

September 20, 2022  
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 Town Clerk called the roll, and Councilmember Grenier led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, Jonathan Marks, and Cheri Grenier

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci

Department Heads:

Present: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities  
Irene Graven, Town Attorney  
Joann Lindstrom, Planning and Zoning Administrator  
Peter Gordon, Town Historian  
Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver  
Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent

Absent: Rick Pedro, Assessor  
Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

**Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the September 6, 2022 minutes as submitted by Laura Burt, Deputy Town Clerk. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.**

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported that there is no need for a Planning Board meeting this month. Next, she reported that she attended the Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting last week. She then stated that she shared a Floodplain memo with the Board. Lastly, she reported that the Broome Tioga Stormwater Coalition is willing to sponsor a pet disposal bag unit for Tioga Park if the Town is interested.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that he has still not received his Fund Balance sheets, which has made it very difficult to prepare his 2023 Budget. Next, he stated that the diffuser on one of the tanks at S1 has blown and they are in the process of replacing it. He went further and asked for an update from Clark Patterson Lee regarding the upgrade to that facility. Supervisor Castellucci stated he would look into it. Stiles then reported that he is searching for a new Chief Wastewater Operator; but it will be a difficult process as other municipalities are also trying to fill this position. Next, he made a recommendation for Joe Schneider to be granted a raise for increased responsibilities and 32 years of service. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to authorize a raise of \$1.50/hour for Joe Schneider, with thanks for his many years of dedicated service. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.** Lastly, he stated that the conduit is installed and the waterline extended to where the pavilion will be in Tioga Park.

Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that his crews are finishing this year’s paving projects. Next, he stated that he has had a couple of job applicants with a CDL, but that they do not accept employment after hearing the pay rate. Lastly, Hank Hines, Deputy Highway Superintendent reported that he met with Nelson Tree Service and the Town should have a better working relationship with them now.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported a need for Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting.

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – requested to speak during Attorney/Client Privilege.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – reported that his most recently transcribed, edited and illustrated book Centennial History of Tioga County will be available this week. The information in this book was originally penned by William Warner in the Owego Gazette in 1876.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the Town Clerk’s monthly report is on file in his office. Next, he reported the Teamsters’ meeting was cancelled as their negotiator was ill. He then stated he also had a need for Attorney/Client Privilege. The Supervisor then scheduled a 2023 Budget Workshop for September 26, 2022 from 8:30 AM – 3 PM. Lastly he reported, with thanks to all local officials and Emergency personnel in attendance, that the 9/11 Memorial service at Hickories Park went very well.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

George Duhanich, Tilbury Hill Road, inquired about when the Town website would be functioning properly again. The Supervisor stated that it should be fixed very soon.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, spoke about several frustrations she has with the Town from the maintenance of the road she lives on to the fact that residents cannot attend the Board’s Attorney/Client Privilege sessions.

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 Jochum and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.**

A0 - General Fund	12,022.04
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	8,443.78
DB - Highway-Town Outside	71,540.80
F0 - Water Districts	7,442.08
FA - Route 38 Water	7.20
G0- Sewer Districts	10,793.58
GA – Route 38 Sewer	119.57
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	66,500.00
L1 – Lighting District 1	19.32
L2 - Lighting District 2	185.29
L3 – Lighting District 3	74.69
L4 - Lighting District 4B	50.56
L5 – Lighting District 5	48.75
L6 - Lighting District 6	215.12
L7 - Lighting District 7	49.68
L8 - Lighting District 8	37.75
L9 - Lighting District #9	13.99
LA – Lighting District 4A	16.94
LX – Lighting District 10	<u>20.95</u>
	<b>\$177,602.09</b>

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

- Councilmember Grenier – no report
- Councilmember Morgan – no report
- Councilmember Marks – no report
- Councilmember Jochum – no report

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Proclamation – Joshua House

Supervisor Castellucci reviewed the proclamation and the services the Joshua House is planning to provide for the community’s youth. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to adopt the following resolution honoring Joshua House in the**

**Town of Owego. The motion was seconded by councilmember Grenier and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS, Joshua House is a faith based non-profit youth activity center located in the Village of Owego; and

WHEREAS, the center was formed in 2009 under the name A Better Life Teen Center; but closed after the COVID-19 Pandemic started nearly two years ago; and

WHEREAS, Joshua House will have a grand re-opening on September 24, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the center will give the youth in Owego and Tioga County a safe place to belong with positive interaction from the volunteer staff; and where they can receive tutoring and mentoring, as well as learn life skills such as cooking, gardening and playing musical instruments; and

WHEREAS, local drug and alcohol addiction agencies such as Tioga County CASA- Trinity, The Center for Addiction and Trauma in Endicott, and the Addiction Center of Broome County are partnering with Joshua House to provide counseling to youth in a more casual setting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Owego Town Board, on behalf of the Town of Owego and all its residents, wish to recognize the Joshua House for all it offers to local youth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Owego Town Board declares Saturday September 24, 2022 as Joshua House Day in the Town of Owego.

2. Binghamton Disc Golf event request – Campville Commons

Councilmember Marks reviewed the event request which will be a fundraiser for the Tioga County Boys and Girls Club. **A motion was made by Councilmember Marks to grant the event request and waive the pavilion rental fee as it is a nonprofit fundraiser. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

3. Authorize submission of Floyd Hooker Foundation application

The Supervisor explained that a motion is needed to apply for this grant. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to submit an application for the Floyd Hooker Grant to be used for Tioga Boulevard Park. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

4. Credit card services agreement –

Supervisor Castellucci explained that many vendors are not accepting

municipality vouchers for orders any longer and the Town should have digital payment capabilities. Bill Carrig, Code Enforcement Officer, spoke of a situation where needed equipment was unable to be purchased with Town Vouchers. Councilmember Marks stated he is in agreement with obtaining a Town credit card, but he would like the Town to continue using any cards that provide the Town with a discount. Councilmember Grenier asked whether the Board would be able to review all purchases or if they would only see a grand total. The Supervisor stated he will get that answer for the next meeting. No action was taken

L. Second Privilege of the floor – none

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk