

Village of Owego Board of Trustees Meeting

A Village of Owego Mayor and Board of Trustees Meeting was held on Monday, October 4, 2021 beginning at 7:00 pm at 20 Elm Street, Owego, NY 13827 in person and virtually via GoToMeeting.

Deputy Mayor:	Michael Baratta
Trustees:	Laura Eberly Rusty Fuller Ed Morton (online) Ron Pelton Charles Plater (online) Fran VanHousen
Clerk-Treasurer:	Rod Marchewka
Attorney:	Nate VanWhy
C&G Intern:	Gina Middletown
DPW Supt.:	Jeff Soules
EMS Captain:	Robin Shaver

Online Attendees:

Jamie Bercaw
Pat Gavin
Kristen Sherman
Christine Crispine
Laura Young
Julie Nucci

Pledge of allegiance and invocation.

Marilyn Murray – representing Crop Walk – the Crop Walk will be held on October 17, 2021 from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. It will be on the sidewalk so we will not need additional police or fire police to direct traffic.

Liz Skovira and Mandy Neira – regarding a Halloween block party on October 29, 2021 from 6pm to 9pm – parade and costume judging. Discussed insurance and need for DPW and police and signs. HOM is onboard. Trustee Pelton talked to merchants on Lake Street and they are okay with it happening.

Motion by Trustee VanHousen, seconded by Trustee Pelton, to approve the parade permit to close Lake Street from 6pm to 9pm on October 29, 2021 for a Halloween Block Party. This is contingent on approval of Police Chief Kennedy. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

Department Head Reports:

EMS Captain Robin Shaver –

- 155 calls for the month of September
- Volunteers worked the Monster Truck Show at Marvin Park on Saturday. It went well.

Motion by Trustee VanHousen, seconded by Trustee Pelton, to approve the ambulance contract with the OACSD to provide an ambulance and any necessary staff for district home football games. (Contract on file at the clerk's office). Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

DPW Supt. Jeff Soules –

MEMO

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

From: Superintendent of Public Works - Jeff Soules

Date: October 4, 2021

RE: DPW Activity Report

- Install drainage pipe on East Ave.
- Ash burial Ext. 16 Evergreen Cemetery
- Pick up couch on Spencer Ave.
- Clean and ready bathrooms under grandstand for 2 day walk/run event
- Pick up portable light for Marvin Park walk/run event
- Repair clogged sink at OFD
- Repair parks weed eater
- Meeting with vendor for furniture in new DPW building
- Put new light on loader
- Pick up cones on Front Street
- Ash burial Section 22 Evergreen Cemetery
- Ready Marvin Park for Monster Truck show
- 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.

- Approved the Monster Truck Show at Marvin Park and they repaired any damage.

Trustee VanHousen thanked DPW for patching in the cemetery

Mayor Baratta would like DPW to check storm drains at Main and Lake Street

Trustee Pelton for Director of Utilities Tracy Babcock –

- Green Street force main work to begin on October 12th

Trustee Fuller for Police Chief Kennedy –

The police will be hosting a community event Friday October 22, 2021.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee Eberly, to approve a bonfire event sponsored by the Police, Fire, and EMS Departments on October 22, 2021 from 5:30pm to 9:30pm at Marvin Park and

waive any fee. Any necessary repairs will be done by DPW and OPD as needed. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

Trustee Fuller is working with Supt. Soules to review fees charged to use Village parks.

The Police Department would like any private security force to register with OPD before an event takes place (Attorney VanWhy can build it into a new permit).

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee VanHousen, that any future events be reviewed by the Village Board until the fee schedule is updated. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee VanHousen, to approve raising the police’s petty cash amount from \$200.00 to \$500.00. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee Morton, to approve a resolution for the court to apply for a JCAP Grant for up to \$30,000.00 to upgrade the sound system, and purchase an AED and new locking filing cabinets. Roll Call Vote: Trustees Eberly, Fuller, Morton, Pelton, Plater, VanHousen, and Mayor Baratta voted aye.

Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee VanHousen, to approve the year-end encumbrances and transfers (\$15,000 added to police line item and \$15,000 subtracted from cemetery trees) as follows:

2020-2021 Year End Transfers

From		To		Amount
Sewer				
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.1320.40.140	Auditor	\$100.00
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.8110.10.110	FT Salary	\$313.68
G.9060.80.036	Health Insurance	G.8120.20.130	Equipment	\$12,022.38
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.8130.30.100	Data Processing	\$905.44
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.8130.40.480	Postage	\$308.23
G.9060.80.036	Health Insurance	G.8130.40.640	Supplies	\$19,603.12
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.8130.40.660	Telephone	\$24.94
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.8130.40.680	Tires	\$598.78
G.8130.40.420	Utilities	G.8130.40.793	Lab Testing	\$2,962.10
G.8130.40.420	Utilities	G.9040.80.075	Workers Comp.	\$2,571.84
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.9055.80.045	Disability	\$3.00
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.9065.80.025	Dental-Retirees	\$33.14
G.8110.10.315	Overtime	G.9065.80.026	Dental	\$131.21

\$39,577.86

Clerk

A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.1010.10.120	PT Trustees Salary	\$2,920.64
A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.1210.10.120	PT Mayor Salary	\$13.80
A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.1325.40.480	Postage	\$1,424.75
A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.1325.40.660	Telephone	\$662.44
A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.9065.80.025	Dental-Retirees	\$138.14
A.1325.40.100	Data Processing	A.9068.80.010	Eyewear	\$60.85

\$5,220.62

Justice

A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.10.110	FT Salary	\$68.17
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.10.120	PT Salary	\$592.95
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.40.410	Office Supplies	\$105.32
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.40.420	Utilities	\$300.63
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.40.480	Postage	\$352.05
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.1110.40.733	Training	\$113.19
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.9030.80.091	FICA	\$299.50
A.1110.40.140	Contracted Services	A.9055.80.041	Disability	\$27.00

\$1,858.81

2020-2021 Year End Transfers

From		To		Amount
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Fire

A.4540.20.211	Communication	A.3410.10.110	FT Salary	\$215.10
A.3410.40.560	Equipment Repair	A.3410.40.270	Insurance	\$6,148.32
A.3410.40.220	Fuel	A.3410.40.270	Insurance	\$5,488.73
A.3410.20.205	Radio Equipment	A.3410.40.270	Insurance	\$2,000.00
A.3410.20.211	Communication	A.3410.40.270	Insurance	\$4,375.01
A.3410.40.222	Bldg. Maintenance	A.3410.40.270	Insurance	\$645.77
A.3410.40.561	Equipment Repair	A.3410.40.752	Hydrant Rental	\$6,217.50

\$25,090.43

EMT

A.4540.20.130	Equipment	A.4540.10.315	OT	\$937.90
A.4540.20.205	Pumper Truck	A.4540.40.140	Contracted Services	\$4,463.65
A.4540.40.222	Bldg. Maintenance	A.4540.40.270	Insurance	\$8,609.20
A.4540.40.560	Vehicle Repair	A.4540.40.270	Insurance	\$6,913.54
A.4540.40.222	Vehicle Repair	A.4540.40.431	Replacement Equip.	\$15.68
A.4540.40.470	Physicals	A.4540.40.640	Supplies	\$3,861.24
A.4540.40.222	Vehicle Repair	A.9030.80.093	FICA	\$159.77

\$24,960.98

DPW

A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.1490.10.110	Admin. Salary	\$4,984.20
A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.1490.40.270	Admin. Insurance	\$188.27
A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.1490.40.560	Admin. Repairs	\$464.33
A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.5110.10.315	OT-Street	\$601.17
A.5110.40.420	Utilities - Street	A.5110.40.220	Auto Fuel-Street	\$2,220.85
A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.5110.40.242	Street Marking	\$146.50
A.5110.10.110	FT Salary - Street	A.5110.40.561	St. Equip. Repair	\$305.91
A.5110.10.120	PT Salary - Street	A.5142.40.602	Cinders/Salt	\$8,584.00
A.8810.10.110	FT Salary - Cemetery	A.5142.40.602	Cinders/Salt	\$3,145.62
A.7988.10.120	PT-Salary-Pool	A.7110.10.110	FT Salary-Parks	\$4,596.35
A.7110.10.120	PT-Salary - Parks	A.7110.10.315	OT-Salary-Parks	\$210.00
A.7110.10.120	PT-Salary - Parks	A.7110.20.130	Equip. - Parks	\$327.33
A.7110.40.420	Utilities - Parks	A.7110.40.751	Water - Parks	\$1,440.61
A.7110.40.560	Repairs - Parks	A.7110.40.751	Water - Parks	\$522.40
A.7110.10.120	PT Salary - Parks	A.7310.10.120	Salary-Hyde Park	\$38.73
A.7988.10.120	PT Salary - Pool	A.7988.10.315	OT - Pool	\$838.50
A.7988.10.120	PT Salary - Pool	A.7988.40.420	Utilities - Pool	\$1,483.80
A.8810.10.110	FT Salary - Cemetery	A.9030.80.094	FICA - DPW	\$1,374.83

