

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

The regular Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting and the special scheduled Public Hearing for Registration of Rental Units were held on Tuesday, February 17, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m. at the DPW Annex, 20 Elm Street, Owego, with the following people in attendance:

Mayor:	Edward L. Arrington
Trustees:	Grace Thomas Jane Woody Erik Young
Clerk-Treasurer:	Lynne A. Mieczkowski
DPW Supt.	Jeff Soules
WWTP Supt.	Ron Horton
Police Chief:	Rick McCulskey
Village Attorney:	Irene Graven
Fire Chief:	Tom Taft
Absent:	Trustee Barbuto-Lewis Trustee Jung Trustee Watkins

Privilege of the floor was offered to those at the meeting.

Mr. Charles Lohmeyer, Village resident, addressed the Village board regarding an accident where a Village employee driving a Village vehicle hit Mr. Lohmeyer's parked vehicle. Estimated damages are \$1715.00. Mr. Lohmeyer submitted the information to the Villages insurance and was denied. Mr. Lohmeyer asked what the Village plans on doing about the incident. Mayor Arrington stated the Village board would review the issue.

Stella Reschke was next to address the Village board regarding the Strawberry Festival scheduled for June 19, 2009.

Insert "A" – Activity list for Strawberry Festival 2009

Village board will review the ideas from the Strawberry Festival Committee and decision will be discussed at the next Village board meeting on 3/2/2009.

The 1st Public Hearing scheduled was for Local Law #1 of 2009 entitled Registration of Rental Units – this law will require landlords who do not reside in this county or within an adjacent county that they will have to register an agent that does live either within Tioga County or an adjoining county with the

code enforcement officer at DPW to give accurate name and address, phone number of the property manager and any other person responsible for maintenance of leased premises. The whole idea is to allow when anyone needs to be notified about the property owned by individuals who do not live in the area that there would be someone who can be contacted. Hopefully this will help with some of the code enforcement problems that the Village has been having.

Motion by Trustee Young seconded by Trustee Woody to close the public hearing at 7:24 p.m.

Unanimously Approved

Mr. Doug Barton, Director of Development Planning for Tioga County, addressed the Village board on the Restore New York III Grant. The Village has taken part in the first and second phase of the Restore New York Grant and the question to the Village now is: Is the Village Board willing to pursue Restore New York III monies. The grant is due to the state by May 9, 2009. There is a 10% percent match; you expend the monies first and then are reimbursed 90%.

Clerk Treasurer

- Minutes from Restore NY meeting
- Submission of January 20th minutes for review and approval at 3/2/ meeting

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas approving HOMP use Village property for Friday night 6/19/09 – Strawberry Festival.

Unanimously Approved

- **Submission of Treasurer's Report for review**

DPW

- Clock working on Central Fire Station has been repaired
- Restore New York Grant Status

Mayor Arrington asked about the Village paying for the damage to Charles Lohmeyer's vehicle \$1,715 when Village was plowing Spencer Avenue.

Village Attorney stated that the Village's insurance company had denied the claim under the provision of the Vehicle & Traffic Law that if the accident was during the course of employment by the worker driving the truck they are exempt from any liability. The concern that now gets raised is if the Village pays Mr. Lohmeyer for the damages to his vehicle it becomes a gift of tax dollars and at this time the attorney does not recommend paying it. Village Attorney recommends the tabling of this issue until the meeting on 3/2/09.

DPW Superintendent reviewed the current law.

- Survey at cemetery

Trustee Young

No Report

Trustee Thomas

Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Woody to approve the amendment to the Village of Owego's Harassment & Violence in the Workplace Policy; also, approving the requirement that all Village employees, fire department and boards must review and sign that they have read and understand the policy. The target for completion is two and a half months from tonight (2-17-09).

Unanimously Approved

- Preserve America

Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Young to release funds for a tri-fold brochure that encompasses both east and west tours. Printing costs are \$736.00 and design costs are \$525.00.

Unanimously Approved

- Meeting scheduled for 2/18/09 with WWTP Superintendent Ron Horton and John Mello from EPA to review grant application for the Spencer Avenue/Depot Street Project

Motion by Trustee Thomas seconded by Trustee Woody approving the resolution for "Perm 1" from DOT.

Unanimously Approved

- Draft for Spiedie Permit

Trustee Woody

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee Thomas approving the Tioga County Council on the Arts use of the "Gazebo" for Kid's Night Out on the following dates:

**July 3, 2009
July 10, 2009
July 17, 2009**

7:00 to 8:00 PM – fee to be waived

Unanimously Approved

Motion by Trustee Woody seconded by Trustee approving the following new members into the Owego Fire Department:

**Sandy Ward
Company 1**

**Jeffrey Millar
Company 2**

**Andrew Vought
Company 5**

**John Olson
Company 5**

**Tracy Houghton
Company 4**

Unanimously Approved

Mayor Arrington

- Discussion on “just compensation” as it pertains to Riverwalk Project
- Actively pursuing Stimulus monies

Chief McCulskey

No Report

Privilege of the floor was offered.

Connie Sternberg asked a question pertaining to the “Violence in the Workplace” Policy and its mandatory training.

Michael Phelan inquired about the amount of stimulus dollars and for what projects could it apply to for the Village.

Motion by Trustee Young and seconded by Trustee Thomas to adjourn at 8:35 PM.

Unanimously Approved