

August 1, 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 Clerk called the Roll and Hank Hines 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: Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor  
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor  
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the July 18, 2023 meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that his crews are busy with paving, and fixing potholes and culverts.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that the shredder truck is scheduled for this week for the disposition of confidential records that have reached their retention period.

Supervisor Castellucci – no report

F. Privilege of the Floor-

John Holton, Lincolnshire Development, asked for the Town Board’s help with discouraging speeding vehicles in their neighborhood. He stated it is all kinds of vehicles including young people on 4 wheelers.

Jonathan Carrier, Holly Gruskay and Linda Burghardt representing New York Citizens Audit, spoke about an independent grassroots effort to audit the NYS Board of Elections with regards to the 2022 election. They asked the Board to consider adopting a resolution that would help further their efforts.

Ray Berube, Overbrook Drive, had sewage back up into his home. After professionals put a camera down the pipes; it was determined that the problem was partially caused by the way the Town hooked his line into the municipal infrastructure. Mr. Berube asked for the Town to help pay the large bill to correct the problem. Supervisor Castellucci stated that he will have the Director of Utilities look into the situation and determine if the Town has any liability.

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

1. Town road complaints – McLean Road and Pembroke Drive

The Supervisor reviewed both letters and stated the Highway department is addressing the situations.

2. Petition to oppose heavier trucks in New York – GoRail

There was a brief discussion regarding this initiative. No action was taken, but Supervisor Castellucci suggested each Board member consider it and let him know if they would like to get involved.

H. Abstracts-

The Supervisor explained that the abstracts from the July 5, 2023 need to be amended to correct a clerical error. One of the checks was inadvertently made out to the wrong vendor (the names are very similar). No changes were made to the amounts of any of the payments. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the amended July 5, 2023 abstracts. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.**

**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	26,759.49
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	76,650.87
DB - Highway-Town Outside	228,437.71
F0 - Water Districts	16,864.08
FA - Route 38 Water	891.80
G0- Sewer Districts	24,198.11

GA – Route 38 Sewer	402.43
L1 – Lighting District 1	0.00
L2 - Lighting District 2	14.64
L3 – Lighting District 3	11.25
L4 - Lighting District 4B	3.76
L5 – Lighting District 5	7.40
L6 - Lighting District 6	18.56
L7 - Lighting District 7	3.37
L8 - Lighting District 8	3.30
L9 - Lighting District #9	.78
LA – Lighting District 4A	.97
LX – Lighting District 10	1.40
	<u>1.40</u>
	<b>\$374,269.92</b>

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Marks – reported for Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities, that a new frame and doors are needed. However, no one knew for which building it is needed. It was decided to wait for more details before approving the purchase.

Councilmember Hellmers – no report

Councilmember Morgan – **made a motion to adopt the following proclamation honoring Les Wagner. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

*WHEREAS* in 1973 Les “Wags” Wagner and Steve “Stash” Schaeffer had a vision and started Wagner Lumber; and

*WHEREAS* over the past fifty years the business has grown to become a well-respected and worldwide distributor of quality hard wood products; and

*WHEREAS* Wagner Lumber employs hundreds of people in numerous locations throughout the Southern Tier; and

*WHEREAS* the Owego Town Board would like to honor Les and remember Steve;

*NOW, THEREFORE*, the Owego Town Board proclaims Friday August 18, 2023 as Wagner Lumber day in the Town of Owego and would like to thank them for their numerous contributions to our community over the past fifty years.

Councilmember Jochum – thanked Mike Roberts and Hank Hines (Highway Superintendent and Deputy) for their work on McLean Road. Councilmember Morgan asked for an update on McLean Road. Roberts stated that he was luckily able to get a pipe rush ordered and the culvert is being fixed.

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

1. Authorize Supervisor to sign Les Wagner Foundation agreement

Supervisor Castellucci explained that this is the agreement for the funds donated from the foundation for the basketball and pickle ball courts in Tioga Park. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Les Wagner Foundation agreement. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** The agreement is on file in the Supervisor’s Office.

2. Parks Maintenance Supervisor hire

**Councilmember Hellmers made a motion to adopt the following resolution to hire Philip Baker as Parks Maintenance Supervisor. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego Parks Department has budgeted for and includes a Park Maintenance Supervisor; and

WHEREAS the Park Maintenance Supervisor, Scott Vasisko, will retire effective August 24, 2023, vacating said position; and

WHEREAS Philip H. Baker is willing, able and qualified to promote to this position; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED the Park Maintenance Supervisor position shall be filled by Philip H. Baker at a rate of \$58,000 per year, effective August 28, 2023, with a promotional probationary period of 26 weeks, at which time his salary will be increased to \$61,669 per year.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, spoke about her experience as an Election Inspector for Tioga County, and stated that there is no fraud here.

Linda Burghardt, New York Citizens Audit, responded to Ms. Dole that they were not implying fraud here, but in areas near New York City.

Nancy Della Pia, Larchmont Road, stated that the Town Board Meeting Minutes are not showing up on the website. The Supervisor stated it will be rectified.

Jack Legg, Marshland Road, asked about the recent friction between some of the Board Members. The Board responded that there are differences in opinions on procedures.

Two other people spoke without signing in, or stating their name for the record. One was inquiring about surplus trucks and the other asked for an update on McLean Road (he had arrived after it was spoken about during the meeting).

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:38 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk