

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes of July 18, 2011

The special meeting and Public Hearing of the Village of Owego Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 56 Main Street, Owego, NY, starting at 7:00 p.m. The following people were in attendance:

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

Visitor’s List  
Insert “A”

Public Hearing on amending the Village of Owego Charter concerning the hiring of a village attorney.

The public was given a chance to comment – no public comments on this issue.

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to close the public hearing.**

Discussion:

Trustee Hartman contracting vs. employee independent contractor – Law Firm not as an employee.

Trustee Hartman doesn’t want the village attorney to receive benefits.

Mayor Arrington – The village attorney receives no benefits other than the ability to join the retirement system. The village does pay into that system.

**Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, and Worden voted aye.**

**Motion Adopted 6-0**

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Legursky, to adopt the following resolution:**  
**WHEREAS, on June 6, 2011, the Village of Owego Board of Trustees expressed a desire to amend the Village of Owego charter with respect to requirements for the Village Attorney; and**  
**WHEREAS, on June 15, 2011, the Villages legal council provided draft proposed local law #4 to enact said desire; and**  
**WHEREAS, on July 5, 2011, the Village of Owego Board of Trustees set a public hearing for July 18, 2011; and**  
**WHEREAS, on July 18, 2011, said public hearing was held, no public comments were provided, and said hearing was closed; and**  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, local law # 4 of the year 2011, a local law to amend the Village Charter regarding the position of Village Attorney, be adopted by the Village of Owego Board of Trustees; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, the Clerk-Treasurer file a certified copy of the local law with the New York Secretary of State as soon a possible but in no event later than August 5, 2011. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Clark, Hartman, Legursky, Lockwood, Millar, and Worden voted aye.**

**Motion Adopted 6-0**

Special Meeting held to discuss the Village of Owego Waste Water Treatment Plant's further upgrades.

Mickey Lehman – Executive Vice President and Jared Thisse, P.E. of Bernier, Carr & Associates gave a power point presentation (it is available on the village web site [www.villageofowego.com](http://www.villageofowego.com)).

On upgrades and expenses for the waste water treatment plant to meet the new regulation on nitrogen and phosphorus level discharge into the river.

Questions from the audience:

Herb McDowell of East Main Street - down the road are we looking at any other pending regulations? Possibly ammonia- Mic Lehmanmic should be covered by upgrades.

Bob McConnell of 82 Southside Drive – Will the village be moving the drying beds and sludge press. Yes, to the other side of the tunnel.

Dieter Dauber of 110 Halstead Avenue – will additional land have to be purchased? Yes, included in the projected cost.

Henry Hoffman of 7 Orchard Avenue – What about medicine flushed down sewer? Public should be educated about not flushing medicine.

Dick Franz OF 157 Talcott Street – Question about data on census – less people and bigger expense? Used 2000 data for medium household income. Bernier Carr gave information that the 2000 and 2010 census population remained approximately the same.

Henry Hoffman of 7 Orchard Avenue –How soon do we have to do this project? Currently the village is not in compliance with nitrogen levels funding sources are available now. Fines could be up to \$33,000 per day if the village does not comply with the Chesapeake Bay Standards.

Out of 28 plants in New York, Owego is the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> largest on the Susquehanna River Basin.

Trustee Legursky asked if the engineers were familiar with the “Hunt Engineer’s Study”. No, they were not.

Discussed –

- 1) Composting vs. land applying sludge.
- 2) Have other municipalities use our facilities
- 3) Trucking sludge to a landfill

Trustee Legursky discussed running a line to the Town of Owego Wastewater Treatment Plant and a line from Nichols to the Owego Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Trustee Hartman asked will there be a containment area for composted materials? Mic Lehman answered yes; it is advisable to keep compost dry.

Ron Horton – the village has a surplus of wood chips that could be used in the composting process.

Ron Horton – the Hunt Report was a joint study on what services or purchasing could be done by joining as a group with other municipalities.

It also looked at composting and if it was economically viable to include the Town of Owego and the Village of Waverly as a joint composting facility.

The conclusion of the Hunt Report is that it was the only option economically viable to pursue.

On combining the various plants, the conclusion was until the inflow and infiltration issues have been addressed by both the Village of Owego and the Town of Owego it is not recommended that consolidation of plants be considered.

Mayor Arrington – the village received letters of support from other municipalities in support of the composting facilities.

Trustee Millar – what is the difference in the future energy cost vs. current? Mic Lehman answered approximately \$10,000 increase.

Question on Verma Culture (worms) only used for composting yard waste – not sewer waste.

Judy Legursky – why can't we just dispose of our sludge elsewhere? Ron Horton answered it would cost at least \$99 a ton plus trucking, plus labor (Seneca Meadows).

**Motion by Trustee Clark, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to close the meeting.**

**Unanimously Approved**