

December 7, 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 Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll and Attorney Graven led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

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

Absent: None

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

Supervisor Castellucci reported the following corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting: “final” payment for Shared Services to “next” in his Department Head report, Assessed Values “decreased to 1.1 million” to “increased to 3.4 million”, and “2021” to “2022” (Water rates) from the Executive Summary of the 2022 Budget. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve the minutes of the 11/16/21 meeting as amended. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.**

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings –

1. Retail sales and on-site Cannabis consumption in the Town

Supervisor Castellucci opened the Public Hearing.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, asked the Board to opt-out of the new cannabis laws stating that the revenue earned will not be enough to offset the negative impacts she believes the laws will have.

The following residents spoke in favor of opting-in to the new cannabis laws: Erik & Bridget Carbonne (Front Street), Nancy Della Pia (Larchmont Road), and Christine Horton & Randy O'Connor (Owego Hemp). They explained several reasons for their view from revenue and jobs for the Town to health and wellness benefits, as well as the fact that it will draw more visitors to the Town.

Supervisor Castellucci stated the Board will consider all points made and vote on this topic at the next December 21st meeting. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Roberts and unanimously carried.**

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported that her office will no longer be in charge of pavilion rentals for Hickories Park. The Utilities Department Account Associate will be accepting those at the start of the New Year.

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that the Town Parks have been prepared for winter. Next, he stated that his crew has been slowly moving equipment and supplies over to the new building. Once fully moved, they will begin usual winter activities of carpentry, painting etc. Lastly, he reported that the temporary ice rink for the Hickories is still in discussion.

Cheri Grenier, Sole Assessor – reported that the Relevy of unpaid water/sewer bills has been finally finalized at \$387,678.10.

Irene Graven – no report

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that after many hours of fielding resident phone calls, three Deferred Payment Agreements were signed allowing those residents to have more time to pay their accounts in full before incurring penalty or Relevy.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the monthly reports of the Town Clerk and Planning & Zoning Administrator are on file in his office. Next, he stated that he and Councilmember Morgan attended the Pearl Harbor Remembrance Ceremony today. The Supervisor then reported that the appropriate departments have begun moving into the new building, and the Salt Shed is ready. Lastly, he stated a workshop with the employees of that building should be scheduled.

Councilmember Roberts made a motion to schedule a workshop with the employees of the new building for December 13th at 8 AM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

F. Privilege of the Floor-

Nancy Sydlosky, Tioga Terrace, asked for an update on the rehab of Tioga Boulevard Park. She stated that their Association has an event scheduled in early June and she hopes the work will be completed by then.

Bob Firmstone, Teamsters Union Representative, requested that the Board not name Tim Valentine as the new HEO III for the Highway Department, or the Union will be filing a grievance and begin arbitration.

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

1. MS4 Inspection notification

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator, reviewed that the MS4 Inspection is an annual process. This notice specifies that the most recent information submitted is on hold pending the acceptance of new regulations in 2022.

H. Abstracts -

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

A0 - General Fund	110,727.50
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	65,038.49
DB - Highway-Town Outside	461,781.83
F0 - Water Districts	70,702.61
FA - Route 38 Water	2,153.97
G0- Sewer Districts	68,141.94
GA – Route 38 Sewer	2,200.65
HN – NY Rising – Shared Serv.	331,823.40
L1 – Lighting District 1	50.82
L2 - Lighting District 2	0.00
L3 – Lighting District 3	0.00
L4 – Lighting District 4B	0.00
L5 – Lighting District 5	0.00
L6 - Lighting District 6	0.00
L7 - Lighting District 7	0.00
L8 - Lighting District 8	0.00
L9 - Lighting District #9	0.00
LA – Lighting District 4A	0.00
LX - Lighting District 10	0.00
	<u>0.00</u>
	\$1,112,621.21

I. Unfinished Business –

1. Highway Department hire – Valentine

Supervisor Castellucci thanked Bob Firmstone for his comments earlier regarding this transfer. He then stated that the Board went through a process that showed no better candidate before deciding to transfer Tim Valentine to the HEO III position, and understand that a grievance will likely be filed. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution transferring Tim Valentine to the HEO III position within the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the approved 2022 budget for the Town of Owego Highway Department has budgeted for and includes a full time HEO III position; and

WHEREAS this full time position is vacant and it is necessary to fill this position; and

WHEREAS Timothy Valentine, having a CDL A license is qualified for and has been selected to transfer to this full time position within the Highway Department, at an hourly rate of \$22.23 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with continuation of his existing full time benefits and accruals and six month probationary period;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED such full time position shall be filled by Timothy Valentine effective January 1, 2022 at an hourly rate of \$22.23 per hour, 40 hours per week, as a permanent appointment with continuation of his existing full time benefits and accruals and a six month probationary period.

