

March 1, 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 -

The Deputy Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll, and Joann Lindstrom led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, and Jonathan Marks

Absent: Supervisor Castellucci

Department Heads:

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

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities

B. Minutes of the previous meetings -

The minutes of the February 15, 2022 regular meeting will stand as presented

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearings – none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that everything is going well and that his crew is plowing a lot of snow.

Peter Gordon, Town Historian – reported that he recently type-set and published Hometown Hearts (stories originally published in “The Courier” about historic Owego families). He also requested to borrow 6 picnic tables during the Strawberry Festival. Next, he offered to let the Town borrow the Friends of Evergreen corn-hole sets for the Independence Day festivities.

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported that the Zoning Board will be meeting this week to consider a use variance in Crestview Heights and Solar Farm permit at the Farmer Brown Marketplace.

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor – reported that Tioga County Soil & Water Coalition would like to hold an environmental stewardship opportunity at Hickories Park. It is to encourage residents of Tioga County to participate in planting trees and shrubs to expand the park’s riparian forest buffer. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to authorize Tioga County Soil and Water’s Arbor Day Community Tree/Shrub Planting event on April 23, 2022 at 10 AM contingent on the Town Attorney’s approval of contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.** Vasisko then requested to speak about Agenda item K2. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to act on Agenda item K2-Event request for Hickories Park – Tioga County Mental Hygiene, at this time. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.** This event would be a “Child Safety Resource Event” with many activities and giveaways. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve the Child Safety Resource Event sponsored by Tioga County Suicide Prevention Coalition on May 14, 2022 contingent on the Town Attorney’s approval of contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.** Next, Vasisko suggested that this year’s Independence Day celebration be held on June 29, 2022 (with a rain date of July 6<sup>th</sup>). This will be the first of the Concerts in the Park. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to authorize the Supervisor to sign a contract with an as yet unnamed vender for a fireworks display on June 29, 2022 contingent on the Town Attorney’s approval of contract. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.** Lastly, Vasisko stated, with thanks to Melissa Root, Utilities Secretary, that the letters for seasonal campers were mailed today.

Commented [MK1]:

Cheri Grenier, Sole Assessor – reported that many residents have renewed their exemptions thanks to articles in local papers. Next, she stated that 25 Town residents qualified for the Cold War Veterans’ Exemption in its first year. Lastly, she reported that today was Taxable Status Day so things should slow down somewhat in her office.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported that Tioga County Soil & Water Coalition finished their restoration of the Gaylord Road stream crossing, and have sent a Memorandum of Understanding to explain the Town’s role in maintaining this area for at least five years. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to accept Memorandum of Understanding for the maintenance of the Gaylord Road Stream Crossing and authorize the Supervisor to sign. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – no report

F. Privilege of the Floor- none

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

H. Abstracts- .

Deputy Supervisor Morgan stated there was concern that at the last meeting a duplicate check was merely a typographical error. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to amend the February 1, 2022 abstract wording for voucher #1200683 from Phase 2 to Phase 1. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote. Another motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to rescind the motion for the abstract for February 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote. A further motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to approve the February 15, 2022 abstracts as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.**

**Councilmember Jochum 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 after a short discussion.**

A0 - General Fund	3,767.23
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	4,149.51
DB - Highway-Town Outside	140,972.03
F0 - Water Districts	11,497.76
FA - Route 38 Water	1.49
G0- Sewer Districts	24,356.63
GA – Route 38 Sewer	55.81
HN – NY Rising-Shared Services Building	3,234.07
L1 – Lighting District 1	0.00
L2 - Lighting District 2	35.87
L3 – Lighting District 3	27.60
L4 - Lighting District 4B	9.20
L5 – Lighting District 5	18.04
L6 - Lighting District 6	45.48
L7 - Lighting District 7	8.21
L8 - Lighting District 8	8.08
L9 - Lighting District #9	1.93
LA – Lighting District 4A	2.43
LX – Lighting District 10	3.37
TA – Trust and Agency Fund	<u>6,000.00</u>
	<b>\$194,194.74</b>

At this time, Mike Roberts, Highway Superintendent, submitted a bill for \$300.00 to pay a company for their attempt to fix (what turned out to be) an unrepairable item.

**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to approve the payment of \$300.00 to Diesel ECM Exchange. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried on a Roll Call Vote.**

I. Unfinished Business – none

1. Permission to sell Doosan Excavator at auction

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution allowing the Highway Department's Doosan Excavator at auction with a reserve price of \$55,000. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the Town of Owego Highway Department has surplus equipment as follows:

Year 2010 DOOSAN Excavator VIN # DHKCEWADT90005408 with 6120.2 hours; and

WHEREAS the above listed equipment was declared to be surplus equipment by the Town Board on February 15, 2022; and

WHEREAS the Town of Owego Highway Department requests to auction the above surplus equipment at the J. Martin Auctions, 1036 State Route 318, Waterloo, NY 13165 on March 5, 2022 with the Auctioneer allowing the Town a reserve price of \$55,000.00;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that Town of Owego Highway Department Superintendent Michael Roberts is authorized to sell the above surplus equipment at the J. Martin Auctions, 1036 State Route 318, Waterloo, NY 13165 on March 5, 2022, with the Auctioneer allowing the Town a reserve price of \$55,000.00.

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Marks – reported for Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities, that there is a class action lawsuit for municipalities/companies which have received fines for PFO/PFA issues. **Councilmember Jochum made a motion to table action on the possibility of joining a class action lawsuit for PFO/PFA contamination issues until the March 15, 2022 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

Councilmember Jochum – no report

Councilmember Morgan - reported that the Campville Fire Station would like to do some training exercises in the building on the land recently purchased by the Town prior to its demolition.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Justice Court audit

**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution acknowledging the 2021 Town of Owego Justice Court audit. The motion was seconded by Councilmember marks and unanimously carried.**

WHEREAS the State of New York Unified Court System requires Municipalities to conduct an audit/examination of the Town Justice Court's records; and

WHEREAS an audit/examination of the Town of Owego Justice Court's records for the fiscal year 2021 was conducted and completed on February 1, 2022;

NOW; THEREFORE, IT IS

RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Owego acknowledge herein that an audit/examination of the Town of Owego Justice Court's records for the fiscal year 2021 was conducted and completed on February 1, 2022.

2. Event request for Hickories Park – Tioga County Mental Hygiene  
This was acted on during Reports of Department Heads.

3. Employee reclassification – Highway  
**Councilmember Jochum made a motion to table action on a Highway employee reclassification until March 15, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

4. Hire Mechanic  
**A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to adopt the following resolution hiring Nathan Sorber as a mechanic in the Highway Department. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

L. Second Privilege of the floor – none

M. Executive Session - none

N. Adjournment -

**Motion by Councilmember Morgan, the meeting was adjourned at 6:56 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk