

June 20, 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 and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance after the Clerk called the Roll.

Council:

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

Absent: none

Department Heads:

Present: Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the May 16, 2023 and June 6, 2023 meetings will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings –

1. Special Franchise Agreement - Spectrum

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing and reviewed that this is the first agreement in ten years due to the change from Charter to Spectrum etc. Councilmembers Jochum and Marks asked a few questions. Attorney Graven stated that it is almost the same as the last agreement which is typical for municipalities. The few changes involved limiting free streaming to schools and some minor verbiage modifications. There was no one wishing to speak. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

Another motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the following resolution and authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS, an application has been duly made to the Board of the Town of Owego, County of Tioga, New York, by Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”), a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of the State of Delaware doing business at 2604 Seneca Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Charter’s cable television franchise for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission; and

WHEREAS, the franchise renewal agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held in the Town of Owego, New York on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 6:30 PM and notice of the hearing was published in the Press & Sun-Bulletin on June 11, 2023;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Town of Owego finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and
2. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has the financial, legal and technical ability to provide these services, facilities and equipment as set forth in its proposal attached; and
3. Spectrum Northeast, LLC can reasonably meet the future cable-related community needs and interests, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interest.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of the Town of Owego hereby grants the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Town of Owego for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission and expiring ten (10) years hence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of the Town of Owego hereby confirms acceptance of this franchise renewal agreement and authorizes the town supervisor to sign said agreement.

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that Hickories Park has been very busy with the Strawberry Festival events. He also stated that the fireworks show will coincide (as usual) with the first of the 2023 Concerts in the Park next week

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – no report

Councilmember Marks for Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported everything is going well right now. He then reviewed that two merit raises have been submitted for Utility Department employees. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following resolution authorizing a merit raise for Joe Schneider. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Utilities Department has budgeted for and includes merit raises for employees upon recommendation of the Director of Utilities and approval of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, Joseph Schneider has shown he is willing to perform above and beyond his job duties as HEO I for the Town of Owego Utilities Department; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Town of Owego Director of Utilities, Joseph Schneider warrants a merit raise of \$2.00 per hour;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Joseph Schneider, HEO I at the Town of Owego Utilities Department, will receive a merit raise of \$2.00 per hour, effective January 1, 2023.

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution authorizing a merit raise for Keegan Bulgar. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Utilities Department has budgeted for and includes merit raises for employees upon recommendation of the Director of Utilities and approval of the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, Keegan Bulgar has shown he is willing to perform above and beyond his job duties as MEO I for the Town of Owego Utilities Department; and

WHEREAS, upon the recommendation of the Town of Owego Director of Utilities, Keegan Bulgar warrants a merit raise of \$2.00 per hour;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that Keegan Bulgar, MEO I at the Town of Owego Utilities Department, will receive a merit raise of \$2.00 per hour, effective June 19, 2023.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – no report

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that Marcus Molinaro will be holding mobile office hours on June 27, 2023 from 11 AM - 1 PM in the Shared Services Building. He also stated that the Supervisor’s Monthly report is on file in his office.

F. Privilege of the Floor- none

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 Jochum and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.

A0 - General Fund	64,214.39
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	28,173.18
DB - Highway-Town Outside	90,275.89
F0 - Water Districts	88,805.67
FA - Route 38 Water	1,342.80
G0- Sewer Districts	35,967.95
GA – Route 38 Sewer	17,795.02
HN – NY Rising – Shared Services Building	91,311.15
L1 – Lighting District 1	34.42
L2 - Lighting District 2	319.92
L3 – Lighting District 3	109.22
L4 - Lighting District 4B	88.02
L5 – Lighting District 5	71.30
L6 - Lighting District 6	365.19
L7 - Lighting District 7	87.68
L8 - Lighting District 8	64.20
L9 - Lighting District #9	25.32
LA – Lighting District 4A	30.35
LX – Lighting District 10	37.20
	<u>37.20</u>
	\$419,118.87

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – no report

Councilmember Morgan – stated that Tioga County’s first ever on-site CDL testing went very well.

Councilmember Jochum – no report

Councilmember Marks – asked what was happening with the truck and hotbox trailer that were not Board approved. Supervisor Castellucci stated that he is working on the matter and will have a solution next week. Councilmember Marks asked a few more questions and stated that he is concerned that the Town will lose State-bidding privileges if it is not handled soon. The Supervisor replied that the Council should have thought about that before they voted to return the truck and trailer.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business – none

Although it did not make the Agenda, the Board decided to address a Water/Sewer penalty forgiveness request from Steve Rowell (Tobey Road). After a short discussion, it was decided to deny the request in order to remain consistent. The Supervisor will notify the resident.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, spoke about her experience at the Strawberry Festival event in Hickories Park. She also stated she hopes to get DRI money for her house on Front Street. It was suggested she contact the County or Village as the Town isn’t involved with that initiative.

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk