

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A meeting of the Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York, 13827. The following people were in attendance:

Mayor:	Kevin Millar
Trustees:	Earl Hartman
	Ann Lockwood
	Steve May
	Mike Phelps
	Eric Yetter
Clerk-Treasurer:	Rod Marchewka
Attorney:	Robert McKertich
DPW Supt.:	Jeff Soules
Police Chief:	Karen Vinti
WWTP Supt.:	Ron Horton
Fire Chief:	Dan Gavin
Absent:	Trustee Jantz

Pledge and Invocation.

Insert "A" – Sign in sheet

Public Comment:

None.

Haefele T.V. Representative did not show.

**Motion by Trustee Phelps, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to reject all bids for the sewer plant upgrades. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to appoint election inspectors for the Village Election March 18, 2015 as follows:**

**Carolyn Wright (Chairperson)  
Geoffrey Collins  
Joan Davis  
Kristina Stevens  
Cinda Goodrich  
Reathe Woodburn**

**Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

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

**RESOLUTION TO HIRE A PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER**

At a meeting of the Village Board of the Village of Owego held at the Village Board Room, 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS, the Village of Owego seeks to hire a part-time police officer; and**

**WHEREAS, Joshua Tagliavento has applied for the position and has received a favorable recommendation from the Personnel Committee upon an interview; and**

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Board of the Village of Owego hereby hires Joshua Tagliavento to the position of part-time police officer; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Mr. Tagliavento shall be paid at a rate of \$18 per hour with no benefits; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately.**

**Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee May, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustees Minutes of December 15, 2014 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, and Mayor Millar voted aye. Trustee Yetter abstained.**

**Motion Carried 5-0-1**

**Motion by Trustee Lockwood, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to approve the Payment of Bills as submitted by the clerk-treasurer.**

**Discussion on:**

**H.S.A. – (health insurance payment)**

**EFC - \$18,000.00 payment for principal for the WWTP upgrade**

<b>General Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$131,672.61</b>
<b>Sewer Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 58,402.31</b>
<b>Sewer Plan Upgrade</b>	<b>-</b>	<b><u>\$ 37,200.99</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$227,275.91</b>

**Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Department Head Reports:**

**DPW Supt. Jeff Soules –**

**\*Note – as of the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year – no electronics are to go in the garbage pickup (i.e. TV’s, Computers, etc.) They must be taken to a designated pick up area. There is one in Candor – maybe the Village can look into having a once a year pick-up.**

VOOBM 1-5-2015

DPW Supt. Soules is working on the community rating paperwork for the reduction of flood insurance for the village – need copies of flood certificates.

Code Enforcement Officer Mead –

January 2, 2015

Jeffery Soules

2014 Code Office Summary of Activity:

73 Building permits issued, all minor construction and repairs, i.e.; decks, stairs  
36 Rental inspections requested and completed  
167 Complaints, with 154 found to be valid  
153 Orders to remedy violations, 149 brought to compliance  
3 Appearance tickets issued, two are resolved, and one is pending  
16 Inspections for County Downtown Owego Historic Program and Flood Recovery Grant  
122 Required State Fire Inspections completed

There are 31 Un-occupied houses, of which 11 are in the FEMA 404 Buy-out and are scheduled for demolition.

WWTP Supt. Horton –

Date: 12/31/14

To: Eric Yetter, Sewer Commissioner

From: Ron Horton, Supt. WWTP

Re: Department update

1. A meeting with BCA is planned for the week of Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the scope of the plant upgrade project and a timeline for rebidding.
2. NY DEC, US Army Corp of Engineers and US Fish and Wildlife are reviewing permit application for the use of Pumpelly Creek as a temporary access road for construction.
3. Repaired sewer lateral at 276 Main St.
4. Outboard bearing on #4 rotor failed. New bearing expected to be delivered soon.
5. Painting of digester building continues.

