

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of October 19, 2009

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Monday, October 19, 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: Adam Jung
Jane Woody
Connie Sternberg
Melody Patterson
Grace Thomas
Erik Young

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

Absente: Fire Chief Ed Bidwell
Trustee Jung

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Arrington welcomed the new Trustee Erik Young (he is replacing Michael Phelan) who resigned from Ward 2.

Mr. David Allen Vice President of the Coburn Library thanked Erik for his generous donations to the Coburn Free Library.

Doyle Gibbs, from the Election Committee, addressed the Village Board. Several months ago Mr. Gibbs was asked to chair a committee to look into the possible changes to the Village Election procedures given that there were state changes in voting procedures and how it may affect the Village of Owego election process. David Allen member of the Election Committee explained to the Village Board - one of the board's choices is to do nothing. But this position taken will also have consequences. The catalyst for all of this was a change in the election law. The election law requires that elections be conducted in a manner that makes the voting process handicapped accessible.

The polling places are required to meet certain standards and also the voting equipment has to meet certain standards. The March 2010 Election can be held using the old "lever" voting machine. This will

be the last election where this type machine can be used for subsequent elections. The Village will have two choices.

- 1) Paper ballots
- 2) Optical scan voting machine

The optical scan machine must be programmed for each individual election. This equipment will be very costly, which can be rented from the county, current fee for election estimated at \$1000. With new machine the fee could be \$2000 to \$3000.

Consideration has been given to:

- Move the March Election to November with the county
- Run election on odd years

All of these changes will make changes to the Village Charter. Mr. Allen spoke to the odd year ballots and how these changes will affect the elections. This would also make it necessary to extend current terms to next odd year.

Mayor Arrington asked the Village Board Members to review this issue and be ready to vote at the next Village Board Meeting.

Don Patterson, from Partner's Insurance, presented a check in the amount of \$4,620.00 to the Village for a portion of the initial NYMIR Capitalization Fee - for the next two years the Village will receive a reimbursement check.

Kevin Millar, Village resident, reported on the renewal of the Time Warner Franchise Contract and the results from the committee researching the contract. The committee is recommending:

7 year contract
3% Revenue for Village
Free Road Runner for Village/Fire/OPD

- "TING (Tioga Investigates Natural Gas) Committee
- Meeting scheduled for 11/2 with DEC Road Agreements

Mr. Harold Abrams on behalf of a family in PA brought back the request for a small above ground Mausoleum. Mr. Abrams has come before the board at a prior board meeting (10/5/09) with specific measurements, etc. The opinion of the Village Board is that Section Seven should not contain any above ground mausoleums. Mr. Abrams would like all Trustees to visit the site in the cemetery.

Emma Sedore County Historian and member of the Preserve America Grant Committee reported on the six historical markers being purchased under grant.

Bill Chandler thanked the Village Board for the use of Marvin Park for the start of the motorcycle ride.

The ride was a huge success. A thank you was given to DPW, Police, and Fire Police for all their support.

Clerk Treasurer

- Correspondence received from Layman Enterprises, Inc. regarding Alcohol Beverage License for the Cellar
- Submission of September's Treasurer's Report

Trustee Patterson

DPW Superintendent –

- Submission of work activity report from DPW regarding streets, parks, etc.
- All road projects (for fall) have been completed
- Street sweeper
- Status of Halloween Festival Preparations

Motion by Trustee Patterson seconded by Trustee Woody that based on the recommendation of the Cemetery Commission, the request to place a mausoleum in Section 7 be denied. Trustees Woody, Sternberg, Patterson and Mayor Arrington voting aye. Trustees Young and Thomas abstained.

Motion Carried

Trustee Young

No Report

Trustee Sternberg

- Flooding Concerns/J. Fuller
- No finance report
- 495 E. Main Street/demolished
- Ice & Snow removal fine changes

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Woody to lengthen time for snow removal from 6 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Unanimously Approved

New Neighborhood Improvement Committee

Trustee Thomas

- An EPA Certificate of Recognition was presented to WWTP Ronald Horton
- Correspondence from ?/EPA (working on creating a model/EPA requesting information to help with permitted discharge levels
- Levels being required will result in large sewer rate increases
- 11/16/09 Village Board Meeting (will need Village Board consensus) for a fair fee for Upstate Shredding to accept ? water discharge

Trustee Woody

- Trustee Woody asked Mayor Arrington if Fire Board had anything to report. Chief Bidwell would like to meet with full board and have Fire Board included
- Zoning Board chair person would like letters to go out to Village residents with issues being brought in front of zoning board.

OPD

- Riverwalk will cause more pedestrian traffic. Chief McCulskey wants to purchase water safety kits for water rescue. He will obtain pricing and report back to Village Board
- 2 officers still out (Colgan and Belokur).

Mayor

- No update on “REAP”
- Tioga Castings Site Update (looking at separating total acreage)
- Correspondence from Restore NY Round 3
- Village has procured \$2,019,000 in funding; also established 2 additional grants
 - Fire Victim Grant
 - Emergency Home Grant
- \$400,000 for “Home Grant”

Village Attorney

- Draft of Local Law for snow and ice removal
- Hearing for 42-44 Temple Street on 11/5/09 at 7:00 p.m. – 20 Elm Street, purpose to determine if structure poses risk to residents

Privilege of the floor was offered to those in attendance. Richard Watkins, Village Resident from Ross Street, inquired why the Village official took out ad in Pennysaver. Mr. Watkins questioned freedom of speech and will Lynne pay bill herself or use Village funds?

Kevin Millar, Village Resident, questioned whether the Village could look into getting a leaf sucking and shredding machine instead of the sweeper. Also, why is the town reluctant to issue an industrial use permit? And if they are reluctant shouldn't the Village be as well? Ron Horton stated that since the

Village has the ultimate decision on whether we will accept the discharge from there that the use permit should come from the Village.

Wendy Post – Pennysaver – questioned:

How many people affected for missing Violence in the Workplace Training?

- (2) Part-time police
- (1) Zoning
- (1) OHPC
- (1) Cemetery Committee
- (3) Seasonal Employees
- (31) Fireman

The Mayor responded: The Village had 24 training sessions (various times) .

495 E. Main Street – why couldn't the owner renovate the house? Per Mayor the structure was very dangerous – to self and others. The opinion and decision of the Village Board was to have the owner remove structure (given so many days – 120 days to accomplish this). The Village offered him grant funds; Code Officer assisted him in several ways. We, the Village Board, are trying to upgrade neighborhoods. The Village wants to limit issues to residents.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg to adjourn the meeting.

Unanimously Approved