

April 5, 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 Supervisor called the meeting to order, the Town Clerk called the roll Scott Vasisko led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council

Present: Supervisor Donald Castellucci, Jr.
Council: Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum and Jonathan Marks
Absent: None

Department Heads

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

Absent: Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Peter Gordon, Town Historian

B. Minutes of the previous meeting -

The minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting will stand as submitted.

C. Consideration of bids – none

D. Public Hearing - none

E. Reports of Department Heads –

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor - reported that it is a busy time of year for him and his crew with winter cleanup underway at all Town parks. Next, he stated that camping at Hickories Park will open up April 11th, and 26 out of the 30 seasonal sites are already reserved. Lastly, he thanked the Highway Department for their help with chipping up trees and brush in Hickories.

Rick Pedro, Assistant Assessor – no report

Joann Lindstrom, Planning & Zoning Administrator – reported she and Bill Carrigg attended training sessions last week.

Councilmember Marks for Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities – reported that correspondence from the CDC was received regarding wastewater surveillance for Covid monitoring. The program is not mandatory and Stiles is not recommending participation. **A motion was made to continue wastewater sampling and testing in the same way it is**

currently done without joining the NYS Wastewater Surveillance Network. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Castellucci and unanimously carried.

Michael Roberts, Highway Superintendent – reported that, after recommendation from Clark Patterson Lee Engineers, he closed Valley Road bridge over Pumpelly Creek. Lastly, he stated that brush pickup will be May 1-31, 2022 and appointments for pickup must be made with the Highway Department.

Irene Graven, Town Attorney – reported that after researching the details, she is recommending the Town join the multiple jurisdictional lawsuit regarding PFO/PFA contaminants. The Town qualifies by contaminant levels and there is no cost to join. **Councilmember Marks made a motion to join the multiple jurisdictional lawsuit to recover funds spent on the lowering of PFO/PFA contaminants. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Jochum and unanimously carried.**

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk – reported that she received the State Comptroller’s audit review of the Town and it is available for review in her office. Lastly, she stated that she will be sending out Second notices for unpaid tax bills next week.

Supervisor Castellucci – reported that the monthly statement of the Planning & Zoning Administrator and Town Clerk are on file in his office. Next, he stated that Red Barn is not fulfilling their obligations for our website contract and he will try to get a refund for the remainder of the year. He would like to have a Town resident (that used to work for Red Barn) temporarily service our website until a new company is found. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to enter a 1099 contract with Paula Fairbairn until the end of July. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.** Then the Supervisor stated that the brush drop off area on Kuenzli Road will be reopened only until a place on the Town Hall campus is prepared. Next, he reported that a bond proposal will be coming at the next meeting. Lastly, the Supervisor stated that he is eliminating the Highway Committee, and he will be the Board Liaison for that department.

F. Privilege of the floor –

Joe Dapolito, West Glann Road, spoke about Tioga Terrace park and the length of time it is taking the Town to rehab it. He pleaded with the Board to have the paving done before their June carnival.

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, aired several grievances against the Town from Highway Department plowing jobs to the Town website address as well as a lack of communication from the DCO to lack of resident input on Town projects. She then submitted a petition with 6 signatures against the addition of a new entrance to Campville Commons park.

Netta Hamilton, East Campville Road, spoke about the work done on the ditch in front of her yard. She stated the Highway Department did a nice job on her driveway, but the ditch is too deep.

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

1. Tioga County Soil & Water donation request

Supervisor Castellucci stated this is a recurring donation for the Town.

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to donate \$200 to Tioga County Soil & Water

Conservation District. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Morgan and carried with 3 yes votes and 1 abstention (Councilmember Marks).

2. NYSDOT project notification

The Supervisor reviewed that the State is planning to fix State Route 434 and State Route 17 from the exit 65 area over to the Broome County line.

3. NYSDEC aquatic herbicide application notification

Supervisor Castellucci explained that this is an annual treatment for Spencer Pond.

H. Abstracts –

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

A0 - General Fund	44,108.66
B0 - General Fund-Town Outside	18,265.86
DB - Highway-Town Outside	60,135.68
F0 - Water Districts	80,139.60
FA - Route 38 Water	789.67
G0 - Sewer Districts	32,656.03
GA – Route 38 Sewer	218.40
HN – NY Rising – Shared Services Building	<u>12,619.57</u>
	\$248,933.47

I. Unfinished Business – none

J. Reports of Standing Committees –

Councilmember Morgan – stated a need for Attorney/Client Privilege after the meeting

Councilmember Marks – no report

Councilmember Jochum – reported that there will be resolutions to purchase a skid steer and cold planer under Permissive Referendum at the next meeting.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions and New Business –

1. Event request at Hickories Park – Catholic Charities

Scott Vasisko, Parks Maintenance Supervisor reviewed the event and recommended allowing it with the usual requirements. **A motion was made by Councilmember Morgan to approve the Catholic Charities event on June 11, 2022 in Hickories Park contingent on appropriate contract and insurance. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

2. New hire – Attorney’s Office

Attorney Graven explained that her secretary retired suddenly and a new part time person has been found. **Councilmember Morgan made a motion to adopt the following**

resolution hiring Debra Standinger as a part time typist to the Town Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

WHEREAS the approved 2022 budget for the Town of Owego Attorney's Office allows for a part-time Typist to the Town Attorney, not to exceed 19.5 hours per week or 39 hours per two week pay period, and

WHEREAS due to a recent resignation within the Attorney's Office, this position is vacant as of April 1, 2022 and it is necessary to fill this position, at \$17.87 per hour and

WHEREAS a skilled and qualified individual has interviewed and is available to fill such vacancy,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that Debra T. Standinger is hereby hired to fill this position at \$17.87 per hour, as a part-time Typist to the Town Attorney, not to exceed 19.5 hours per week or 39 hours per two week pay period, retroactive to March 28, 2022, with a probationary period of up to 52 weeks from date of hire and subject to satisfactory license background check.

3. Training request – Cally Fruscello

Rick Pedro, Assistant Assessor, reviewed the details of the self-study training and testing date explaining that the only cost to the Town would be for parking. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to allow Cally Fruscello to complete the self-study class and attend a one day testing session in Syracuse on May 25, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

4. Training request – Rick Pedro

Rick Pedro, Assistant Assessor, reviewed the details of the two testing sessions for self-study courses he is taking, and that the only cost to the Town would be for parking. **A motion was made by Councilmember Jochum to allow Rick Pedro to attend two testing sessions (June 3rd and July 27, 2022). The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.**

5. Schedule Public Hearing – KRM Management Group zoning change

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding a zoning change for KRM Management Group on May 3 at 6:30PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

6. Schedule Public Hearing - James & Deborah Wood zoning change

Councilmember Jochum made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing regarding a zoning change for James & Deborah Wood on May 3 at 6:30PM. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Marks and unanimously carried.

L. Second Privilege of the floor -

Teresa Dole, Casterline Road, asked about a “garbage property” on Fifth Avenue. She was told that parcel is in the Village and she should ask their Board of Trustees.

M. Executive Session – none

N. Adjournment

Councilmember Morgan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 PM .

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Kennedy, Town Clerk