Date: 12/31/14

To: Eric Yetter, Sewer Commissioner

From: Ron Horton, Supt. WWTP

Re: Plant upgrade bid rejections

Eric,

As you are aware the bids for the project came in approximately twice the amount that was budgeted for the project. As such I believe that we should reject all the bids. I would like to recommend a motion to be made for rejecting all the bids for the General Contractor, Electrical and Mechanical contracts.

If you have any questions please contact me.

Ron

Police Chief Vinti –

- Short on manpower – still down 4 officers –and I cover road patrol during the week days
- No Monday or Sunday night coverage
- No court security available because of lack of manpower

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Hartman –

January 5, 2015 VOB Mtg.

**Commissioner Report Summaries**

Village of Owego, New York  
Earl Hartman Trustee Ward 2/ Commissioner of: OFD, Planning & Zoning

**Note to File:**  
Treasurer

Electronic copies of full report has been filed with the Clerk-

A.

**OFD:**

- (1) New member – Trevor Spencer of 84 Paige Street, Village of Owego, Ahwaga Ladder Co. #5
- An accident at Central Station caused damage to the southern bay's overhead door and truck 845. Full details will be reported at the next Board meeting pending OPD's completion and filing of the accident report.
- PESH will be at OFD on January 7, 2015 to do a walkthrough and meeting for closing out of the violations abatement protocols. Should be straight forward as all abatement requirements have been met. Note: MES, a SCBS Company will be performing testing and certifications of our SCBA units this week.

B. **PLANNING / ZONING:**

Planning and Zoning in-service training webinars will be held in January 2015 for continuing education and accreditation on the following dates. Both Planning and Zoning Board Chairs have been alerted of the dates so they can coordinate with their respective boards.

- Planning Board webinar will Tuesday January 6<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm at web site  
<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t82ca3d88204e871f318220611a91228a>
- Zoning Board webinar will Tuesday January 13<sup>th</sup> from 6pm – 8pm at web site  
<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t86b407cbe0877f4ad1ef75caf8cc8ff1>

C. **DPW:**

- Status of getting with Town of Owego Highway Dept. regarding their offer the rebuild the Williams Street river emergency access ramp?
- Status on connecting the ice machine up in Central Station?

**Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to approve the following motion for a new fire department member:**

**The following motion for approval is made to the Board of Trustees on this date of January 5, 2015  
Be it so moved that the Village of Owego Board of Trustees herein approves the following person(s) as member(s) of the Village of Owego Fire Department in compliance with Village Charter Section**

**§ C-53, Duties of Trustees wherein it is stipulated that the Trustees shall appoint said members, and Whereas, the person(s) has been investigated by Ahwaga Ladder Company #5, Fire Chief and approved by the Village of Owego Fire Department's Fire Board, none of which found reasons to withhold said membership(s),**

**Be it therefore resolved that the Village of Owego Board of Trustees hereby approve as a member(s) of the Village of Owego Fire Department.**

**Trevor Spencer - Ahwaga Ladder Company #5  
84 Paige Street  
Village of Owego**

**Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

The following memorandum was presented to the board by Trustee Hartman from Fire Chief Dan Gavin:

MEMORANDUM

To: Village Board  
Date: January 5<sup>th</sup> 2015

I would like to inform the Board of a motor vehicle accident that occurred at the Central Fire Station on January 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015. An unauthorized member of the fire department started the Village Utility Vehicle a Ford F350 (845), drove the vehicle in reverse striking the trailer parked behind the vehicle and then proceeded to drive forward threw the unopened bay door causing damage to the vehicle and the door.

I was advised of the incident by Tioga County Dispatch and responded to the station from Johnson City to find 845 parked on North Ave near Main Street with pieces of the bay door still on the roof. The on scene investigating of the incident was being performed by the Village of Owego Police. They advised me that a Gerald A. Smith also known as Alvin was operator of the vehicle. The police department continued their investigation as I made notifications to the Fire Commissioner Hartman.

