

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A regularly scheduled Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees meeting was held on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 beginning at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York, 13827. The following people were in attendance:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Deputy Mayor/Trustee: | Mayor May |
| Trustees: | Earl Hartman |
| | Rob Manville |
| | Phoebe Morris |
| | Mike Phelps |
| Clerk-Treasurer: | Rod Marchewka |
| Village Attorney: | Robert McKertich |
| Police Chief: | Karen Vinti |
| WWTP Supt.: | Ron Horton |
| Fire Chief: | Dan Gavin |
| Absent: | Trustee Ceccherelli |
| | Trustee Morton |
| | DPW Supt. Soules |

Insert "A" – Sign in Sheet

Pledge and invocation.

Public Comment:

John Loftus – 161 Talcott Street - presented a Fire Department Resolution – Insert "B".

Officer Tom Woodburn – representing the PBA as President – read a letter he wrote addressed to Mayor May and the Village Board of Trustees – Insert "C".

Also, according to "Officer Down" publication, 135 police officers were killed in the line of duty in 2016. Public safety is not a place to cut taxpayer's money.

Kevin Cumm – Owego Fire Department EMT – outlined the need to renew the Physio Controls Contract for machine calibrations, updates, and repairs (Life-Pak).

Motion by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Manville, to renew the Life-Pak contract at a cost of \$9,610.90 (this is a regular budgeted item). Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Resolution to abolish the vacant police officer position: M: 2nd Vote ___/___/___

Discussion: No action. Trustee Phelps asked that the resolution be tabled until a future date when the board has a better understanding of the Village's financial status. Board agreed.

Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Morris, to amend the budget by \$535.00 from A.2680 (Insurance Recovery) to A.5182.40.420 (street light utilities) due to money recovered from a motor vehicle accident. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Manville, to appoint Mary Kennedy, Town of Owego Deputy Town Clerk to the position of Registrar of Vital Statistics for the Village of Owego. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Morris, seconded by Mayor May, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting minutes of December 19, 2016 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Morris, seconded by Mayor May, to approve the Payment of Bills as submitted by the clerk-treasurer:

General Fund (A)	-	\$180,866.26
Sewer Fund (G)	-	\$ 26,778.77
Sewer Plant Upgrade (SU)	-	\$113,889.09
TOTAL		\$321,534.12

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

The Physio contract payment will be made as soon as the invoice is received at the clerk’s office and will be included in Payment of Bills for January.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Supt. Soules –

M E M O

To: Village of Owego Mayor Steve May and Village Board of Trustees

From: Superintendent of Public Works - Jeff Soules

Date: January 3, 2017

RE: DPW Activity Report

- Install new outlets on Court Street bridge
- Beaver dam by Brick Pond
- Salt and clear Evergreen Cemetery Road
- Scrap ice from North Ave underpass
- Remove shopping carts from sidewalks on Temple and Spencer Ave
- Install new toilet at the Clerk’s Office
- Install new plow edge on Truck #55
- Pick up Christmas trees
- Chip brush behind DPW building
- Remove broken globe from pole on corner of North Ave.
- Salt and plow village streets
- Snow removal on sidewalks
- Repair Catch Basin on going
- Clean street drains
- Sweep for Town of Owego

- Code violations for residential refuse – on going
- Forever green property maintenance – on going
- Measure DSNY cut outs on going
- Sweeping on going
- Repair DPW equipment
- Pot hole patching on going
- Brush and leaf pick up on going
- Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation meetings scheduled

Any questions or concerns please call me.

WWTP Supt. Horton –

Date: 1/3/17

To: Village Board of Trustee's
From: Ron Horton, Supt. WWTP
Re: Department update

1. Work continues at Water St. pump station.
2. Training from Koester Assoc. continues once/wk. the plant operations continue to improve as the training progresses.
3. Increased Hallstead Sanitary service to one load per day which puts them back to where they were prior to start up. The month of December saw Hallstead deliver 108,000 gallons of septage waste to us.
4. Drain Master and Suburban Septic each delivered 2 loads of septage late in the month to us. It's their first deliveries since being asked to stop in July.
5. Pressing of bio-solids.

Police Chief Vinti –

- Continuing to have a difficult time covering schedule due to lack of manpower
- Christmas Eve garage fire handled quickly by OPD & OFD. The investigation was turned over to the Tioga County Sheriff's Department due to a lack of manpower at OPD

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Phelps –

- Ambulance (833) broke down at the hospital. Some of the repairs are covered under warranty
- Chris Franz #3 fire department member who was honored at our last meeting passed away tonight. Our condolences to his family

Trustee Morris –

- I saw firsthand the fast action taken by OPD and OFD at the fire on Temple and Spencer Avenue – a job well done

Mayor May – The Owego-Nichols Fire Contract is ready

Motion by Mayor May, seconded by Trustee Morris, to approve the mayor signing and sending the amended Owego-Nichols Fire Contract for \$2,000.00 per year. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Mayor May, seconded by Trustee Morris, to approve Bernier, Carr & Associates' Amendment No. 1 subject to legal review by Attorney McKertich. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Mayor's Report:

Mayor May -

- 2015 audit is done and 2016 audit has begun
- Revenue side of the budget is not meeting the estimated revenue figure

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

CROTON HOSE COMPANY ^{NO} 3

HOME OF THE FLAT RATS

"B"

Company #3 Meeting, Talcott Street Fire Station
December 28, 2016

Resolution expressing the sense of Croton Hose Co. #3 that the "legal affairs committee" of the Owego Fire Board should suspend its activities; that Company #3 opposes any further pursuit of the Village of Owego Fire Department "District Concept" named the "Owego-Tioga Joint Fire District;" and that Company #3 wishes to remain an entity of the Village of Owego.

Motion on the resolution.

Whereas, Croton Hose Co. #3 is the largest fire company in the Owego Fire Department;

Whereas, Croton Hose Co. #3 has served the community in the Village of Owego and surrounding areas with honor and distinction and wishes to continue such service;

Whereas, the Owego Fire Board has formed a "legal affairs committee" that among other things is pursuing a move to an independent fire district separate from the Village of Owego called the "Owego-Tioga Joint Fire District;"

Whereas, Croton Hose Co. #3 has serious concerns with the activities of the "legal affairs committee" and the Owego Fire Board to include but not limited to potential misappropriation of Village of Owego funds to pay for legal services and purchase fire/EMS apparatus;

Whereas, Croton Hose Co. #3 believes the best service to the taxpayers and residents it serves with fire protection services is for the Owego Fire Department and specifically Croton Hose Co. #3 to remain an entity of the Village of Owego; Now therefore, be it

Resolved by the membership of Croton Hose Co. #3, That the Company ---

1. Requests the immediate suspension of all activities of the Owego Fire Board's "legal affairs committee" and payments for independent legal services;
2. Opposes the Owego Fire Department's further pursuit of moving to a fire district separate from the Village of Owego, specifically the "Owego-Tioga Joint Fire District" now and in the future;
3. Requests to remain an entity of the Village of Owego as a fire company;
4. Requests the Village of Owego Board oppose the Owego Fire Department's "District Concept," specifically the "Owego-Tioga Joint Fire District" that is currently being pursued;
5. Requests the Village of Owego Board consider making Croton Hose Co. #3 an independent fire company, separate as an entity from the Owego Fire Department, if the Owego Fire Department, Owego Fire Board, and the "legal affairs committee" continues to pursue moving to an independent fire district.

Approved 12/28/16

President Co#3's 

Secretary Co#3's 

"C"

Owego Police Benevolent Association

January 3, 2017

Mayor Steve May and Village Board of Trustees
Village of Owego
178 Main Street
Owego, NY 13827

Dear Mayor May and Members of the Village Board:

I am submitting this statement on behalf of the Owego Police Benevolent Association (PBA) to provide comments with respect to the Resolution that the Board proposes to adopt tonight to abolish a full-time police officer position.

The 2016/2017 budget includes four police officer positions, one police sergeant and the Chief of Police. The Village has taxed Village taxpayers for these six positions, since they were all included in that budget. To state, as the Board does in the Resolution, that "the position needs to be cut, rather than filled, to avoid enacting a budget placing a tax increase upon Village residents," makes no sense since this position has been budgeted and paid for by Village taxpayers and the next budget will not even go into effect until August 1, 2017.

Back in 1980, when the Bureau of Municipal Police of DCJS conducted a study of the Village Police Department, it found that the necessary staffing consisted of ten patrol officers, five sergeants, one lieutenant and one Chief. When the 2016/2017 budget was adopted, the PBA objected to the Board including only four police officers, one sergeant, one Chief and two part-time police officers who can only work up to 20 hours a week as permitted by Civil Service Law.

The Village fails to address the impact of its action on the safety of Village residents. The Village cannot provide 24 hour/7 day a week police coverage without filling the current full-time vacancy. Part-time police officers are not available and cannot, by law, fill the hours the full-time position covered. Residents cannot rely upon the State Police or Sheriff's Department. Neither is reliable simply because they have limited patrol staff and their own large jurisdictional responsibilities. Depending upon their staffing on a particular day and their location in the County, it could take hours for back up to arrive.

As the Board has recognized, and as its own auditor has pointed out, the Village currently has no accurate picture or understanding of its financial condition. Therefore, to take this action now demonstrates nothing less than the Board's antagonism against the Police Department and its plan to abolish it. That is unfortunate for Village taxpayers, residents and visitors.

Respectfully submitted,



Owego Police Benevolent Association
By: Thomas Woodburn, President