

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A regularly scheduled Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees meeting was held on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York, 13827. The following people were in attendance:

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

Insert "A" – Sign in Sheet

Pledge and Invocation.

Public Comment:

Lenny Mantei – 12 Woodlawn – addressed the board about a burglary at his home. Officers Cole & Buemi did an outstanding job and with the help of Binghamton Police caught the suspects in 3 hours.

The human elements of the time the officers took making sure my wife and daughters felt safe, made us proud of having OPD. The police stopped again the next day to check on everyone. I think a fully staffed Owego Police Department is part of the mission statement to serve and protect.

Danielle Nuzzo – A New Hope Center – 20 Church Street – We handle 1,200 calls a year. One-fifth are from the Village. We need more police – not less police. OPD has a great response time and are always professional.

Krista Carter-Shaffer – 264 Main Street – keep Owego safe for kids and grandchildren – don't compromise with our safety.

Kim Trahan – 275 Front Street – we are blessed to live in this lovely village – keep OPD strong – we are willing to pay more in taxes to keep OPD.

Steve Jackson – 70 Liberty – OPD is in my neighborhood daily – they have made numerous arrests and they do a good job protecting the village.

Fran Dunbar – I own a business in the village – we must protect our young children – too much is going on – put a stop to it now.

Dan Gavin – as a police officer from Johnson City – I am starting to see a migration of the people I deal with in the triple cities coming to the village.

- 1) Is there a plan?
- 2) What is the plan?
- 3) What will it cost?

Sandra Knapp-Dunbar – fix 90 Temple Street – keep the department fully funded – you new board members are the future of the village.

Theresa Gossart – 89 Paige Street – I feel safe to walk on the village streets at night. OPD is always on the job. Experienced officers bring a lot to the table.

Kevin Millar – 72 Front Street – the 211 police waivers run out in June.

Carolyn Palladino – 121 Front Street – this is a community – no way the sheriff department can take care of us as well as OPD has. Please, for the sake of our children do not cut OPD.

Sharyl Johnstone-Spicer – 111 McMaster Street – McMaster Street has had a lot of criminal activity – it is time for a change – new cops are needed.

Rusty Fuller – 61 Liberty Street – “whereas, the Village of Owego is under significant fiscal stress, it has recently experienced a substantial reduction in the assessed value of real property, and it is further constrained by the New York State Property Tax Cap; and whereas, the Village Board of Trustees acknowledges that it must make budget reductions in several Village operations in an effort to avoid enacting a 2016-2017 Budget which would place a tax increase upon Village residents; and whereas, as of the date of this Resolution, the Village of Owego Police Department is budgeted for eight police officer positions, including the Police Chief, Sergeant, and six Police Officers; and whereas, two of the Police Officer positions have remained unfilled and the Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the Village to abolish the two Police Officer positions... whereas, Chief Vinti has been able to provide minimal coverage of at least 2 officers on all shifts using 3 experienced retired officers working with no benefits and numerous part-timers, whereas, the Village of Owego will no longer employ these retirees as of June 30<sup>th</sup>, whereas, the Village of Owego Police Department will then be comprised of the chief, one sergeant, one patrolman, and three officers fresh from the academy, and whereas, this size department will necessitate several shifts of a lone officer including some of a lone rookie, putting their safety and the public’s at risk, and whereas, to cut 2 police officers the budget savings will not be used to cut taxes but rather to, among other things, raise an auditors salary \$30,000, raise village attorney’s salary \$25,000, raise EMT overtime for the two paid EMTs from \$20,000 to \$25,000, while leaving OPD overtime at \$20,000 for the whole department and other fire department increases of \$41,000 including an ambulance replacement fund of \$20,000 for the three ambulances we have now for our two square mile village, now, therefore be it resolved, that the Village Board of the Village of Owego will please determine for purposes of economy, efficiency, and most importantly public safety and officer safety or otherwise to fully fund OPD to a minimum level of manpower and monies at 2016’s budget level.

The current budget also calls for an additional \$30,000 auditor’s, \$25,000 attorney, \$20,000 ambulance, additional money for EMT’s and insurance.

Judy Riesbeck – as an EMT volunteer for 15 years I have seen a lot and worked with OPD. I support the new team of trustees and I know they will make the right decision.

Judy Hartman – 440 North Avenue – I am ashamed of everyone in this room. How many of you came to the budget sessions? All you do is sit and complain.

Kevin Millar – I was at the police budget session and there wasn't a mention of cutting two positions.

**Motion** Trustee Ceccherelli, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to approve the following Resolution:

**VILLAGE OF OWEGO  
RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH TWO POSITIONS IN THE DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS**

**At a regular meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Owego, held at the Village Board Room, 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016, the following resolution was offered and seconded:**

**WHEREAS, the Village of Owego is under significant fiscal stress, it has recently experienced a substantial reduction in the assessed value of real property, and it is further constrained by the New York State Property Tax Cap; and**

**WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees acknowledges that it must make budget reductions in several Village operations in an effort to avoid enacting a 2016-2017 Budget which would place a tax increase upon Village residents; and**

**WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, the Village of Owego Department of Public Works is budgeted for six Motor Equipment Operator-1 (MEO-1) positions; and**

**WHEREAS, two of the MEO-1 positions have remained unfilled and the Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the Village to abolish the two MEO-1 positions.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Owego hereby determines, for purposes of economy, efficiency, or otherwise, to abolish two (2) MEO-1 positions in the Village of Owego Department of Public Works, effective July 31, 2016 at 11:59 p.m., pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 80; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, or Mayor's designee, shall implement the abolition of said positions in accordance with New York State Civil Service Law and shall provide any notifications as may be required by law.**

Trustee Morris:

Can you still get your jobs done?

DPW Supt. Soules:

Yes, it won't slow us down, but it won't make things better.

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

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Manville, to approve the following Resolution:

**VILLAGE OF OWEGO  
RESOLUTION TO ABOLISH TWO POSITIONS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**At a regular meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Owego, held at the**

**Village Board Room, 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2016, the following resolution was offered and seconded:**

**WHEREAS, the Village of Owego is under significant fiscal stress, it has recently experienced a substantial reduction in the assessed value of real property, and it is further constrained by the New York State Property Tax Cap; and**

**WHEREAS, the Village Board of Trustees acknowledges that it must make budget reductions in several Village operations in an effort to avoid enacting a 2016-2017 Budget which would place a tax increase upon Village residents; and**

**WHEREAS, as of the date of this Resolution, the Village of Owego Police Department is budgeted for eight police officer positions, including the Police Chief, Sergeant, and six Police Officers; and**

**WHEREAS, two of the Police Officer positions have remained unfilled and the Village Board of Trustees hereby determines that it is in the best interests of the Village to abolish the two Police Officer positions.**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Owego hereby determines, for purposes of economy, efficiency, or otherwise, to abolish two (2) Police Officer positions in the Village of Owego Police Department, effective July 31, 2016 at 11:59 p.m., pursuant to Civil Service Law Section 80; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, or Mayor's designee, shall implement the abolition of said positions in accordance with New York State Civil Service Law and shall provide any notifications as may be required by law.**

Trustee Morris –

Police Chief Vinti, can you perform your job with these cuts?

Police Chief Vinti – No. Safety would be affected and I would have at least 442 open shifts not filled.

Trustee Morris – these cuts were not discussed at the budget meeting I attended.

**Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye. Trustee Ceccherelli and Trustee Morris voted no.**

**Motion Carried 5-2**

Trustee Morris would like to make a motion to have a budget meeting on Monday June 13. Motion dies for lack of a second.