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Roberts – no report

Councilmember Morgan – stated a need for Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting. He also reported on a meeting with County IT regarding the new building needs.

Councilmember Marks – reported that Abbey Ortu, Tioga County Economic Planning & Development, is willing to write a grant for funding for Tioga Boulevard Park. She also stated she has some Cornell students that could help design a space that best suits the neighborhood. A short discussion was held, ending with Councilmember Marks planning to get more information.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Reappoint John Current to Tioga County Planning Board

Councilmember Morgan made a motion to reappoint John Current as the Town of Owego Representative to the Tioga County Planning Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

2. 2022 Stray Haven Contract

A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the 2022 Stray Haven contract and authorize the Supervisor to sign on behalf of the Board. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and unanimously carried. The contract is on file in the Town Attorney's Office.

3. Telecommuting Policy

Supervisor Castellucci explained that this policy is not providing an option to work from home for personal reasons, but to detail protocols for working from home should the building be closed or other reason approved by the Supervisor. This policy will be incorporated into the Town's Employee Handbook as well as the Emergency Plan.

4. 2022 Water/Sewer rates

Councilmember Roberts made a motion to adopt the following Water/sewer rates for 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

WATER/SEWER DISTRICTS

- \$37.23 for first 6000 gallons Min. Water bill \$83.68
 - \$6.06 for each 1000 gallons after Min. sewer bill \$81.61
 - \$6.00 billing each reading Min water and sewer \$165.29
 - \$40.45 capital each billing = \$121.35/ year \$495.87 / yr
- Beginning January 1, 2022, the minimum usage charge will be \$83.68. Water bills will be based on a minimum usage up to six thousand gallons at a rate of \$37.23, plus the \$6.00 billing fee for a total of \$43.23 dollars per cycle. There will be a charge of \$ 6.06 per thousand gallons for additional usage. Capital charges will remain the same at \$121.35 per year (\$40.45 per billing cycle). The annual minimal bill in 2022 will be \$251.04.

SEWER DISTRICTS

- \$46.61 for first 6000 gallons
 - \$6.89 for each 1000 gallons after
 - \$35.00 Capital charge each billing = \$105.00/ year
 - \$142.09 Flat Rate billing = 426.26/year
 - \$2,266.44/ year Marshland Links
 - \$90,000/ year Lockheed Martin
- Beginning January 1, 2022, sewer bills will be based on a minimum usage up to six thousand gallons at the rate of \$46.61. There will be a charge of \$ 6.86 per thousand gallons for additional usage. The capital charge per unit will not increase, \$105.00 (\$35.00 per billing cycle). The annual minimum bill will be \$244.83.
- Homes that have municipal sewer but do not have municipal water will be charged \$426.26 per year (\$142.09/bill), an annual increase of \$8.36 for sewer use. The sewer capital fee will remain at \$105.00 per year (\$35 per billing cycle). Total annual bill will be \$531.26.

ROUTE 38 DISTRICT 7

Water

- \$3.75 <8000 gallons/ day
- \$3.25 >8000 gallons/day
- \$5.00 billing each reading = \$20.00/ year
- \$25.00 capital charge each billing = \$100.00/ year

Sewer

- Flat Rate \$325.00/ billing
- \$23.00/ 1000 gallons over 17600 gallons
- \$30.00 capital charge each billing = \$120/year

5. Purchase of VanPatten property

Attorney Graven reviewed that this property was sold at the County Auction. The Town expressed an interest and an agreement was struck allowing the buyer to return it to the County Treasurer for the Town to buy; with no penalty assessed to the original buyer. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the purchase of 6125 State Route 17C and**

authorize the Supervisor to sign all closing documents. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor –

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment -

Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk