

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 beginning at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY 13827.

Deputy Mayor:	Michael Baratta
Trustees:	Laura Eberly Rusty Fuller Ed Morton Ron Pelton Charles Plater (online) Fran VanHousen
Clerk-Treasurer:	Rod Marchewka
Attorney:	Nate VanWhy

Pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Public Hearing on Local Law No. 2 of 2021 “Flood Damage Prevention”.

Roger Katchuk – there is a need for safe, affordable housing – there are more pros than cons to this project.

This is a now or never situation. When will someone else want to invest 14 million dollars in this area?

Sister Mary O’Brien presented the following:

- Death knell to creativity, to business entrepreneurs, to young first-time home buyers, to current renters who can never hope to live in anything but sub-standard housing if they wish to live in Owego?
- Do we not address community needs in this village because a not for profit is proposing a solution that threatens an increase to the tax base?
- Do we stop dreaming? Do we put a hold on the vision and creative response of NFPs and settle for mediocrity or less;
- When do we begin to evidence care for our neighbors in need, for those who are simply desiring to live in a safe, affordable and peaceful community where they can raise their children? This very day I was confronted with a homeless couple. The closest shelter available to them is in Rochester. The father works two jobs, collects scrap metal on the side for Weitsman. They want to keep their son in the Owego-Apal. School system. They cannot find housing in Owego. Because they have no real choice, they live in a car. How do we help them? This couple volunteered every day for us over a two month stretch when we needed help. Are they undeserving of our help? Do we close off a pathway to opportunity for them? The decision is before you when you vote yea or nay for the amendment before you tonight.

Julie Nucci – 260 Main Street – the idea of affordable housing is great. Just not in a known flood prone area. You would be putting vulnerable people in a bad location. The Village must get into the C.R.S. (Community Rating System) a program for flood insurance. The Village has only one open violation to finish. C.R.S. would help lower the cost of flood insurance that keeps going up.

Max Della Pia – 11 Larchmont Road, board member for the Racker and TCRM - Special needs people usually do not have the means to take care of themselves. They deserve the best standard of living available.

This project is 5 years in the planning stage. I favor this project to go forward with intelligent design.

Jo Ellen Rose – 24 Ruth Street – 390 Tubbs Hill Road, Candor – they would like to see the project go forward.

Kevin Millar – Front Street – without flood insurance there would be no Village.

Sarah Zubalsky-Peer – 3625 Montrose Turnpike – opposes Proposed Local Law No. 2 what is the object of this new law?

Steve Jackson – 70 Liberty Street – opposed to this proposed project – who is going to police the project? Where is the money coming from?

The area is turning into a slum – why cram more people into this mess?

Maureen Abbot – 221 Glenbrook Drive – income break down:

23 apartments - \$34,000 income level

18 apartments - \$41,000 income level

5 apartments - \$51,000 income level

The Village population has gone down 7% according to the latest census.

46.7 is the average age of the Village's population.

Don't make flooding as the issue to stop this project.

Ralph Kelsey – board member on the Tioga County Land Bank – the objective is to assist the Village. Please visit the Ithaca Project built by the same company. You will be impressed. If you do nothing you end up with nothing. We are not trying to damage the Village in any way.

This is \$10 to \$15 million dollars you will not see again.

Fay Berham – we need this project. There is nothing like this close – maybe in Elmira or Binghamton. These are good people and will be good neighbors.

There are handicapped people who need housing, a job, an opportunity. They want independence. There is a lack of transportation to get around.

Brian Weaver – T.O.I. – this is a corner-stone project - we want to take care of our community. Let's trust the engineers to design a project that will meet flood guidelines.

Pat Gillule – 29 Harriet Drive, Smithboro – there is a definite need for handicapped housing.

Roger Katchuk – could the new proposed park on North Avenue be lowered as an offset for flood soil in/soil out.

Gayle Pado – 1538 Dr. Knapp Road, Newark Valley – time for improvement – time for change.

VOOBM 9-20-2021

Jeff VanWagenen – the new proposed local law would kill the proposed project. Engineers will design for the flood issues.

Julie Nucci – 200 Main Street – any change to the flood law would need DEC approval.

Mayor Baratta – DEC must approve any changes to the local law.

Public hearing closed at 8:17pm.

Trustee Fuller – read the Village code book and outlined the differences in the new proposed law.

Trustee Morton asked Mr. Fuller was this new proposed law written to kill the Liberty/Temple Street Project? Trustee Fuller answered, no.

Trustee Eberly – the Village is in need of a project, just not in this flood area – don't want to push water on to the neighbors.

Trustee Morton – would like to see a hydraulic study done before voting on this law.

**Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Pelton, to table Local Law No. 2 of 2021. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye. Trustees Eberly and Fuller voted no. (approved to table LL#2 – Trustee Plater couldn't vote).**

**Motion Carried 4-2**

Department Head Reports:

DPW Supt. Soules submitted the following report:

MEMO

To: Village of Owego Mayor Mike Baratta and Village Board of Trustees

From: Superintendent of Public Works - Jeff Soules

Date: September 20, 2021

RE: DPW Activity Report

- Drain water from pool and winterize
- Put new tires on Sewer Department truck
- Pick up garbage in Mayor's Park from Riverwalk cleanup
- Repair pillars in Cemetery
- Turn water off in Marvin Park
- Remove dead fox on Front Street
- Repair door handle on Truck #3
- Patch potholes on Fox Street and Court, Hyde and Moose Parking Lots
- Meeting with Edger Construction regarding Electric and Water line
- Repair steering on Truck #4
- Put barrel over sink hole on corner of McMaster and Delphine Street
- Take Cemetery gates to Elmira for powder coating
- Pick up No Parking sign at OPD from corner of Temple and Liberty Street
- Repairs to Loader #19
- Remove dead deer on Montrose Ave.
- Chip tree branches and brush

- Forever green property maintenance – on going
- Measure DSNY cut outs on going
- Repair DPW equipment
- Pot hole patching on going
- Cleaning Drains
- Planning and Zoning meetings scheduled
- OHPC meetings scheduled

Any questions or concerns please call me.

Trustee VanHousen presented the following:

- 160 calls from September 1<sup>st</sup> thru September 19<sup>th</sup>
- Has an EMS contract been signed by the OACSD for coverage at football games? Attorney VanWhy – not yet.
- Thanks to DPW for filling in pot holes on cemetery roads

**Motion by Trustee Pelton, seconded by Trustee VanHousen, to approve the heat exchange contract – NT SITECON – Northern Tier Site Contractors LLC at a price of \$17,800.00 (the lowest of 3 quotes) for the sewer plant. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Motion by Trustee Pelton, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve the new generator at a cost of \$230,000.00 and engineering costs (Hunt) of \$27,540.00 for design, bidding assistance, construction administration, and construction inspection previously approved as Phase II of the Disinfection Project. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

**Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Fuller, to publish the following election information:**

**Legal Notice  
March Village Election**

**Resolve that the next annual election of the Village of Owego, New York will be on Tuesday, March 15, 2022 and that the No.1 Central Fire Station located on North Avenue in the Village of Owego, Owego, New York be used as the polling place for said election and that the said polls shall be open from 12:00 noon until 9:00pm on the said day at which time and place the following offices are to be filled:**

**Mayor for a term of two years to succeed Michael Baratta III salary of \$5,000.00  
Clerk-Treasurer for a term of two years to succeed Rodney Marchewka salary of \$30,000.00  
Trustee for the 1st Ward, for a term of two years to succeed James “Ed” Morton salary of \$2,400.00  
Trustee for the 2nd Ward, for a term of two years to succeed Charles Plater salary of \$2,400.00  
Trustee for the 3rd Ward, for a term of two years to succeed Fran VanHousen salary of \$2,400.00  
Justice for a term of four years to succeed David Boland salary of \$26,827.65**

Be it further resolved that in accordance with Section 15-104 of the election law, the Village Clerk of the Board be and is hereby directed to cause a notice of election to be published in the Tioga County Courier and cause to conspicuously post in at least six (6) public places within the Village of Owego.

Dated: September 17, 2021

Rod M. Marchewka  
Clerk-Treasurer  
Village of Owego

Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Eberly, to approve the following pay apps for the new municipal building construction:

Delta EAS	\$17,575.00
Delta EAS	<u>\$ 3,193.66</u>
Total	\$20,768.66

Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Trustee Eberly, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve the following transfers:

From		To	Amount
A.3089	State Aid	A.1490.40.093 – New DPW Bldg.	\$115,209.18
A.3090	State Grants	A.8668.40.446 – Rehabilitation Loans	\$48,250.70
E.4540.10.110	EMS Full Time	A.4540.10.110 – EMS FT – General Fund	\$2,673.83
(Mistakenly taken out of General Fund instead of EMS Fund)			
Total			\$166,133.71

Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Trustee Morton, seconded by Trustee Eberly, to approve the August Treasurer’s Report as submitted by the clerk-treasurer. Mayor Baratta has reviewed the report. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 6-0

Motion by Trustee Eberly, seconded by Trustee Fuller, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustee’s Meeting Minutes of September 7, 2021 with corrections. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Pelton, VanHousen voted aye. Mayor Baratta and Trustee Morton abstained.

Motion Carried 4-0-2

**Motion by Trustee Eberly, seconded by Trustee Fuller, to approve the Village of Owego Board of Trustee's Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2021 with corrections. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.**

**Motion Carried 6-0**

Public Comment:

Jeff VanWagenen – SUEZ Water – new fire hydrants have been installed and additional hydrants are going to be installed. Training for the fire department has also been provided.

The EMS Department also thanked the board for sponsoring their banquet.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee VanHousen –

- Team Tioga is applying for a \$10,000.00 grant for stain glass repair at the mortuary
- Also applying for a grant from the Mildred Falkner Foundation for up to \$50,000.00 for repairs to the mortuary building and building a parking lot

Trustee Eberly –

- Catch basins in Turtle Town area need to be cleaned
- Some of the OHPC minutes are not on the new website – need to try to get them recovered
- Need work on new emails
- Planning Board – September 28, 2021 at 7:00pm
- Zoning Board – September 29, 2021 at 6:00pm

Trustee Morton left the meeting at 10:15pm.

Mayor Baratta –

- Hunt Engineering contract ready soon
- CSEA negotiations ongoing
- New municipal building moving along nicely

Meeting adjourned at 10:30pm.