Chief Morris was on scene when I arrived and it was determined that 845 would be taken to my garage to ensure it was secured and not tampered with until the insurance company could be notified and have the opportunity to look at the vehicle. We gathered supplies to board up the station so all apparatus and equipment could be secured.

I spoke to Gerald A. Smith before he was transported by the Police Department and advised him he was suspended until further notice, not allowed on Fire Department property, and took his pager and keys. I am asking the Board to allow me as the Fire Chief to handle this incident internally. I believe a suspension of 60 days from the department followed by a no response to calls for an additional 60 days is a sufficient punishment for Gerald. Once Gerald would be allowed back at the station he must be occupied with an adult at all times. Gerald was arrested and still has the deal with the criminal end of the incident. I have spoken to Fire Commissioner Hartman and Mayor Millar about my intentions.

- PESH will be at the fire department Wednesday morning (January 7, 2015) for a walk thru and a general meeting on past violations – Department went above and beyond
- Planning and Zoning Webinar Training for Certification from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on January 13, 2015
- The fire department would like the boat launch on Williams Street to be up and running as soon as possible

- Question on ice machine at Central Fire Station being hooked up? Supt. Soules to take care of this with Patterson Electric

Trustee May –

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

**MOTION AND RESOLUTION**

This motion is hereby made on January 5, 2015, a regularly scheduled and noticed meeting of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Owego, New York, as follows:

**WHEREAS** the Village of Owego Board of Trustees has determined to enter into open discussions with the County of Tioga, New York State for the considering of providing policing services to the Village of Owego, and,

**WHEREAS** the Board of Trustees of Village Owego New York, a Charter Village of the State of New York, is vested, by Village Charter and NYS Village Law, with the authority and responsibility to determine the need of a police force that best provides for the safety and welfare of the Village and to place such determinations before the public, and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to NYS Village Law 4-412, the Board of Trustees is vested with the authority to establish committees and/or commissions as deemed advisable and necessary to pursue on the Board of Trustees behalf relevant findings of the charge given to said committee and/or commission, be it,

**RESOLVED** that on this date of January 5, 2015 the Village of Owego Board of Trustees does herein approve and appoint an “ad hoc” committee of three trustees and a Chairperson to represent the Village Board’s interest in the pursuit of discussion with Tioga County regarding the feasibility of providing policing functions to the Village of Owego.

As submitted by Steven C. May, Trustee 1<sup>st</sup> Ward, January 5, 2015.

**Roll Call Vote:** Trustees Hartman, Lockwood, May, and Phelps voted aye. Trustee Yetter and Mayor Millar voted no.

**Motion Carried 4-2**

*Mayor’s Report:*

January 5, 2015

Meeting with PESH on Tuesday, January 7, 2015

Report on underpass

Stone Mason Contractor estimate is expected next week on Evergreen Cemetery work

Meeting with Bernier & Carr on Friday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, Re: SWTP Upgrade

**Motion** by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to see what options are available to discuss to discuss police coverage with the county for the village. Village to form a Village Public Safety Committee – with Trustee May as chairman of the committee. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Hartman, Trustee Lockwood, Trustee May, Trustee Phelps, Trustee Yetter, and Mayor Millar voted aye.

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Committee members of the Village Public Safety Committee are Trustees Jantz, Lockwood, May, and Phelps.

The Public Hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2015 (Alternate Side of the Street Parking) will be held Tuesday, January 20, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY.

Public Comment:

What is the life of the new sewer project? WWTP Supt. Horton responded – 40 to 50 years.

Jim Balshuweit of 28 Lake Street –will the public be involved in the police department decisions – will it be open to the public? Trustee May responded – Yes that is my intention.

Amy Lanfair of 96 Chestnut Street – why create a committee? Trustee May – recommended by the county.

**Motion by Trustee Hartman, seconded by Trustee Lockwood, to adjourn.**

**Unanimously approved.**

