

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes of October 17, 2011

The regular meeting of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 2354 State Rte. 434, Apalachin, NY. The following people were in attendance:

Mayor:	Ed Arrington
Trustees:	Tom Clark
	Earl Hartman
	Jim Legursky
	Ann Lockwood
	Kevin Millar
	Doug Worden
Clerk-Treasurer:	Rod Marchewka
Police Sargent:	Chuck Hogancamp
Acting Village Attorney:	Robert McKertich
WWTP Supt.	Ron Horton
DPW Supt.	Jeff Soules

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Arrington followed by the pledge of allegiance.

Privilege of the Floor:

Cindy Motter & Melody Patterson would like the Village Board to recommend that door-to-door Trick-or-Treating be held at the high school this year due to the damage caused by flooding.

**Motion by Trustee Millar, seconded by Trustee Clark, to strongly discourage Trick-or-Treating in affected flood areas, and strongly encourage Trick-or-Treating take place at the high school “Trunk R Treat”. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 7-0**

Tina Price – 557 E. Front Street. Thanks to everyone who put on the meeting about house raising.

Question on a letter about substantial damage – damage is at 50% or more

- Jeff – if the village sends out a letter like that the house will have to be torn down or raised up to meet code requirements.
- Don’t want to jump the gun.
- There is a municipal kickoff meeting next week

Flood Updates:

- County has put a letter in the paper on flood mitigation.
- DPW – still picking up debris
- Village Board Room almost repaired – new sheet rock and has been sanded ready for painting. Need to order furniture for the board room.

- Sewer Department – power is now restored to the digester. L.P. Tank has been set Blanding Electric working on electric
- Sewer Department had a kick off meeting with FEMA – talked about mitigation, attending representatives from FEMA, State, EFC & DEC
- Working on pump stations – one by one, getting them up and running and back on line
- OPD – new police car is in and waiting for equipment

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to recess the public session of this meeting at 8:00 p.m. and enter into executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person to be Chief of the Owego Police Department; and FURTHER MOVE that both Sheriff Howard and Mr. Tom Doty be invited to join the executive session. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 7-0**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Hartman, that the Village of Owego be declared the lead agency for the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) action known as “Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades”; and FURTHER MOVE to accept the determination presented in the full environmental assessment form that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment; and FURTHER MOVE to authorize the Village of Owego Mayor to sign the full environmental assessment form as the responsible officer in the lead agency. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye. Trustee Legursky passed and then abstained.**

**Motion Approved 6-0-1**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Millar, to approve the September Treasurer’s Report as documented in the Revenue Control Report dated 10-17-2011 at 1:29 p.m. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 7-0**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Worden, to approve the minutes of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting of August 15, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye. Trustee Legursky abstained.**

**Motion Approved 6-0-1**

- Liquor License Renewal for the Cellar Restaurant and Ti-Ahwage Community Players – No objections
- Code Red – information given to the board on Code Red which is an emergency notification service – no action taken

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Millar, to approve the minutes of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting of September 6, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Clark abstained. Trustees Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 6-0-1**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Millar, to approve the minutes of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting of September 19, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Clark abstained. Trustee Legursky passed and then abstained. Trustee Hartman passed and then voted aye. Trustees Lockwood, Millar, Worden and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 5-0-2**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Millar, to approve the minutes of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees meeting of October 3, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye. Trustee Hartman passed and then voted aye.**

**Motion Approve 7-0**

Trustee and Commissioner Reports:

Trustee Clark:

The following motion was handed out for review but was not actually made-

I move the adoption of the following resolution:

WHEREAS, during budget negotiations for the fiscal year 2011-2012 budget this board expressed a desire to change the compensation provided to elected officials to \$1 per week for trustees and \$10 per week for the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the compensation provided to Trustees and the Mayor is currently fixed by Village of Owego Code §C-4; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees may want to change the compensation provided to Trustees and the Mayor from time to time; and

WHEREAS, Village of Owego Code §C-28 authorizes the Board of Trustees to set the salary of the Treasurer but does not specify when the salary shall be set;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, Village Council shall draft a local law to amend the Village of Owego Code §C-4 and §C-28; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, said local law shall have the following key attributes while allowing specific wording to be at the professional discretion of Village Council:

1. Compensation for the incumbent Mayor, Trustees, and Clerk-Treasurer shall not change until after the next regular election for that position.
2. The Board of Trustees shall set the compensation for the Mayor, Trustees and Clerk-Treasurer to be elected in March 2012 at the first board meeting immediately following adoption of this local law.
3. The Board of Trustees shall regularly set the compensation for the elected Mayor, Trustees, and Clerk-Treasurer at the first board meeting of each fiscal year.

- All old business has been addressed via agenda items; however, I would like to introduce two items of new business:

I ask that "Compensation of Elected Officials" be added to the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting of November 7, 2011, at which time I will introduce a resolution asking for a local law to amend the Village of Owego Code to allow the Board to set the compensation of elected officials vice having it fixed by code as it currently is. I further ask that members of the Board and Village council review this draft motion and provide me with any recommended changes prior to our next meeting.

I ask that "Downsizing of the Owego Police Department" be added to the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting of November 7, 2011, at which time I will present a draft plan to down size the Owego Police Department from its current compliment to zero officers and one Chief of Police by March 1, 2012. At that time, I will also be introducing a motion calling for a public hearing on November 21, 2011 to allow public review and comment upon said plan.

Trustee Hartman:

### Commissioner Report Summaries

Village of Owego, New York

Earl Hartman Trustee Ward 2/ Commissioner to: DPW, OFD, Planning

Date: **October 3, 2011**  
to File

Note

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(Note: Electronic copies of full reports have been filed with the Mayor, Clerk-Treasurer, all Trustees, DPW and OFD.)

Report No.      Report Brief:

**1.**

**OFD: Central station electric:**

DPW has set aside Blanding Electric for being non-responsive and have hired Patterson electric to get the panel / breakers issue resolved.

**Deputy Schreiner** brought in his people and they thoroughly cleaned station 4 in preparation for moving all of the recovered equipment and materials from the Central Station truck floor so we can get all the trucks and boats back into their respective places.

Dave Churchman will be coordinating a BIG “thank you” to all of our sister Fire and EMS companies that came to our aide. A “thank you will be put in the various papers.

An internal OFD Facilities Organization committee has been established to look at how to best utilize the Central stations spaces.

801 has returned from Tyler but is leaking air & oil. Chief Franz is less than happy (an understatement) and will be addressing it with Tyler.

Commissioner Hartman is looking into alternative maintenance of the Fire trucks.

The chief said that although it was a not an easy choice he had to say no to power blasting the River-walk and the gravel from under the bridge at the school .

**Kevin Cumm was named the Fireman of the Year and Ken Wolf is a proud 70 year OFD member.**

**Hydrants:** Still being pursued

**2.      DPW:**

Jeff and I periodically touch base on his schedule and progress but for the most part I try to not occupy Jeff’s time having him give me reports.

**NSRR** - I met Mike Fesen, VP, and Tim Grove, FE, to discuss the issues raised by Boland et al and how to resolve them. I sent out an update on the meeting to all trustees and to NSRR so I will not reiterate it here.

As scheduled, the Main Street crossing was opened up today and will probably be opened through Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. NSRR may hold off on opening up the East front Street crossing until further observations are evaluated.

NYSDOT was along 434/Southside relocating pull boxes for the street light issues that have been on a back burner since the flood.

**3.      Planning & Zoning:**

Next meeting - Tentatively November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Submitted by: Earl Hartman  
Trustee/ Commissioner

Cc: Mayor Arrington, Trustees: Clark. Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, Clerk Marchewka

Trustee Lockwood:

- I am meeting Wednesday with the Historic Owego Market Place to discuss Lights on the River – Trustee Millar will be attending the meeting also

Trustee Worden:

- 791 homes have been inspected to date with the help of Code from Enfield
- Some homes have not been attended to by their owners

Trustee Millar:

- Attended a meeting on Revenue Anticipation (Note: this will help with cash flow). Village will be looking at a 2% cap. Resolution is on 11-7-2011 Agenda

**Motion by Trustee Worden, seconded by Trustee Millar, to approve a Grant for the Police Justice of \$1,800.00 for computer software. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, Worden, and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 7-0**

**Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Worden, to accept new police patches as submitted by Sgt Hogancamp. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark , Legursky, and Millar passed and then voted yes. Trustees Hartman, Lockwood, and Worden voted aye. Mayor Arrington abstained.**

**Motion Approved 4-0-3**

**Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. for Executive Session – Back in regular session at 9:30 p.m.**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Millar, to appoint Officer Karen L. Vinti to the position of Police Chief for the Owego Police Department with a probationary period of 18 months. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Clark voted aye. Trustee Hartman passed and then voted aye. Trustee Legursky voted no, Trustees Millar and Worden and Mayor Arrington voted aye.**

**Motion Approved 5-1-1**

**Motion by Trustee Millar, seconded by Trustee Worden, to go into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation.**

**Unanimously Approved.**

Into Executive Session at 9:35 p.m. – back in regular session at 9:50 p.m.

**Motion by Trustee Millar, seconded by Trustee Lockwood to adjourn.**

**Unanimously Approved.**