

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A regularly scheduled Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees meeting was held on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 beginning at 7:30 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 (left at 7:20 pm)
	Rob Manville
	Phoebe Morris (left at 7:20 pm)
	Ed Morton
	Mike Phelps
Clerk-Treasurer:	Rod Marchewka
Village Attorney:	Robert McKertich
Police Chief:	Karen Vinti
DPW Supt.:	Jeff Soules
WWTP Supt.:	Ron Horton

Insert "A" – Sign in Sheet

Pledge.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Mayor May apologized for being late. He was attending a Planning Board Committee meeting about a Village Revitalization Project.

7:30 pm - Public Hearing on Restore New York Application/Restore New York Assessment List – Gateway Project

No public comment.

7:31 pm – Public Hearing closed

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

**RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF OWEGO
RE: Restore NY 2016 – Gateway Project**

WHEREAS, The goals of the Restore NY 2016 program are to revitalize commercial and residential property, attract residents and business, and increase the tax base to make communities economically viable; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Owego, a designated Investment Empire Zone, has initiated a coordinated effort to revitalize its historically designated downtown Central Business District, through the approval of their 2013 Consolidated Master Plan, Downtown Strategic Plan and the Strategic Plan for Integrated Community Development, and

WHEREAS, The Gateway Project is consistent with both the Restore NY 2016 goals and the Village's local revitalization plan, specifically: Strategy DG-4 to encourage appropriate infill development at 200-204 Front Street, and the Village's goal to attract market rate mixed-income developments that promote stable, economically healthy neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The intent of the Gateway Project is to reconstruct a mixed-use development building located at 200-204 Front Street, previously destroyed by fire in July of 2000, in a manner that is consistent with and that will protect and preserve the adjacent historic buildings; and

WHEREAS, The Gateway Building will facilitate an effective and efficient use of Restore NY 2016 funds by offering retail space to encourage commercial development, as well as, quality housing to attract residents, enhancing the Village's overall tax base, and thus improving the quality of life for residents in the Village of Owego; and

WHEREAS, The Gateway Project will also develop infrastructure in the downtown Owego area in a manner that will attract small business development, create 9 full-time and 15 construction jobs, and provide sustainable employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, The Village of Owego Department of Public Works will administer and manage the grant upon award;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Village of Owego Board of Trustees do hereby support and authorize said grant application for this \$2,690,352 project, of which \$500,000 will be provided by Restore NY funds, \$300,000 program match will be provided by property owner investment, and the remaining \$1,890,352 will be funded by low interest loans and grants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Steven May, Mayor of the Village of Owego is authorized to sign and submit the Restore NY application to Empire State Development Corporation, and certify that the application is complete, true and accurate.

Dated: September 6, 2016

Clerk, Village of Owego

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

Motion Carried 4-0-1

7:40 pm - Public Hearing on Local Law No. 5 of 2016 – Parking on North side of Front Street.

Public Comment:

Mrs. Toft – by adding spots it will be harder to see to pulling out from Lake Street.

Tommy Woodburn – could you consider making one of the new spots handicap parking?

7:42 pm – Public Hearing closed.

Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Manville, to approve Local Law No. 5 of 2016 - entitled - A Local Law Amending the Village of Owego Vehicle and Traffic Law Regarding Parking on the North Side of Front Street. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Public Comment:

Tommy Woodburn – October 13th is the date the Village Police Department remembers Police Officer Forest Allen Hall who was killed in the line of duty.

The Village will look into making October 13th a permanent date of remembrance.

Mick Lehman and Jarred Thisse from Bernier Carr addressed the board on the need to fill out a Long Form SEQR for the Digester Upgrade. Discussion on the amount of money needed for the project.

It will be brought back up at the next board meeting on Monday, September 19, 2016.

Doug Barton – Representative from MEGA – the Village energy provider, addressed the board and answered questions. MEGA, a non-profit organization which represents 276 schools and governments around the state.

The price of electricity is at a historic low price. It would be wise to lock in these prices now.

Doug Barton will review solar energy questions on page 3 of the contract and report back at the September 19th meeting.

