

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of August 17, 2009

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting and Special Public Hearing were held on Monday, August 17, 2009, 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: Grace Thomas
Jane Woody
Melody Patterson
Connie Sternberg
Michael Phelan
Adam Jung

Clerk-Treasurer: Lynne A. Mieczkowski
DPW Supt: Jeff Soules
Police Chief: Rick McCulskey
WWTP: Ron Horton
Fire Chief: Ed Bidwell
Village Attorney: Irene Graven

Visitors List – Insert “A”

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Arrington at 7:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing scheduled for Local Law #1 on “Weapons” opened at 7:03 p.m.

The Village Attorney read all sections of Local Law #1 regarding “Weapons”. The Local Law is to enact a possession of fire arm and other dangerous weapons restriction for all village buildings.

Mr. Walt Pianosi and Mr. Joseph Fuller both asked “in violation” questions. Village Attorney answered legal questions with the legal interpretation.

Motion by Trustee Phelan seconded by Trustee Woody to adopt Local Law #4, of 2009 on “Weapons”.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Thomas to close Public Hearing at 7:07 p.m.

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Joseph Breitwieser read a prepared statement siting issues against the Mayor of the Village of Owego. He was told he was out of order. The Village Board follows Roberts Rules of order.

Mr. Robert Skope requested a “controlled burn” be done on his building at 495 E. Main Street. Those needing to get involved to have a controlled burn would be the Board of Trustees, Fire Department and DEC. All utilities have been disconnected from the building.

Trustee Sternberg stated that Mr. Skope needs to get an extension. He has submitted extension paperwork to Jeff Soules, DPW Superintendent.

A definite plan must be submitted by Mr. Skope by 9-8-2009.

Info on controlled burn will be discussed at September 8th Village Board Meeting. Issue is being tabled until 9-8-2009.

Clerk Treasurer

- Correspondence from Glenn A. Warner VFW Post 1371 of their intentions to submit a renewal application to the State Liquor Authority
- Correspondence received from John Barleycorn Tavern of their intent to apply for renewal of its Liquor License at 216 Front Street, Owego

Motion by Trustee Jung seconded by Trustee Patterson approving the transfers as follows:

From:	A.3120.40.220 (OPD)	\$201.80
To:	A.5110.40.430 (DPW)	\$201.80
From:	A.3410.40.220(FIRE)	\$1,065.31
To:	A.5110.40.430(DPW)	\$1,065.31

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Woody approving June 15th minutes. Trustees Sternberg, Thomas, Woody, Patterson, Phelan voting aye. Trustee Jung abstained.

Motion Carried

- Tentative July Treasurer’s Report submitted

Trustee Jung

No report.

Trustee Patterson

- Plots in new section 7 (40) (9 have already been sold)

Trustee Phelan

- Gas drilling/Apalachin landowners coalition letter
- DEC letter regarding Tioga Castings property
- Michael spoke to Mr. Bretwieser's comments in his written statement; he also stated that in using Robert's Rules of Order it is intended to accommodate not discourage public debate
- Economic Development (automobile junk yard) Village Attorney, DPW Superintendent Jeff Soules are working these issues
- Encroachment and fence are questions of "Weitsman" that have not been addressed
- OHPC (Tax Credit Program)

Trustee Sternberg

- Code Issues (in hold mode) 495 Main Street & 42-44 Temple Street
- Flood Mitigation Meeting scheduled for 8-24-2009
- Violence in Work Place Training (what is status; how will it be enforced)

Trustee Thomas

- Awarding of Spencer/Depot Street Project

Trustee Woody

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Phelan to hold an executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas approving the request to close Talcott Street from the tracks to Spruce Street for the planned 2009 Hose Races.

Unanimously Approved

- Zoning / Planning / no activity

Motion by Trustee Woody and seconded by Trustee Patterson approving the Department of Public Works with the help of Tioga County Economic Development and Planning to apply for a grant from the NYS Parks & Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant if successful will be used to complete the southern nature trail from 17c to the railroad tracks at black bridge; also approving the mayor be allowed to sign any and all paperwork needed to complete application.

Unanimously Approved

- Fire Board requested that the current Fire Commissioner be removed. Mayor Arrington was empathetic in his answer “denied”
- Updated Fire Department By-Laws
- Hose Races (Fire Department)

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas to allow the Owego Fire Departments and their guests to consume alcohol from Station #3.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Jung to table prior motion on alcohol until 9-8-09.

Unanimously Approved

Discussion on the Fire Department Convention to be held in 2010.

Trustee Sternberg wants to know how each member of the Hose Teams are covered against liability, including groups coming into village competition.

Mr. Joseph Fuller former hose racing participant stated that this activity has always followed the guidance of Central New York Fireman’s Association and the OFD adheres to these rules. The fire departments have never brought the question to the Village Board of who can participate and who cannot participate in the activity.

Chief Bidwell to provide board members with specific answers on exposure to liability with outside fire departments for September 12, 2009.

Chief Bidwell spoke to the property at 495 Main Street. The owner has been given a 45 day extension for removing structure.

Trustee Patterson stated that the Village Board should be behind Chief Bidwell and support him in the activities being planned for the Owego Firemen.

OPD

- Post “weapons” signs
- Violence in Work Place Signs (make-up sessions are being scheduled - 17 training sessions have been held – 174 individuals have not attended)

Village Attorney

- Issues at 42-44 Temple Street (Engineering study completed)

Privilege of the floor was offered to those in attendance.

Kevin Millar, Front Street resident spoke regarding 9/5/09 Street Tree Inventory. This is village wide – 10 to 12 Cornell students will participate.

Chief Bidwell asked if all reinstatement letters have gone out?

8:30 - Village Board went into Executive Session

Motion by Trustee Woody and Trustee Patterson to come out of executive session at 9:15 p.m.

Unanimously Approved

9:15 - out of Executive Session

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Patterson to prepare letter to terminate the EMI contract with Superior Ambulance by September 25, 2009.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Patterson to employ two full-time and two part-time employees for OFD/EMS at salary agreed on during executive session. Also to authorize the Mayor to sign all papers needed to complete the employment process.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas to adjourn.

Unanimously Approved