

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting
Minutes of August 03, 2009

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Monday, August 3, 2009, at the DPW Annex, 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY with the following people in attendance:

Mayor:	Edward Arrington
Trustees:	Grace Thomas Jane Woody Melody Patterson Connie Sternberg Michael Phelan
Clerk-Treasurer:	Lynne A. Mieczkowski
DPW Supt:	Jeff Soules
Police Chief:	Rick McCulskey
WWTP:	Ron Horton
Village Attorney:	Irene Graven
Absente:	Trustee Adam Jung Fire Chief Edward Bidwell

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

Mr. Joseph Bretwieser addressed the Village Board regarding junk dealer licenses. DPW Superintendent Jeff Soules stated that the definition of junk yard is not going to apply to Weitsman's West main Street property. Mayor Arrington, DPW Superintendent and Village Attorney Irene Graven will work this issue.

The Village Board will respond to Mr. Bretwieser's questions once the Village Attorney reviews this issue.

Trustee Phelan asked if the Trustees could receive copies of this information from Mr. Bretwieser.

Clerk Treasurer

Correspondence received from Gerard Pettinato on the beer and liquor license renewal for Mario's at 51 Fox Street, Owego, NY.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Sternberg to hold an executive session to discuss personnel.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Phelan approving the payment of bills.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Woody approving the Minutes of 5/18/2009.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Sternberg seconded by Trustee Patterson approving the minutes of June 1, 2009.

Unanimously Approved

Trustee Patterson

- Trustee Patterson assigned commissioner of Public Works effective immediately
- Ride along with police officer

Trustee Phelan

No report.

Trustee Sternberg

- Asbestos Survey Report for 495 Main Street
- Finance issues

Trustee Thomas

No report.

Trustee Woody

No Report

Mayor Arrington

- COPS Grant
- Work Place Violence Training (17 sessions held)
- Make up sessions being scheduled
- CDBG Home Grant received \$400,000 for owner occupied homes
- Waiting to hear on \$400,000 rental property grant
- Hiring of EMT's

Village Attorney

- Dean Street repair

Motion by Trustee Patterson seconded by Trustee Thomas approving the Town of Owego proceed with the repair of so much of Dean Street involved in the Town of Owego Glen Allen Road repair and approve the execution to include authorizing the Mayor to sign any and all documents to effect that repair. This approval is provided repair is completed by Town of Owego at no cost to the Village of Owego.

Unanimously Approved

Privilege of the floor was offered to those in attendance.

Patrick Gavin resident of 461 Main Street; a year ago Mr. Gavin sent a letter to Mayor Arrington as well as other members of the Village Board regarding the Owego ? Training Tower. In the letter Mr. Gavin officially requested a reply from the Mayor – it is now well over a year – when can Mr. Gavin expect a response?

Mr. Arrington noted that the Secretary of HUD had directed him not to reply – that that office would reply for the Village.

Mr. Gavin did receive a response from the Secretary but not the Village Mayor.

Mr. Gavin's second comment was that the majority of the Owego Fire Board had brought three issues to the Village Board and to my knowledge a nay or aye vote has not been taken on the issues. When are you going to do an up or down vote on these issues, so we as the Village of Owego know how this board stands?

Mayor Arrington responded:

- White By-Laws were voted in by Village Board
- Reinstatement to members out of state – vote was no
- Charter – no action has been taken

(Minutes to be provided to Mr. Gavin)

Paul Cole, EMT Captain and Fire Fighter, spoke to the Village Board, thanked the Village Board for taking action to protect the active membership of the Owego Fire Department. There are many people at the fire department that do a lot of work and sometimes are bullied and what not by certain other group members of the Owego Fire Department. Paul wishes that more supporters would come before the Village Board.

Out of regular session at 8:35 p.m.

Into executive session at 8:40 p.m.

Out of executive session at 9:00 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas authorizing the Mayor to open the interview process for EMT's to include personnel on the Civil Service Test and to offer employment to those the interviewing committee deems proper.

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas authorizing the Mayor to approve salary increases for non-union members.

Unanimously Approved

Brian Sternberg, village resident, spoke to the Village Board regarding the fire department issues. Mr. Sternberg stated that he supports the strong positive direction that the board is taking. He commented that the Fire Board does not speak for all of us.

Trustee Sternberg stated she is in agreement with comments that supportive people in the fire department do not feel comfortable in all cases coming to the Village Board.

Motion by Trustee Phelan seconded by Trustee Patterson to adjourn the meeting at 9 p.m.

Unanimously Approved