

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of July 12, 2010

The regular meeting of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 12, 2010 at 56 Main Street, Owego, NY, starting at 7:00 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

Mayor: Edward L. Arrington
Trustees: Connie Sternberg
Ken Smith
Ann Lockwood
Jim Legursky

Clerk-Treasurer: Rod Marchewka
Fire Chief: Ed Bidwell
Village Attorney: Irene Graven

Absent: Trustee: Jane Woody
Trustee: Tom Clark

Insert "A" Visitor's List

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Arrington followed by the pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Privilege of the floor was offered:

Rusty Fuller – Civil Lesson – respect the mayor and board. Village board members have come to the Fire Board Meeting and have been very respectful and we owe them the same courtesy tonight.

Motion by Trustee Sternberg, seconded by Trustee Smith, to discuss the Retirement Incentive Program.

Village Attorney described the A & B Parts of the incentive.

The request would cost the village money. Also, unless the village can save 50% in salaries for two years, the village would not be able to approve these incentives.

NO ACTION TAKEN ON THIS ITEM

Motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to approve request from Cerretani on Southside rezoning from R2 to industrial and send to Planning and Zoning Board for any needed review.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve payment of bills.

- **Discussion on tree removal/stump removal**

- Sewer pilot program
- Cemetery brochures
- Sidewalks
- Dog waste disposal systems
- Fire boat repairs

Unanimously Approved

Discussion on foreclosed properties, 17 Fulton, 4 Fox, 93-95 Chestnut to be sold by the county.

The village will not buy these properties because the county expects the village to pay taxes on these parcels. The county should be willing to forego any added taxes.

Motion by Trustee Sternberg, seconded by Trustee Smith, to approve the following Tax Warrant to be sent to the County for the 2010-2011 Village Taxes.



Village of Owego

Clerk-Treasurer Mayor 178 Main Street Owego, NY 13827	Code Enforcement Dept. of Public Works 20 Elm Street Owego, NY 13827	WWTP Southside Drive Owego, NY 13827	Owego Police Dept. 90 Temple Street Owego, NY 13827
Office of the Mayor Clerk-Treasurer Code Enforcement Village Fax	607-687-1710 607-687-3555 607-687-1101 607-687-1787	WWTP Police Dept. Public Works Village Garage	607-687-2282 607-687-2233 607-687-1101 607-687-1221

Tax Warrant

To: Rodney Marchewka, Village of Owego Clerk Treasurer

YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to receive and collect from the persons named in the tax roll hereunto annexed, the several sums stated in the last column hereof opposite their respective names, being a total of:

For the current budget:	2,086,405.00
For Charges for Services: (Code)	21,310.38
For releived sewer rent and charges:	<u>111,281.49</u>
Total:	2,107,715.38

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to receive and collect such sums without additional charges between the first day of August and the first day of September, 2010 both inclusive; and therefore to collect with such of the sums as have not been thereof collected an additional charge of five per centum for each month or fraction thereof until November 15, 2010 when turned over to Tioga County for collection.

YOU ARE FURTHER COMMANDED to deliver to the County Treasurer on or after the 15th day of November 2010, the list of unpaid taxes as described for collection.

Dated: July 12, 2010
Tax Rate: **17.66**
On the assessed value of: 118,120.072

Edward L. Arrington, Mayor
Village of Owego

Chief Bidwell

- PESH violations – 17 of 18 violations have been addressed
- There is still a question on rope that must be replaced because it is too short
- Regarding FOIL request – he does not know what a FOIL Request is and he has never received one from any trustee
- A classification of fire department members is 98% complete. There will be overlapping classifications on some firemen

Trustee Sternberg asked Chief Bidwell about FOIL requested information such as fire department physicals and OSHA training.

Chief Bidwell responded in a derogatory tone. Trustee Sternberg then asked Chief Bidwell to act respectful and in a professional manner.

Chief Bidwell started walking out of meeting saying, fire me!

Trustee Legursky asked Fire Chief Bidwell if he had received any of the notices before someone sent them directly to OSHA (using the proper chain of command). Chief Bidwell stated that he did not receive any – and then he left the meeting.

Trustee Legursky said someone in the fire department did not use the proper chain of command to report the violations and did not have the best interest of the fire department at heart. He asked for an Employer's Right Handbook.

Motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Lockwood (because of the financial implications to the village) requesting from the fire department written documentation on answering PESH violations.

Unanimously Approved

Trustee Sternberg asked who is working with the mayor and Chief Bidwell and the mayor responded with Deputy Mayor Tom Clark (computer) and Mark Smart. The mayor has also requested other officers and fire board members help out on working on these violations. The mayor ordered a new computer for the fire department (to help with their records) and he has offered help from the clerk's office.

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Paul Cole – EMT Captain – EMT’s have offered to help but it has not been accepted. They can do S.O.P.’s and data entry.

Renee Fox – The fire chief inherited a huge mess and he is under a lot of stress (records were a mess after the flood; the convention is a few days away...).

Trustee Sternberg said the fire department has a full range of talent to help out with these problems.

Questions from the audience:

What will the village do if Chief Bidwell does not do the paperwork on these violations?

Where are copies of these violations posted? (Bulletin board at the Central Fire Station)

Let’s ask Chief Bidwell how we can help him.

Motion by Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.

Unanimously Approved