

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of January 4, 2010

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 4, 2010 at the DPW Annex, 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY beginning at 7:00 p.m., with the following people in attendance:

Mayor: Edward Arrington

Trustees: Jane Woody
Connie Sternberg
Melody Patterson
Grace Thomas
Adam Jung

Deputy C/T: Lynne Mieczkowski
DPW Supt: Jeff Soules
WWTP Supt: Ron Horton
Police Chief: Rick McCulskey
Village Attorney: Irene Graven

Absent: Trustee Erik Young

Insert "A" Visitor's List

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Privilege of the floor was offered to those in attendance.

Kevin Millar, Front Street village resident, spoke to the re-zoning of the Middle School area as well as other areas that need to be considered for a change.

Clerk Treasurer

Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Sternberg approving the payment of bills as submitted.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Jung to approve the November Treasurer's report. Trustees Patterson, Jung, Thomas and Sternberg voting aye. Trustee Woody voting nay.

Motion Carried

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Patterson to approve a new fire protection agreement between the Town of Owego Fire District and the Village of Owego Fire Department commencing on July 1, 2010. This changes the territory to be protected and the amount of payment to the Village of Owego Fire Department pending final approval by respective attorneys. Also further authorizing the appropriate Village Representative (Mayor) to execute all necessary documents. Trustees Patterson, Thomas, Jung and Woody voting aye. Trustee Sternberg voted nay.

Motion Carried

Trustee Jung

- Violence in the Work Place additions have been compiled January meeting to be scheduled with Village attorney

Trustee Patterson

- Boiler for Central Fire Station
- Spec for Street Sweeper are compiled; not in bid form at this time – once completed Village will advertize for bids

Trustee Sternberg

- Flood mitigation – no report
- Neighborhood Improvement Committee continues to meet with Village Attorney with final recommendation so attorney can draft the rental inspections

Motion by Trustee Sternberg requesting a review of tax payers funds to pay for cleaning services for Croton Hose Company 3 and Fire Company #1; also that the board reviews it as a budget item. Mayor Arrington acknowledged Trustee Sternberg request but did not accept the motion.

Trustee Thomas

Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Jung to declare several old manholes surplus.

Unanimously Approved

- Attended “TING” meeting
- Well Head Issue

Trustee Woody

Questioned if Chief Bidwell had given any reports he had been asked for? Trustee Woody requests that the Village Code Officer James Mead inspect all Village buildings. Village properties should be OSHA ready.

- Old brush truck #845; is it surplus??

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg requesting the following: that completed reports be submitted in writing to the Village of Owego Board of Trustees by Chief Bidwell. Reports are due by January 19, 2010.

Proof that the members terminated in the May/June 2009, based on the former Chief Taft's recommendations, have been removed from the Fire Department company rosters.

The Village Board Meeting of October 5, 2009, had the following motion made by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas to amend a prior motion made by stating: "that the Fire members list being requested by Trustee Woody be presented to the Village Board at the 1st Village Board meeting after Chief Bidwell receives the total number trained listing from the Mayor".

End of motion in October.

This was to be a current print out of the Owego Fire members by company. The list from the Mayor of those who did not take the "No Violence in the Workplace Training" was given to Chief Bidwell in October 2009. There has been no response at this time.

The equipment report by Chief Bidwell was due to the Village Board by the first meeting in November. This list should include all equipment such as trucks, gear, and communication systems – this was discussed on 10-12-2009. There has been no report provided at this time.

Chief Bidwell was to develop membership categories and duties. Example: active vs. others. First discussed in June 2009. No Report has been provided at this time.

I, Jane Woody, have requested on 10/12/2009 that Chief Bidwell contact me before the Monday Village Board Meeting, so that the Village Board Members could be kept informed.

NIOSH Report post Mr. Steve Gavin's death – given to Chief Bidwell on 10-12-2009. Requested review of said report. Chief Bidwell was to report to Village Board ASAP with plan for corrections. No report at this time.

Provide an up to date listing of all training and OSHA training. Requested 7/14/09. No report at this time.

1-4-2010

All of the above information is requested to be given to the Village Board of Trustees by 1/19/2010. Failure to comply with this motion will be considered an act of voluntary resignation as Chief of the Owego Fire Department.

Trustees Patterson, Thomas, Jung, and Mayor Arrington voted Nay. Trustees Woody and Sternberg vote aye.

Motion Denied.

Per Trustee Woody – on October 5, a motion was passed for the list of fire members to be presented to the Village Board the next time Chief Bidwell received the training list from the Mayor – He received the list October 12th. Chief Bidwell was supposed to make the presentation the following meeting and we are getting nothing – you think we are micro-managing. This is simply asking this man to do this job and I believe the Mayor needs to hold him accountable. Two and one-half months of waiting on a list – as far as the bylaws it says every month the equipment is to be checked. What happens if OSHA comes in, we are hanging by a thread.

Trustee Sternberg spoke about office support for the Fire Chief.

Trustee Woody brought up when Chief Bidwell informed the Fire Board about the categorizing of each group (active vs. inactive). Trustee Woody reviewed the Fire Board Minutes from December 2, 2009.

Trustee Sternberg questioned the confidential aspect of family members entering fire member data.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg to have Lynne review the \$950 for cleaning of Company 1 & Company 3 and report back to the Village Board the findings to determine what line item it should be charged to.

Trustees Patterson, Jung, Thomas and Mayor Arrington voting nay. Trustees Sternberg and Woody voting aye.

Motion Denied

OPD Report

- Traffic control for Elm Street
- Middle school (Beds 4 Kids)
- Fire Department ambulance once surplus – OPD has interest in it
- Snow removal procedure (new Local Law #5 2009)

Village Attorney

Absent.

Privilege of the floor was offered.

Richard Watkins, from 27 Ross Street, questioned what will be done about the gas drilling trucks damaging the Village streets.

Ray Rushing, Village resident, spoke to the old ambulance and what will happen to the guts of it – it will be totally stripped down.

Lee Dunham, business owner and Village resident, spoke to allowing individuals to speak – Mr. Dunham would appreciate it if Mayor Arrington would give the courtesy to allow Ms. Woody and Ms. Sternberg to speak.

Kevin Millar offered to contact the Planning Chair regarding our rezoning issues.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg to hold an executive session for a specific personnel issue.

Unanimously Approved

Out of regular session at 8:12 p.m. Into Executive Session at 8:14 p.m. Out of Executive Session at 8:25 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg to adjourn at 8:28 p.m.

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