\$31,473.40

2020-2021 Year End Transfers

From		To		Amount
OPD				
A.3120.20.901	Computer Software	A.3120.10.110	FT Salary	\$9,251.45
A.3120.40.140	Contracted Services	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$104.84
A.3120.40.090	Clothing	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$101.69
A.3120.40.420	Utilities	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$489.19
A.3120.40.560	Repairs	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$95.06
A.3120.40.730	Travel	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$187.90
A.3120.40.733	Training	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$1,623.40
A.9015.80.082	Retirement	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$5,799.02
A.9040.80.072	Workers Comp	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$744.38
A.9045.80.062	Life Insurance	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$179.16
A.9055.80.042	Disability	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$17.00
A.9060.80.032	Health Insurance	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$19,752.82
A.9065.80.022	Dental Insurance	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$76.49
A.1990.40.400	Contingency	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$35,000.00
A.9060.80.034	DPW Health Ins	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$9,568.41
A.9060.80.035	Retiree Health Ins	A.3120.10.120	PT Salary	\$17,526.79
A.3120.40.270	Insurance	A.3120.10.315	OT	\$6,146.74

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A.3120.10.318	Shift Premium	A.3120.20.059	Car Purchase	\$24.47
A.3120.20.901	Computer Software	A.3120.20.059	Car Purchase	\$204.39
A.3120.40.020	Ammunition	A.3120.20.059	Car Purchase	\$2,166.54
A.3120.40.270	Insurance	A.3120.20.130	Equipment	\$2,582.89
A.3120.40.090	Clothing	A.3120.20.130	Equipment	\$4,183.67
A.3120.40.140	Contracted Services	A.3120.40.220	Auto Fuel	\$3,058.68
A.3120.10.318	Shift Premium	A.3120.40.410	Office Supplies	\$755.45
A.3120.20.901	Computer Software	A.3120.40.480	Postage	\$235.76
A.3120.40.733	Training	A.3120.40.660	Telephone	\$1,388.27
A.3120.40.733	Training	A.3120.40.680	Tires	\$2,400.77
A.3120.40.090	Clothing	A.3123.10.120	Crossing Guard	\$662.50
A.9040.80.072	Workers Comp	A.9030.80.092	FICA	\$4,467.12
A.3120.40.420	Utilities	A.9068.80.012	Eyeglasses	\$267.74
				\$129,062.59

Encumbrances

General Fund

	Item	Account Number	Amount
	Pavement Patching	A.5110.40.241	\$2,576.72
	Bituminous Materials	A.5110.40.243	\$3,975.12
	Street Repair	A.5110.40.250	\$30,475.15
	Chips	A.5142.40.251	\$13,820.55
	Glass-Cemetery Mortuary	A.8110.40.093	\$1,200.00
	Mower - Parks	A.7110.20.130	\$30,000.00
	Car Ports	A.1620.40.093	\$7,000.00
	Code-Software	A.3620.40.410	\$15,000.00
	Cemetery Trees	A.8810.40.140	\$15,000.00
	Tires	A.3120.40.680	\$4,000.00
	Accounting Software	A.1325.30.102	\$30,000.00
Sewer Fund	Plate Reader	A.3120.20.130	\$15,000.00
\$168,047.54			

