

July 18, 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 –

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

Council

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

Present: Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the July 5, 2023 regular meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids –

1. Demolition of Unsafe Structure – 5099 State Rt. 17C

After only receiving one bid for this project, Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, recommended rejection and rebidding in September. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to reject the received bid and rebid the project to demolish the unsafe structure at 5099 State Route 17C. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

D. Public Hearings -

1. Special Franchise Agreement – Spectrum

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing and explained that this is the second hearing because there was a problem with the verbiage of the legal notice for the first one. Isaac Ward, Frank Hyde Road, asked if the agreement could include service to his road. Supervisor Castellucci stated the agreement is about rates not service areas, but he will look into that. There was no one else that wished to speak. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

E. Reports of Department Heads -

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – no report

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – no report

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – no report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – no report

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the Town Clerk’s monthly report is on file in his office.

He also stated that \$5,000 for the pickle ball court in Tioga Park was received from the Les Wagner Foundation.

F. Privilege of the floor –

Mark Clark, former Highway Superintendent, stated that Mike Roberts, current Highway Superintendent, had posted on social media that the problems with the Town’s roads and bridges were due to Clark’s administration of the Highway Department. Clark strongly refuted that claim.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, stated her road was flooding and the stop sign at the end of her road is not visible until it’s too late to come to a complete stop.

Kyle Wipert, Pine Knoll Road, spoke about the importance of transparency in government.

Beth Paro, Debra Lee Drive, stated that there is a big dip in the road from when a water main break was fixed last year. Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, said he is planning to fix that when they work on Tobey Road this summer.

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, lodged complaints about the surface of her road having too much loose stone.

Linda Fuerstenberg, Meredith Bocek and Nancy Sydlosky, Tioga Terrace, spoke about a “zombie” house on Frederick Drive. They stated it is an eyesore and the pool is a hazard. Bill Carrigg, Code Enforcement Officer, stated he is unfortunately unable to do anything about it. It is owned by Rocket Mortgage, therefore there isn’t anybody which he can ticket.

Gabrielle Campbell and Sydney Deet both spoke about the bad condition of Chestnut Ridge Road. Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, stated that he has been waiting for a private company’s project to finish because he was worried their large trucks would ruin the patches.

Chuck Bement, Southside Fire Chief, asked when the Valley Road bridge would be fixed. He stated that it causes problems with his company's response time. Supervisor Castellucci stated that work will begin on it after McLean Valley road culvert is fixed.

There was a large group from Frank Hyde Road present to lodge complaints about their road being cut off by the McLean Valley Road culvert closure. The following people signed in and spoke: Roger Welch, Matthew Moore, Mariah Ward, Frank Catlin, Rance Brode, Sharon Hogan, and Amber Moore. There was a lengthy and heated discussion. Councilmember Marks stated that the County would help if the Highway Superintendent would just ask for it. **A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers that the Board would contract outside help to fix the problem if the Highway Department doesn't get it fixed as soon as possible. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and carried with 3 yes votes and 2 no votes (Supervisor Castellucci and Councilmember Morgan).**

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

1. Town roads complaints

This was discussed during Privilege of the floor.

2. McLean Road Culvert engineering recommendation

This was discussed during Privilege of the floor.

3. 30 day advanced notice waiver for liquor license – The Golf Club at Owego

Supervisor Castellucci reviewed that this is informative only. Councilmember Marks questioned how they were already having events. Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk explained that they have been granted several temporary licenses until they could get the regular one.

H. Abstracts -

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

AO-General Fund	20,995.75
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	6,697.67
DB-Highway-Town Outside	84,523.51
FO-Water Districts	6,444.15
FA-Route 38 Water	16.83
GO-Sewer Districts	18,846.70
GA-Route 38 Sewer	16.83
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	\$ 137,541.44

I. Unfinished Business -

1. Resolution to hire WW Operator – Utilities

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the following resolution hiring David Coish, Jr as a full time Wastewater Operator. 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 a full time Wastewater Operator position; and

WHEREAS David Coish Jr., a new applicant, has been selected to take this full time position, effective July 31, 2023, at an hourly rate of \$29.25 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period from date of hire;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that such full time position shall be filled by David Coish Jr. at an hourly rate of \$ 29.25 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with up to 52 weeks probationary period from date o hire.

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – no report

Councilmember Morgan – no report

Councilmember Jochum – asked Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent about the surface of Van Riper Road.

Councilmember Marks – stated that he thinks the Town should sell the pickup truck that was unapproved by the Board to Tioga County Soil & Water. They only want to pay \$49,000 which would leave an unpaid balance. Councilmember Morgan said other municipalities should be approached before doing that.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Water System Improvements – WIIA Grant

Attorney Graven explained that the Town has applied for this grant two times before. Hunt Engineers recommended a 3rd try in spite of two previous denials. She then reviewed that the money bonded for the preceding applications is still available. That, along with the Utilities budget, would allow for the Town to cover the cost of the project if the application is denied. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following resolution authorizing the Town to apply for financial assistance through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego (hereinafter the “Town”) maintains Town Water System; and

WHEREAS, the Town is proposes to undertake water system improvements to include the replacement of District #3 well and treatment buildings and replace the deteriorated section of the transmission main along State Route 434 (collectively, the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the Town has caused HUNT Engineers to develop a Preliminary Engineering Report for the project with a total project cost estimate of \$1,687,545; and

WHEREAS, the Town is seeking financial assistance through the 2023 NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation’s Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Program; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant adopt a resolution that authorizes: the undertaking of the project and the maximum total cost of the project; expenditures for the project, including identification of any non-municipal source of funds; obligation of funds necessary to meet any required local match, including any cash and/or in-kind services; and when applicable, the submission of an application for financial assistance. The resolution must also designate a representative of the applicant who is authorized to sign the funding agreement with EFC and any associated documents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT:

RESOLVED that the Town authorizes the undertaking of the Project and the maximum total cost of the project \$ 1,687,545; the Town anticipates submission to WIIA for up to \$1,012,527; anticipating receipt of the WIIA Grant, the Town’s local match is estimated to be approximately \$675,018; other future funding sources (e.g., Community Development Block Grant, USDA Rural Development, Environmental Facilities Corp., etc.) will be pursued; and when applicable, the submission of an application for financial assistance; and

RESOLVED that the Town authorizes preparation and submission of an application for grant funding under the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation’s Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Program on behalf of the Town; and

RESOLVED that Donald Castellucci Jr., Supervisor is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and any and all other contracts, documents and instruments necessary to bring about the Project and to fulfill the Town’s obligations under the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant Agreement; and

RESOLVED that Donald Castellucci Jr., Supervisor is authorized to execute expenditures for the Project under the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation’s Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Program on behalf of the Owego.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

2. Emergency Operations Center Proposal

Bill Carrigg, Code Enforcement Officer, reviewed the proposal. He stated that because the Town already has a pre-existing space and a majority of the required items, the cost to complete the Emergency Operations Center would only amount to about \$5,600. **A motion was made by**

Councilmember Jochum to approve the Emergency Operations Center proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, asked about the use of Downtown Revitalization Initiative money. It was suggested that she contact the Village or County regarding that as it is not funding for the Town.

Kyle Wipert, Pine Knoll Drive, again spoke about the importance of transparency in government.

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy
Town Clerk