**Motion by Mayor May, seconded by Trustee Ceccherelli, to schedule a Public Hearing on the budget for Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Results of June 2, 2016 RFQ Energy Proposal:

Ryan Urschel – Energy Engineer – mandatory pre-bid meeting attended. Bid Package for proposal due June 15, 2016 for a formal proposal.

Constitutional Tax Limit – paper work has been sent to the state. The final numbers will not be available until after a certified copy of the approved budget is submitted. New assessment rate is \$109,381,472 down an additional \$571,092. Last year it was \$110,446,958, this year \$109,381,472, which is down \$1,065,486.00.

**Motion** by Trustee Manville, seconded by Trustee Ceccherelli, to amend the OPD budget by \$1,142.00 (A.2680.00.000 Insurance Recovery to A.3120.40.560 Repairs). Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

**Motion** by Trustee Ceccherelli, seconded by Trustee Morris, to amend the OFD budget by \$2,200.00 (\$900 – From A.2770 Unclassified Revenue to A.3410.40.773 Training and \$1,300 From A.3089 State Aid to A.3410.40.773 Training). Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

**Motion** by Trustee Phelps, and seconded by Trustee Hartman, to approve the payment of bills:

General Fund	-	\$111,722.40
Sewer Fund	-	\$ 35,711.07
Main Plant Upgrade	-	<u>\$101,625.52</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$249,058.99</b>

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

Motion Carried 7-0

**Motion** by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Ceccherelli, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustee Meeting minutes of May 16, 2016 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

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: June 3, 2016  
 RE: DPW Activity Report

- Met with resident on Green Street regarding sidewalks
- 2015-2016 Special assessments turned over to Clerk to be placed on village tax roll
- Ongoing burials
- Met with September race representative in Marvin Park
- Set up street barricades for Prom Night
- Ready for Big Splash event in Marvin Park
- Ready for Memorial Day services & put flags out around Court House Square
- Put flags on the bridge
- Cleaned Soldier & Sailor Monument
- Repairs to ball fields and benches
- Repairs Erie Street pump
- BBQ grills installed Marvin Park
- Repair pool valve
- Sweep for Town of Owego

- Trim low hanging branches at intersections
- OPD door repair
- Chain up Talcott St. Nature Trail
- Moved stone to Nature Trail entrance
- Repair Grandstand
- Stop sign down on Prospect St – replaced
- Code violations for residential refuse & mowing - ongoing
- Forever green property maintenance - ongoing
- Measure DSNY cut outs on going
- Sweeping ongoing
- Repair DPW equipment
- Pot hole patching ongoing
- Brush and leaf pick up ongoing
- Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation meetings scheduled

Any questions or concerns please call me.

The JKB Softball tournament will be held at Marvin Park and the teener league park on June 11, 2016 all day.

WWTP Supt. Horton –

Date: 6/3/16

To: Village Board of Trustee's

From: Ron Horton, Supt. WWTP

Re: Department update

1. Project meeting was held on May 24<sup>th</sup>.
2. A pre-start up conference call was held on June 1<sup>st</sup> with representatives from Sanitaire, Inovair, AquaLogics, Koester Assoc., WM Schultz, Nelcorp, BCA and the village on a time line for testing and start up.
3. SCADA programming continues.
4. Walkways and grating on aeration basins #3 and #4 have been installed.
5. June 9<sup>th</sup>, Koester Assoc. will be on-site to conduct a dry inspection of the aeration basin installation and bump start the blowers.
6. Nelcorp anticipates having conduit, wiring and sensors installed in aeration basins completed by the 24<sup>th</sup>.
7. Leak and level testing of aeration basins #3 and #4 with effluent beginning June 27<sup>th</sup>.
8. Introduction of seed into the aeration basins and begin operations July 5<sup>th</sup>.
9. Collection of data for a 3-4 week period before process control training.
10. Pumps for Water St. pump station upgrade have been delivered.

June 24, 2016 is the last day for sludge haulers to haul to the plant.

