apalachin Sewer Plant, which occurred during the 2011 flood.

F. Privilege of the floor - Teresa Dole reported that there is a sign down at the intersection of Foster Valley Road and Cornell Hollow Road.

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

H. Abstracts –

Councilman Morgan made a motion to approve the following abstracts. Councilman Marks seconded the motion and unanimously carried on a roll call vote.

AO-General Fund	\$ 8,594.02
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	\$ 4,549.17
DB-Highway-Town Outside	\$17,698.75
FO-Water Districts	\$ 3,305.14
FA-Route 38 Water	\$ 200.25
GO-Sewer Districts	\$ 3,363.03
GA-Route 38 Sewer	<u>\$ 226.01</u>
	\$37,936.37

Supervisor Castellucci reported that the credit cards have arrived and are in the safe in his office. Once the Town Board has adopted a credit card policy, they will be distributed to department heads.

I. Unfinished Business - none

J. Reports of Standing Committees

Councilman Morgan reported that he had attended the most recent Council of Governments (COG) meeting, which included a Zoom meeting with 19th District Congressman Marc Molinaro. Tioga County Deputy Director of Emergency Services Bob Williams updated the council on the County radio project. The County will be providing radios to municipalities. **Councilman Morgan made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign any necessary paperwork, subject to Town Attorney's review and approval. Councilman Marks seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.**

Councilman Morgan then made a motion to declare the Canon copier in the Planning & Zoning Office as surplus. Councilman Jochum seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

Councilman Morgan reported that the records storage project is progressing and each department will need to provide the amount of storage that will be needed so that shelving and boxes can be ordered.

Annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Day will be held Wednesday March 29, 2023 at the OWEGO VFW Post 1371, 207 Main Street, from 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

The Town has been approached by the Tioga County Safety Officer to utilize the Shared Services Facility for CDL drug testing. **Councilman Morgan made a motion to authorize Supervisor Castellucci to sign any shared services agreement to allow use of the facility for the quarterly random CDL drug screening, subject to Town Attorney's review and approval. Councilman Hellmers seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.**

Councilman Hellmers-no report

Councilman Marks-no report

Councilman Jochum reminded board members of the workshop to be held prior to the April 4, 2023 meeting, at 5:45 PM, to discuss the Hickories Park pedestrian bridge.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Floyd Hooker Grant Application

Councilman Jochum made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to submit an application to the Floyd Hooker Foundation for the Town of Owego Waterman Conservation Center Summer Camp. Councilman Marks seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

2. Farmer Brown Solar PILOT

Councilman Morgan made a motion to authorize Supervisor Castellucci to sign the PILOT agreement for Farmer Brown Solar project. Councilman Jochum seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

3. Appoint Town Justice

This was acted on earlier in the meeting, before Reports of Department Heads.

4. Appoint BAR Member

Councilman Morgan made a motion to adopt the following resolution. Councilman Jochum seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, pursuant to NYS Real Property Tax Law §523, the Town Board of the Town of Owego is permitted to appoint members of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Owego wishes to reappoint a member to the Board of Assessment Review for the term of 10/1/2022 to 9/30/2027;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Owego reappoints Orville Wright to serve as a member of the Town of Owego Board of Assessment Review, retroactive to 10/1/2022 through 9/30/2027; and it is further

RESOLVED, that Orville Wright be compensated at a rate of \$400.00 per year.

5. Create new position-Highway

Councilman Jochum made a motion to create the new highway position Heavy Equipment Operator Site Leader, with hourly salary of \$26.80. Councilman Hellmers seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

6. Approve Strawberry Shake 5K at Hickories

Councilman Hellmers made a motion to grant permission to the Owego Historic Marketplace to conduct the Strawberry Shake 5K at Hickories Park, on Thursday June 15, 2023. Councilman Jochum seconded this motion and it was unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor

Councilman Morgan reminded Board members to contact him if they had topics to be presented at future COG meetings.

Supervisor Castellucci reported that his office had mailed out a survey regarding Broadband and responses are being returned.

M. Executive Session -none

N. Adjournment

Councilman Morgan made a motion to adjourn @7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra Standing