

April 19, 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 -

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

Council:

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the April 5, 2022 regular meeting will stand as presented

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Hank Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent – reported that the crews are very busy cleaning up fallen trees from the recent storm so ditching will be temporarily on hold.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that camping is now open in Hickories Park. All of the seasonal sites are filled and there are also several monthly sites booked.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – no report

Rick Pedro, Assistant Assessor – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – requested approval to attend a one day training session. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to allow Joann Lindstrom attend the Southern Tier Building Official’s Association training on Legal Aspects of Code Enforcement in Dryden, NY on April 20, 2022 with all reasonable expenses paid. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** Next, she reported that there will be a Planning Board meeting next week. Lastly, she stated that Roger Steen has withdrawn his zoning change request.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that she and her staff received an award from the DEC for being a top seller of Habitat Stamps. The sale of these stamps gives a higher commission to the Town, and this is the third year in a row they have earned this recognition

Supervisor Castellucci - reported that he will be out of the office from April 28<sup>th</sup>- May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Next he stated that training for operating the AED was held at the Town Hall, and one will be held in the Shared Services Building soon. He then stated that someone is planning to buy the old buildings by Sanmina to start a Cannabis growing and processing business, but it will not be eligible for a PILOT. Next, the Supervisor reported that the area on Kuenzli Road will open for brush drop off again on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. After discussion on a training opportunity, **a motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to allow Supervisor Castellucci to attend The Association of Towns Finance School May 16-17, 2022 with all reasonable expenses paid. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** Next, he stated that the Town received a grant of \$395,000 for Sewer District #1. The Supervisor then reported that he and the Village Mayor are working to resolve the problem with trains stopping and blocking local intersections. Lastly, he stated that he is working with the bookkeeper and M & T Bank to obtain a consolidated credit card plan.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, stated that she thinks the Town has ruined her road and undercut her trees (which made them fall down in last night’s storm).

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

H. Abstracts-

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

A0 - General Fund	61,657.88
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	4,067.39
DB - Highway-Town Outside	26,728.02
F0 - Water Districts	14,664.20
FA - Route 38 Water	213.17

G0- Sewer Districts	172,247.82
GA – Route 38 Sewer	165.48
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	58,004.15
L1 – Lighting District 1	86.29
L2 - Lighting District 2	188.92
L3 – Lighting District 3	77.43
L4 - Lighting District 4B	51.32
L5 – Lighting District 5	50.58
L6 - Lighting District 6	219.52
L7 - Lighting District 7	50.49
L8 - Lighting District 8	38.64
L9 - Lighting District #9	14.22
LA – Lighting District 4A	17.08
LX – Lighting District 10	21.30
TA – Trust and Agency Fund	<u>351.20</u>
	<b>\$338,915.10</b>

I. Unfinished Business –

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

- Councilmember Morgan – reported a need for Attorney/Client after the meeting
- Councilmember Marks – no report
- Councilmember Jochum – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Purchase of Highway equipment subject to Permissive Referendum

**Councilmember Morgan made a motion to table action on this item as the resolution was not ready. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

2. Recap of 2021 cases - Court

After reviewing the report, **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to accept the 2021 Court Cases Recap. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

3. Schedule Public Hearing - Porto Bagel, Inc. zoning change

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, reviewed the request. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to schedule a Public Hearing to consider a zoning change for Porto-Bagel on May 17, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

4. Request for training – Assessor

Rick Pedro, Assessor, reviewed the request. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to allow Cally Fruscello to attend training on mapping retroactive to April 15<sup>th</sup> with all reasonable expenses paid. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

5. Salary resolution re: contract

Supervisor Castellucci stated that he would like to raise all hourly employee pay rates by \$0.25 per hour to help with the current higher cost of living. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to raise all hourly employee pay rates by \$0.25 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** After a question from Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk, the Supervisor stated the raise would be covered even though it was not included in each department's budget. **Another motion was made by Councilmember Marks to bring Parks Department laborers pay up to the current minimum wage retroactive to 01/01/2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** Lastly, **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to make permanent (not seasonal) laborers' pay rate \$15 per hour beginning in May. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

6. Retirement Proclamation – Cheri Grenier

Councilmember Morgan reviewed the proclamation. **A motion was made by Supervisor Castellucci to adopt the following proclamation honoring Cheri Grenier in her retirement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS Cheri A. Grenier began her employment with the Town of Owego on July 12, 2004 as bookkeeper and

WHEREAS on January 1, 2016 Cheri started her tenure with the Town of Owego Assessor's Office and

WHEREAS Cheri will retire from the Town of Owego on April 22, 2022 and

WHEREAS the Town of Owego staff and Cheri's coworkers, as well as all of the Town of Owego residents have greatly benefited from her knowledge, experience, integrity and helpful assistance to all; and

WHEREAS the Town Board would like to thank Cheri for her eighteen years of committed and conscientious service to the Town of Owego

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED that the Owego Town Board, on behalf of the Town of Owego and all its residents, does hereby extend its sincere and grateful appreciation for the dedicated service Cheri Grenier has provided to the Town of Owego, and

offer its congratulations on her well-earned retirement as well as best wishes for her continued success, happiness and good health in the years to come.

7. Appointment of Town Board member

**Councilmember Morgan made a motion to appoint Cheri Grenier to the vacant position on the Town Board with the term expiring on 12/31/2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk