

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A Public Hearing and a regularly scheduled Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees meeting was held on Monday, August 17, 2015 at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York, 13827. The following people were in attendance:

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

Pledge.

7:00 pm – Public Hearing on the Public Nuisance Abatement Law.

No public comment.

7:01 pm - Public Hearing closed.

Public Comment:

Jim King – asked the board to allow for a joint public hearing on the fire department becoming a fire district.

Rusty Fuller – the concerns of the Village of Owego Fire Department are based on false pretense (the idea that the mayor and two trustees want to do away with the fire department and merge or contract with the Town of Owego Fire Department). It is not in the best interest of village taxpayers to have the fire department become a fire district.

Karl Jones – the fact that the village may merge is on film addressed by Walt Jones at a fire meeting.

Theresa Gosart – we love what the fire department does. I do not want you guys to become a district.

Michele Coates – let the fire department present their information.

Jim King – the fire department will remain in the village. Only difference it will be governed by fire commissioners.

Fire Chief Dan Gavin – we would like to have this public hearing so that all the data on this change to a fire district can be discussed and reviewed. This is a possible solution to help the village. I am a village taxpayer. I want the best bank for my buck.

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

RESOLUTION

At a meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Owego held at the Village Board Room, 20 Elm Street, Owego, New York on the 17th day of August 2015, the following Resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, it has been proposed to establish a joint fire district encompassing all of the Village of Owego and all of the Town of Tioga's "Owego Fire Protection District"; and

WHEREAS, this board is in favor of considering such a joint fire district.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by this board that it is in the public interest for the boards of the Town of Tioga, Town of Owego, and Village of Owego to hold a joint meeting at one location within the proposed joint fire district for the purpose of jointly proposing the establishment of a joint fire district.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this board hereby resolves to meet in public with the Town of Tioga and the Town of Owego for the purpose of scheduling a joint meeting to discuss the joint fire district and to set a date for the joint public hearing, and such meeting shall be held on the 31st^h day of August, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Hubbard Auditorium, County Office Building, 156 Main St, Owego, New York.

Roll Call Vote: Trustees Ceccherelli, Morris, and Mayor Millar voted no. Trustees Hartman, Manville, and May voted aye.

Motion Denied 3-3

Recess from 7:40 pm until 7:54 pm

Discussion on RFP for official survey on Owego Police Department and the consensus of the board is to proceed with the survey proposal which was amended by Attorney McKertich and is on file at the Village Clerk's Office.

Motion by Trustee Ceccherelli, seconded by Trustee Hartman, to approve Local Law No. 4 – "Public Nuisance Abatement Law".

Review of short form SEQR – questions 1-11 answered "no". Conclusion is no substantial impact.

Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee May, Trustee Morris, Mayor Millar voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Discussion on North Avenue and Main Street intersections traffic problem. Village Board to invite NYS DOT representative to a board meeting to review and discuss this problem.

Motion by Trustee Ceccherelli, seconded by Trustee Morris, to approve the minutes of July 29, 2015 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. **Roll Call Vote:** Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee May, Trustee Morris, and Mayor Millar voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee May, to approve the minutes of July 2, 2015 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee May, Trustee Morris, and Mayor Millar voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Mayor Millar, seconded by Trustee Ceccherelli, to approve the minutes of August 3, 2015 as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee May, Trustee Morris, and Mayor Millar voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Mayor Millar, seconded by Trustee Ceccherelli, to approve payment of bills as presented by the clerk-treasurer. Roll Call Vote: Trustee Ceccherelli, Trustee Hartman, Trustee Manville, Trustee May, Trustee Morris, and Mayor Millar voted aye.

General Fund	-	\$381,518.01
Sewer Fund	-	\$ 46,805.00
Sewer Preventive Maintenance	-	\$ 36,215.11
Sewer Plant Upgrade	-	\$ 46,479.88
Trust & Agency	-	\$ <u> 697.45</u>
TOTAL		\$516,466.20

Motion Carried 6-0

Clerk-Treasurer presented the Treasurer’s Report for July.

Department Head Reports:

DPW Supt. Soules –

M E M O

To: Village of Owego Mayor Kevin Millar and Village Board of Trustees

From: Superintendent of Public Works - Jeff Soules

Date: August 14, 2015

RE: DPW Activity Report

- Clean may flies from River walk
- Mowed Nature Trail
- Measured McMaster Street Extension for paving
- Snagged trees from creek
- Investigating tires and trash dumped in creek
- Break in at Marvin Park Pool
- Sweep for Town of Owego
- Put up stop sign Central & Fox
- Trim trees
- Signage on Adaline and Spruce

- Clean drop inlets
- Code violations for residential refuse/high grass - ongoing
- Forever green property maintenance - ongoing
- Measure DSNY cut outs on going
- Repair DPW equipment
- Cemetery burials
- Pot hole patching ongoing
- Brush and leaf pick up ongoing
- Planning, Zoning and Historic Preservation meetings scheduled

Any questions or concerns please call me.

Fire Chief Gavin –

The village is in need of an ambulance to replace the 3rd line ambulance. Repairs have run over \$7,000.00 in the last few months.

We have an opportunity to buy a used one for approximately \$20,000.00 that is 4 years newer and only 54,000 miles on it.

Consensus of the board is to get 3 quotes and move forward with the purchase of a replacement ambulance.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee Ceccherelli –

- Working with Trustee Morris and Virtual Towns on the new village web site

Trustee Manville –

- Working on a presentation on sewer plant upgrade
- Still working on the EDU billing situation

Trustee May –

Question on the judge's concern on \$3,000.00 being charged to his budget for court room security. Mayor Millar made this addition to help with the court security problem.

Mayor's Report:

- 1) Spoke at Rotary Club on CRS 8/11/15
- 2) Attend CRS Working Group Meeting on 8/17/15
- 3) Attended Village Planning & Zoning Board Meetings. All permits & variances for Owego Gardens were approved
- 4) Attended Broome County Community Organizations Active (COAD) in Disasters on 8/13/15. TARP will be working to become a COAD in the near future

Public Comment:

Theresa Gosart – I think Trustee Hartman should recuse himself on votes about the fire department because he has an obvious conflict of interest.

Also, the light at Court and Main takes forever –who do we talk to about this? Mayor Millar – NYS DOT.

Michelle Coates – it appears to me that the mayor and some trustees are preventing the public from hearing options on the fire department.

Karl Jones – earlier you all said you support the fire department. Well you have failed miserably.

Erdine Toft – do we have police officers walking the beat (parking enforcement officers)? Some people don't move their cars. There is no place to park.

Jim King – Trustee Hartman should be an advocate for the fire department. The village board needs to let the public have information from the fire department. It is a basic civil right.

Rusty Fuller – give the board the information they want and need.

Lou Striley – look at the traffic problems. Disappointed the board voted down having a public hearing – it is the duty of the board.

On the survey a more comprehensive study would be important and helpful.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.