Dan Gavin – results of fire department election are:

Dan Gavin – Fire Chief  
Jeff Hiller – 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Fire Chief  
Eric Johnson – 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief  
Stephanie Cole – Secretary  
Bob Komar – Treasurer

- E-One would like to showcase our new truck at Turning Stone Show – June 16<sup>th</sup> thru June 21<sup>st</sup>  
Consensus of the board is they would rather it be available for the Strawberry Festival
- Fire Hydrant on Lake Street is out again
- The fire on Liberty Street is probably a total loss

**Motion** by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Manville, to approve Dan Gavin as the Fire Chief of the Owego Fire Department. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Morris, to approve Jeff Hillard as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Fire Chief. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve Eric Johnson as 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Fire Chief. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Mayor May, to approve Stephanie Cole as Fire Department Secretary. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Morris, to approve Bob Komar as Fire Department Treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Motion** by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve CPA Jan Nolis to work with the village bookkeeper on catching up on audit report – not to exceed \$25,000.00. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

**Trustee Reports:**

Trustee Ceccherelli – no report

Trustee Hartman –no report

Trustee Phelps –

**Motion** by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Mayor May, to hold an attorney client session. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morris, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

**Motion Carried 7-0**

Trustee Manville -

- Would like to hold an EDU workshop – Monday, June 27, 2016 at 6:30 at 20 Elm Street – open to the public.

Trustee Morton – working with Trustee Ceccherelli on the Downtown Revitalization Grant – will have it in before deadline.

**Public Comment:**

Jamie Striley – 72 West Avenue, new website, will it have an email data base? Trustee Morris – yes.

Tom Woodburn – 122 Fox Street – would like to lease or buy empty lots caused by flood buyout.

VOOBM 6-6-2016

Luke Schulze – 121 Temple Street – I am dissatisfied with your decision on the police positions – please rethink this issue.

8:50 pm – into executive session

9:09 pm – back in regular session

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned.

"A"

MEETING DATE: 6-6-16

INSERT: A

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	COMPANY REPRESENTED
Jorge Velasco	101 Woodlawn Ave	—	—
Judy Riesbeck	101 Woodlawn Ave	687-1790	self
Wince Carpineta			
Pornie Carpineta	14 Holmes Ave	727-2267	self
Janie Striley	72 West Ave		
JOHN PATHE	54 TEMPLE ST.	687-5596	—
Danielle Nuzzo	A New Hope <sup>28</sup> ST church		
Luhe Schulze	121 Temple St	382-7465	
Ruby Parker	90 Temple St.	687-2234	OPD
M. STARZAN	90 TEMPLE ST	687-2234	OPD
J. Cole	90 Temple St	687-2234	OPD
Amyl Howe	35 River St.	972-7608	Self
Fred Kattman	5 Browns Lane Apt 211	687-1239	Self
Simcha Knapp Dumas	3969 Waverly Rd Orange NJ	343-5262	Self Dumas
Tommy Wooten	177 Fox Street Orange NJ	687-9734	OPD
Brittany Woodman	122 Fox Street - Orange NJ		
Kriste Carter Shaffer	764 Main St		Self
Judith Hartman	1807 N. Ave		Self
Kevin Miller	78 Front St	687-3063	self
JPC Hunter	175 Fox St	222-9712	Self
Wendy Post	Orange Pennsylvania		news
Fran Dabon	3969 Waverly Rd Orange	343-2655	Self
KIM L. TRAHAN	275 FRONT ST	X-6591	self
Lisa M. Queeny	1127 Forest Hill Rd	X	self
Ashley Pate	84 Main St	—	Self
Beatrice Woodman	25 Winston Long Pl	—	—
Jonathan Woodman	25 Winston Pl	—	—
SARA & Amy Lanfair	90 Chestnut Street	607-972-9523	
Steve Jackson	70 Liberty St	301-2424	Self
Laura Ebelin	354 Front St		Self
Dave Woodman	25 ARMSTRONG - Orange	607-887-4444	Resident

