

August 15, 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 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
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Irene Graven, Town Attorney
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

Absent: Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator
Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

A moment of silence was held in honor of the passing of Martin Murphy, longtime member of the Town's Board of Assessment Review.

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the August 1, 2023 meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – submitted 2 quotes for a new door and frame at sewer treatment plant #1. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve the purchase of a door and frame, as recommended by the Director of Utilities, from Williams Doors &**

Hardware at \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor – reported that he is currently processing the apportionments for this year.

Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that McLean Road is open again. The work is not completely finished, but residents can pass over the culvert safely. Lastly, he stated that one of his trucks needs major engine repair.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that her part-time deputy will be resigning this fall, and that she is looking for a replacement.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that both the Planning & Zoning Administrator’s and Town Clerk’s monthly reports are on file in his office. He then submitted the final appropriation transfers from 2022 as prepared by the bookkeepers. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to table approval. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Bill Chandler, Sulphur Springs Road, stated that too much work was done on McLean Road, and the engineer should be fired.

Walter Kumm, Herzog Road, stated that his recycling is not being picked up promptly and the company is not responding to his complaints. Councilmember Hellmers explained that his company was recently bought by another. He recommended calling them again to make sure his account was not lost in the transition.

Rose Howard, Sequoia Lane, spoke about the rough shape of the roads in the Tioga Terrace neighborhood and asked about the plans to fix them. The Highway Superintendent stated it will be addressed when his department is working on Tobey Road.

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

1. Monthly report of the Supervisor

This report is on file in the Town Clerk’s Office.

H. Abstracts-

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the following abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and stalled during discussion.

A motion was made by Supervisor Castellucci to amend the abstracts by removing the \$600 payment to Stephenson Equipment, Inc. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

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

A0 - General Fund	18,748.36
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	15,647.51
DB - Highway-Town Outside	172,382.01
F0 - Water Districts	21,529.08
FA - Route 38 Water	798.20
G0- Sewer Districts	19,077.93
GA – Route 38 Sewer	68.66
L1 – Lighting District 1	0.00
L2 - Lighting District 2	151.05
L3 – Lighting District 3	48.40
L4 - Lighting District 4B	41.76
L5 – Lighting District 5	31.41
L6 - Lighting District 6	171.48
L7 - Lighting District 7	41.78
L8 - Lighting District 8	29.95
L9 - Lighting District #9	12.14
LA – Lighting District 4A	14.60
LX – Lighting District 10	17.71
	<u>17.71</u>
	\$248,812.03

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Hellmers – requested an Attorney/Client privilege after the meeting.

Councilmember Morgan – no report

Councilmember Jochum – read a section from the Teamsters’ contract. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to exercise Management rights to eliminate the HEO Site Operator position. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and carried with 3 yes votes and 2 no votes (Supervisor Castellucci and Councilmember Morgan.)**

Councilmember Marks – requested to speak during Attorney/Client privilege.

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

1. Website maintenance agreement

Supervisor Castellucci explained that the contract with Paula Fairbain has expired and he has found someone else. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to adopt the following resolution allowing Theresa Gosart, as an independent contractor, to maintain the Town’s website. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Hellmers and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the approved 2023 budget for the Town of Owego has budgeted for updates and management of the Town of Owego website;

WHEREAS Theresa Gosart is willing to take on these duties;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Town of Owego Supervisor is hereby authorized to enter into an independent contractor agreement with Theresa Gosart, to update and maintain the Town of Owego website, effective August 16, 2023 with payment via 1099-Misc, the amount of \$150 per month and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that either party can terminate the agreement at any time without cause.

2. Teamsters contract amendment

This item was not addressed, and no action was taken.

3. Retirement proclamation

Supervisor Castellucci spoke of Scott Vasisko's retirement as well as what an asset he has been to the Town. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following proclamation honoring Scott Vasisko in his retirement.**

WHEREAS, Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, will retire on August 26, 2023, after more than 20 years of outstanding and commendable service to the Town of Owego and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Scott Vasisko began his career with the Town of Owego on December 9, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Owego staff and Scott's coworkers, as well as all of the Town of Owego residents, have greatly benefited from Scott's knowledge, experience, helpfulness and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Scott's meticulous maintenance of Town Parks, especially Hickories Park, was appreciated by residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, throughout his years of service, Scott has served the people of the Town of Owego with dedication and fairness;

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 Scott Vasisko has provided to the Town of Owego, and offer its congratulations on his well-earned retirement as well as best wishes for his continued success, happiness and good health in the years to come.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Kris Marcocci, Sulphur Springs Road, inquired of the Highway Superintendent how many miles of roads have been paved this year. She then told him he should've asked his crew how to fix the McLean Road culvert instead of an engineer.

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk