

September 21, 2021
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 Cheri Grenier led all in the Pledge of Allegiance,

Council:

Present: Supervisor Castellucci, Dean Morgan, Barbara Roberts, Craig Jochum, and Jonathan Marks

Absent: None

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the September 7, 2021 regular meeting will stand as presented.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported another event to happen in the park (Church in the Wild). Next, he stated that one of the seasonal campers would like to donate a bench to be placed near the 9/11 Memorial. Lastly, he reported that he has interviewed and found someone to fill the vacancy on his crew.

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported that the DEC will be conducting the Town's Community Assistance Visit by phone this cycle (Fall/Winter), and anyone is

welcome to join that conversation. Lastly, she thanked Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, for having his crew mow the abandoned Pizza Hut parcel.

Cheri Grenier, Sole Assessor – reported that the State is now converting all mobile home STAR savings from exemptions into credit checks.

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that Logics will be performing an update tomorrow.

He also stated that the remote generator plug on Pennsylvania Avenue has been finished.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – has two items for Attorney/Client Privilege.

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver – reported that she received an email from Clark Patterson Lee with the answers to the abstract questions raised at the last meeting, and confirmed that the Board also received that email.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that Roy Shriner and his crew did a great job weeding in front of the new building. Next, he stated that the cost of the two new copiers came in well under budget and should be delivered soon. He then reported that in a meeting about the website upgrade, he learned the Town could earn revenue from selling ad space on the website. The Supervisor then thanked Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, for attending the BMTS meeting in his place. Next, he stated that there was a good turnout at the 9/11 Memorial Service. Following that, he reported meeting with some residents from Walker Road regarding drainage and pavement issues. Lastly, he stated he will be scheduling Budget Workshops when he gets Tina’s (EFPR Solutions) availability.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Chuck Sherwood, Walker Road, spoke about the drainage problems at the bottom of his road. He requested to have the ditches cleaned and a new sluice pipe installed before the dangerous situation causes an accident.

Leo Muckey, Walker Road, spoke about another hazard on Walker Road. Part of the road has sunk low enough that cars are bottoming out and leaving scrape marks. He has called the Highway Department over 80 times; but nothing gets done.

Dave Arnold, Newark Valley, stated he would like to buy the condemned house on Route 38B for \$1. Attorney Graven informed him that he would have to contact the owner of the building.

Two families were present to again request the Town adopt a noise ordinance as the problem in their neighborhood continues. (Names withheld for fear of retaliation from neighbor.)

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

H. Abstracts-

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

A0 - General Fund	27,849.25
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	7,817.10

DB - Highway-Town Outside	26,042.90
F0 - Water Districts	7,409.14
FA - Route 38 Water	129.21
G0- Sewer Districts	16,765.01
GA – Route 38 Sewer	105.77
HN – NY Rising – Shared Serv.	2,504.80
L1 – Lighting District 1	160.91
L2 - Lighting District 2	150.30
L3 – Lighting District 3	47.72
L4 - Lighting District 4B	41.54
L5 – Lighting District 5	31.06
L6 - Lighting District 6	170.58
L7 - Lighting District 7	4.60
L8 - Lighting District 8	29.88
L9 - Lighting District #9	12.08
LA – Lighting District 4A	14.55
LX - Lighting District 10	17.62
	<u>17.62</u>
	\$89,304.02

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Roberts– no report

Councilmember Morgan – reported that he has received a few thank you calls from residents of Holmes Road. He then thanked Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, for the hard work completed for the Catfish Derby and other events held that weekend.

Councilmember Jochum – no report

Councilmember Marks – asked whether there is enough time left before winter to fix the infrastructure and pave in Tioga Park. Supervisor Castellucci said he did not have an answer as the contractor has not been in recent contact. Next, the Councilmember also asked if the temporary ice rink will still be put there. The Supervisor said it will be discussed in a workshop.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Employee wage increase – Utilities Department

Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities, reviewed that Fritz Rudin earned his grade D Water Operator Certificate. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following resolution increasing Fritz Rudin’s hourly rate to \$19.62 per hour. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the approved 2021 budget for the Town of Owego Utilities Department has budgeted for and includes an increase in hourly wage for the HEO II position once all appropriate qualification requirements have been met; and

WHEREAS Fritz E. Rudin has been in the position of HEO II, effective November 4, 2019, provisionally subject to acquiring appropriate certification; and

WHEREAS Fritz E. Rudin has now acquired his grade D – Distribution System Water System Operator certificate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that Fritz E. Rudin shall hold the position of HEO II at the increased hourly rate of \$19.62 per hour retroactive to August 30, 2021.

2. Schedule Dog Ordinance workshop

A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to schedule a workshop to discuss updating the Dog Ordinance on October 5, 2021 at 5:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

Attorney Graven stated she needed to add to her report. She and Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, have been reviewing the Town Code and feel it is necessary to amend it with regard to penalties. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing to consider amending penalties of the Town Code on October 19, 2021 at 6:30 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.**

Councilmember Morgan made another motion adding the Ice Rink in Tioga Boulevard Park to the workshop scheduled for October 5, 2021 and changing the start time to 5:15 PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk