

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting  
Minutes of April 6, 2009

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting, the 2009 Annual Village Meeting and a scheduled Public Hearing regarding “Restore New York” Phase 3 were held beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the DPW Annex, 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY with the following people in attendance:

Mayor:	Edward L. Arrington
Trustees:	Shannon Barbuto-Lewis Michael Phelan Connie Sternberg Grace Thomas Jane Woody
Clerk-Treasurer:	Lynne A. Mieczkowski
WWTP Supt.	Ron Horton
Police Chief:	Rick McCulskey
Village Attorney:	Irene Graven
Absent:	Trustee Adam Jung DPW Supt. Jeff Soules Owego Fire Chief, Tom Taft

The Annual Village Meeting opened at 7:00 p.m.

Insert A – Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting closed at 7:12 p.m.

The Public Hearing for Restore New York Phase 3 was opened at 7:14 p.m. Mr. Jeff Stokes, Deputy Director of Economic Development for Tioga County is on loan to the Village for the Restore New York Program. Restore New York is a Community Development Grant Program focused on addressing vacant, abandoned, surplus or condemned properties in the cities, towns, and villages in New York State Round 3 has \$150 million available state wide, of which approximately \$40 million is targeted for the Southern Tier of New York from Steuben County to Delaware County. This is the final round of this program as currently enacted by State Law. The goal of Restore New York is to revitalize urban centers. It is anticipated that upon completion, the projects funded by Restore New York will attract individuals, families, industry, and commercial enterprises to the municipality. It is further anticipated that the improved community and business climate will result in an increased tax base, thereby improving municipal finances and the were withal to further growth; grow the municipal tax and resource base and lessen its dependence on state aid.

Strong emphasis will be placed on projects building readiness. Projects will be scored higher when they demonstrate that a majority of the criteria had been satisfied.

This includes the following: Project Feasibility Market such as Feasibility Business Plans with 5 years Performance, Letters of Commitment and Financing, Project Readiness which includes conformance to local planning and zoning, federal and state permits; Third Party Estimates, Transportation Utility Readiness which includes transportation analysis utility evaluations and environmental readiness which includes both SHPO and SEQR Consultations. Applicants that can demonstrate their plans are in place project financing has been committed and that the project is expected to start within a year of a Restore New York award will be considered more competitive. There are 8 properties within the Village of Owego that have been included in the property assessment list.

Comments from those in attendance:

Mr. John Spencer – who represents the Owego Marketplace (the vacant property on 200-204 Front Street); we are currently working to construct a building which will have access to the river, public restrooms, retail space on the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor; the upper floors to be residential apartments.

Stella Reschke, Tioga County Tourism expressed her support for the Front Street gateway project; The proposed Restore New York Building Project will close the gap on this popular shopping street and encourage shoppers to visit and make Owego become a great retail destination. In addition it will create much needed high end apartments which will attract a younger group of professional people who appreciate the small town feel in a downtown cultural and commercial center as well as attract those retired folks who have the funds to open in our local establishment. The Historic Owego marketplace is a true shopping destination where people come eat, shop, and attend our festivals. It has been too many years since the fire of 2001, and it is time to move forward and grow or fall behind and start losing businesses and residents to other areas in the Southern Tier. As Tourism Director for Tioga County and a personal investor in the property, I am willing to do whatever it takes to support the project and help promote and spread the word and help create an architectural historic attraction.

Owners of property on 35 Lake Street, Mike and Donna McQueeny, have invested much of their own funds to complete the redevelopment of two (2) store fronts. The second and third floor is progressing to blend in with the Front Street Schoolhouse Development. We would like the support of this grant to help us continue our project.

**Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Woody to close the Public Hearing.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis seconded by Trustee Phelan approving the resolution to authorize the 2009 Restore New York Round 3 Application”.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Phelan declaring the Village as the lead agency for Restore New York Phase 3 Project.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Phelan seconded by Trustee Woody approving a negative declaration for Restore New York Phase 3 Application.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Phelan authorizing the Mayor/Deputy Mayor to sign all necessary paperwork for the Restore New York Phase 3 SEQR paperwork.**

**Unanimously Approved**

*Clerk Treasurer*

**Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Woody approving the payment of bills.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Thomas approving the Village go out for sealed bids for the Owego Police Department's 2000 Buick.**

**Unanimously Approved**

- Submission of Tentative budget for 2009/2010 for Trustee review

**Motion by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis seconded by Trustee Phalen approving April as Fair Housing Month.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis seconded by Trustee Woody approving the support of \$500.00 to "Kids Nite Out" program sponsored by Tioga County Council on the Arts". These funds to be expended from account A.7145.40.400.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis seconded by Trustee Woody approving the request from Tioga County Council of the Arts for a blanket permit for 8/22/09 (En Plein Air) fine arts and exhibit sale.**

**Unanimously Approved**

*Trustee Jung*

Absent

*DPW Report*

- Village Clean-Up Day – 4/4/09

VBM-04/06/2009

- Cemetery expansion (Village has requested stimulus dollars. Also have met with USDA – Village will need to prepare grant application for funds)
- NYSEG (Stimulus dollars for Weatherization ?) Trustee Barbuto-Lewis to investigate
- Signs up on George Street

**Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis to waive the fee for the kid's day picnic/VFW request 8/01/09.**

**Unanimously Approved**

- Michael Lumnah property – order to remedy information distributed to Trustees – Decision to be made at 4/20/09 Village Board Meeting
- Violations for Littering – cigarette butts are over running the streets – Board would have to purpose a Local Law). Mayor Arrington and Village Attorney to come back to the Village Board with recommendations
- Emergency Fund Program
- Trustee Phelan brought up planter placement on Lake Street

Trustee Phelan

- No Report on Economic Development
- Attended seminar at Cornell on “Gas Drilling”
- Discussion on Road Preservation Laws
- What are the concerns of the residents?
- Elaine Jardine/Tioga Investigates Natural Gas
- Mayor to schedule meeting with Tioga County Dale Weston, Village Attorney, Andy Fagan and Trustee Phelan

OHPC

- Reviewed OHPC letters
- Requested a moment of silence for the shooting victims of 4/3/09

Trustee Thomas

**Motion by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis seconded by Trustee Thomas authorizing the Mayor to sign any and all documents relating to USDA Pre-Development Planning Grant.**

**Unanimously Approved**

**Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Barbuto-Lewis approving the Mayor decline USDA's initial \$4,000 award to the Village.**

**Unanimously Approved**

Jane Woody

- No Report on pool & planning & zoning
- Playground equipment has been installed
- Meeting scheduled with Village Attorney and Fire Department regarding Fire Department By-Laws, etc.

Mayor

- Letter of Resignation received from Frank DeMara (REAP Representative)

**Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas approving the submittal of the COPS Hiring Recovery Program Application for three (3) police officers; also authorizing the Mayor to sign all necessary paperwork for this application.**

**Unanimously Approved**

- **Discussion on security coverage in Village Court**
- **Kevin Millar will be Chair of the task force for Time Warner Franchise**

Privilege of the floor was offered to those in attendance:

Joanne Cooney, Front Street resident, inquired about the value of lots in the Village

Kevin Millar spoke to a new demo company in Binghamton.

Kevin will get info to the board. Kevin spoke to size of gas trucks, etc., on Village Streets.

Mr. Millar asked again about privilege of the floor in the beginning of board meeting

Herb McDowell thanked the Village Board for acting swiftly on the grant for three (3) police officers. He also spoke to the litter on Lake Street. He suggested Trustees speak to the business owners before doing anything. The business may be receptive to sweeping and cleaning their own walks.

A moment of silence was held for victims of April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Motion by Trustee Phelan seconded by Trustee Thomas to adjourn at 9:15 p.m.**

**Unanimously Approved**