

July 5, 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 Deputy Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll and Attorney Graven led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

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

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci,

Department Heads:

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

Absent: None

B. Minutes of the previous meeting –

The minutes of the June 20, 2023 regular meeting will stand as submitted.

C. Consideration of bids - none

D. Public Hearings - none

E. Reports of Department Heads -

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – no report

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that the Concerts in the Park began last week with a small crowd (due to weather) and a fireworks display at the end. He also stated the campground was full for Independence Day weekend and he expects a good crowd for Cars In The Park on July 9th.

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – no report

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – no report

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – reported that the Final Tax Roll for 2023 is available in his office and on the Town website for public view.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported that another Public Hearing regarding the Spectrum Franchise Agreement must be held. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the Spectrum Franchise Agreement on July 18, 2023 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – no report

Deputy Supervisor Morgan – reported a need for Executive Session after the meeting regarding Personnel.

F. Privilege of the floor –

Brian Germano, Newberry Drive, spoke about the sewer grates that were installed on Newberry a few years ago. He stated they are not functioning adequately and would like them to be replaced. He also asked if it is true that Ridgefield Road will be completely replaced next year.

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

H. Abstracts -

Councilmember Marks made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers. There was a discussion regarding the payment to Clark Patterson Lee. Councilmember Marks stated (he) “will not pay anymore Clark Patterson Lee bills until they provide a more detailed invoice.” Councilmember Jochum agreed and said (he’d) “like some time to go through them.” **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the following abstracts as amended to exclude the check in the amount of \$30,492.26 payable to Clark Patterson Lee. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

AO-General Fund	33,549.18
BO-General Fund-Town Outside	8,243.91
DB-Highway-Town Outside	499,119.15
FO-Water Districts	17,849.62
FA-Route 38 Water	1.73
GO-Sewer Districts	24,730.68
GA-Route 38 Sewer	1.73
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	\$ 583,496.00

I. Unfinished Business - none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – reported a need for Attorney/Client privilege after the meeting.

Councilmember Jochum – reported that Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, is retiring at the end of the summer. A short discussion was held and it was decided that Vasisko will meet with his Committee Members to choose the top applicants suitable for interview.

Councilmember Marks – no report, but asked why the hotbox trailer and pickup truck were back on the agenda after being voted down. He then asked Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, why the hotbox trailer and pickup truck were still on Town property. His reply was that no one has come to pick them up. Councilmember Marks then stated that Tioga County Soil & Water would buy the truck from the Town. Councilmember Jochum stated that **Councilmember Marks would make a motion to have Stephenson Equipment come to remove the hotbox trailer from Town property. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and carried with 3 yes votes and 1 no vote (Councilmember Morgan).**

Councilmember Jochum then stated that **Councilmember Marks would make a motion to have himself work with Tioga County Soil & Water and VanBortel Ford to find a solution. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and carried with 3 yes votes and 1 no vote (Councilmember Morgan).**

A motion was then made by Councilmember Marks to have himself call VanBortel Ford to cancel the order for the second pickup truck. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and carried with 3 yes votes and 1 no vote (Councilmember Morgan)

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business

1. Bond Resooution – Well House Replacement

No action was taken due to outstanding issues.

2. Contract for Supervisor to sign with DHSES/FEMA for FEMA HMPG Grant

Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) for construction and elevation of Sewage Treatment Plant Lift Stations and Generators. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

3. Audio System – Town Board Room

Deputy Supervisor Morgan reviewed that he and Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator have been working to obtain at least two proposals for this project. In spite of their efforts, only one quote was submitted. According to Town Code (chapter 22-2B) their good-faith efforts allow for a vote on the submitted proposal. **A motion was made by Councilmember Hellmers to approve the proposal for a new audio system in the Town Board Room from for \$10,449.59 AV Sound. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

4. Highway Purchase 2 F350 trucks

This was addressed during Reports of Standing Committees.

5. Highway Purchase – Hotbox trailer

This was addressed during Reports of Standing Committees

6. Place Lions “Gateway” sign on Route 434

No action was taken.

7. Standard Workday Corrections

No action was taken.

L. Second Privilege of the floor - none

M. Executive Session –

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:12 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to exit Executive Session at 7:24 PM. The motion was seconded Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

Back in Regular Session:

Councilmember Marks made a motion to hire David Coish Jr. as a wastewater operator at \$29.25 per hour pending background approval. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.

N. Adjournment

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy
Town Clerk