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

RESOLUTION

At a regular meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Owego, held at 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York on the 6th day of September, 2016, the following resolution was offered and seconded:

WHEREAS, the Village of Owego is under significant fiscal stress and the Village Board of Trustees finds that the maintenance of a balanced budget in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles is a matter of overriding Village concern; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Owego has been deemed a Fiscally Eligible Municipality by the New York Financial Restructuring Board based upon an analysis of its reduced fund balance and excessive real property tax rate; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Owego has experienced a reduction in the assessed value of real property within Village limits; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has received preliminary reports from its auditors demonstrating past fiscal mismanagement and auditors have experienced significant difficulty balancing Village financial accounts; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Owego, duly convened in regular session, determines as follows:

- 1. There shall be no municipal funds used to purchase equipment costing in excess of \$5,000.00, except in the case of emergency as determined by a vote of the Village Board of Trustees. This purchasing freeze shall apply to all Village departments and shall be in effect for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, unless terminated by a vote of the Village Board of Trustees; and**

- 2. There shall be no new hiring of Village personnel, except in the case of emergency as determined by a vote of the Village Board of Trustees. This hiring freeze shall apply to all Village departments and shall be in effect for the 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, unless terminated by a vote of the Village Board of Trustees

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Manville, to approve a change to the Tax Warrant due to a clerical error on Betsy & Michael Knapp’s Village Tax Bill for 42 Main Street. A senior aged exemption of 4,180 was incorrectly applied to this property at the town assessor’s office. Their tax amount went from \$582.33 to \$776.79. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustee’s Minutes of August 15, 2016 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

Motion by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve the Payment of Bills as follows:

Accounts Payable

General Fund	-	\$11,131.83
Sewer Fund	-	<u>\$ 5,798.63</u>
Total		\$16,930.46

Regular

General Fund	-	\$ 84,055.73
Sewer Fund	-	<u>\$ 24,039.54</u>
Total		\$108,095.27

Department Head Reports:

WWTP Supt. Horton –

Date: 9/2/16

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

- 1. Replaced manhole at the intersection of Temple and McMaster St.
- 2. Replaced sidewalks on Green St and Academy St.
- 3. Construction continues for the upgrade, Oxidation tank #2 south walkway and sump pit poured. Center walkway and splinter box formed and poured. MLR pumps installed and piping installed.
- 4. Project meeting was held on August 31st.

5. Cleaned gravel trap at Southside pump station.
6. Electrical problem at the main plant on the 28th caused the blowers to stop operating. The problem was a regulator at NYSEG's sub-station stuck in an open position and caused an over voltage condition. The VFD's for the blowers dropped out to protect themselves causing the blowers to stop operating. Operated the main plant on stand-by power to get clean power for VFD's until NYSEG was able to correct the issue and then returned to line power.

Supt. Horton asked Attorney McKertich for a signed copy of the Intermunicipal Agreement.

The E.P.A will be doing a sewer plant inspection next Tuesday.

Police Chief Vinti –

Chief Vinti requested permission to purchase a new patrol car out of the police reserve fund that is set up for that purpose. The old Crown Vic has exhaust leaks and needs a catalytic converter and uses a quart of oil daily.

Consensus of the board is to fix the problems with the car and wait until a clearer financial picture is available.

Chief Vinti – this will affect the repair line item, we will handle it between the village, county, and Royal Ford.

Question on OPD being out of the Village – only when called on by State Police or the Tioga County Sheriff or when doing their own police duties.

Police Department did their fire arms qualifications – it required some overtime.

Officer Jacob Meehan has taken a job with the New York State Police.

Discussion on part-time hires – OPD to continue to fill in with part-time officers.

Asst. Fire Chief Eric Johnson –

- Concerned about the cost of repairs to the fire trucks
- Need to update the \$600 per year Nichols Fire Contract

DPW Supt. Soules –

MEMO

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

From: Superintendent of Public Works - Jeff Soules

Date: September 6, 2016

RE: DPW Activity Report

- Clear Creek Drains/clean leaves out of ditch
- Measure guard rail for Marvin Park
- Two burials at Evergreen Cemetery
- Clean OPD basement
- Ready Marvin Park for Kids Picnic on Saturday, August 27
- Backwash Pool
- Repair Stop Sign
- Repair Pole at Little League Field

- Repair Trailer
- Repair Sewer Generator
- Repair Catch Basin on going
- Clean street drains
- FEMA quarterly reports filed
- Sweep for Town of Owego
- Dry out hazardous waste cans and ready for disposal
- Code violations for residential refuse & mowing – 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.

DPW would like to go out for bid on a couple of surplus vehicles.

Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to declare surplus and put out for bid the following vehicles:

**2002 Chevy pickup
2002 Dump truck**

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

Motion Carried 5-0

- Swimming pool is closed
- Will be applying for a \$2.5 million dollar grant to replace the village sewer tunnel that goes under Rte. 17

Trustee Reports:

None

Mayor's Report:

After meeting with Owego school officials about the need for school crossing guards, I offered to use my salary to fund this.

Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Phelps, to approve the mayor's salary line item to OPD line item for crossing-guards in order to cover the cost. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee Morton, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor May voted aye.

Motion Carried 5-0

9:43 pm – meeting adjourned