	Frisbee Welding - Snow Pusher	G.8130.40.640	\$6,179.00
	Zylem - Pump	G.8130.40.140	\$9,300.00
	Loader Repair	G.8130.40.561	\$645.00
	Monroe Tractor - New loader window	G.8130.40.561	\$225.00
Transfers	Wms & Edsall - Land Survey/Purchase	G.8130.40.140	\$14,500.00

General Fund		\$30,849.00
	From A.2705 - Gifts to A.3120.40.497 - K9	\$6,085.00
Sewer Fund	From A.2705 - Gifts to A.8810.40.240 Cemetery Road Maint.	\$5,000.00
		\$11,085.00
	From 911 - Fund Balance to Sewer Equipment Reserve	\$200,000.00
	From 911 - Fund Balance to Sewer Plant Equipment Reserve	\$75,000.00
EMS	From 911 - Fund Balance to Sewer Preventative Maint. Reserve	\$75,000.00
		\$350,000.00
	From E.4540.10.110 FT to A.4540.10.110 FT	\$4,119.87
	From E.9030.80.093 S.S. to A.9030.80.093 S.S	\$315.17
		\$4,435.04

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

Motion Carried 7-0

Motion by Trustee Eberly, seconded by Trustee Pelton, to approve the Payment of Bills (mayor has reviewed them) as follows:

General Fund	-	\$459,654.75
EMS	-	\$ 6,081.96
Sewer Fund	-	<u>\$ 54,198.55</u>
Total		\$519,935.26

Approval of the board minutes from 9-20-2021 are on hold until the next meeting.

Discussion on Proposed Local Law No. 2 of 2021 –

- Need website info on board members
- Email problems
- Upcoming flood insurance rate 70% of the Village will be receiving an increase in premium. Community Rating System (CRS) could help lower flood insurance costs. There is one (1) violation to be cleared

No action taken on Local Law No. 2 of 2021.

Trustee Reports:

Trustee VanHousen –

- The cemetery tree removal is going well. Job should be done before winter sets in
- The Friends of Evergreen Cemetery received a \$10,000.00 grant for guard rails for the cemetery road
- Windows at 90 Temple Street are in need of replacement – on hold waiting for results of a \$600,000.00 grant proposal. Suggest plastic over the windows for temporary winterization
- Would like to thank Judge Boland and his wife Kate for repairs of the columns at the entry to the cemetery (painted urns and columns and having the gates repaired)

Trustee Eberly –

- The planning board met for over 4 ½ minutes. The next meeting is scheduled for October 26th to discuss the steamer house and Liberty and Temple Street projects
- Discussed OHPC doing a stellar job and the need to update the new Village website with the OHPC agendas and minutes

Trustee Pelton –

- School is in session – keep an eye out for kids
- Leaves in bags or on curb? Either one but on curb works best for the leaf machines

Trustee Plater –

- Would like to extend his gratitude to the DPW workers for their efforts –short of help and doing a good job
- Thanks to the organizers of the employee picnic

Trustee Morton –

- Marvin Park entrance is in need of repair (could be part of the park's DRI)

Trustee VanHousen –

- Plastic will be put over the windows at 90 Temple Street since we can't get replacement windows at this time

Communications:

Laura Young submitted a letter for the board:

Monday, October 4th, 2021

Re: Public Comment Concerning Flood Mitigation Law

I am unable to attend to night's meeting.

I am sending this letter to be read into public comment at the beginning of tonight's normally scheduled Village of Owego Board Meeting.

VOOBM 10-4-2021

This evening a Local Law Amending Chapter 117 entitled “Flood Damage Prevention” is coming up for a vote by this board.

After attending the contentious Planning Board of Owego’s meeting last week it became overwhelmingly apparent that the Village has no law in place to truly protect the property and safety of residents of pre-existing structures.

As a owner of a home, I was shocked to hear that the tear downs being done by the County’s Land Bank in preparation for the huge affordable/low income housing complex that is proposed to go in on Liberty Street are simply filling in the basement of cellars. These cellars that hold water during a flood and slowed water displacement onto surrounding neighboring houses will be gone.

I was shocked to hear that the Developer of this project had not completed testing and a runoff study to date showing that the size of the empty plastic tanks planned to go under the parking lot area of this build were even large enough to deal with the runoff of the build’s rooftops and parking lot itself.

I have been deeply concerned the mayor claim’s that we do not have control over this build...it is the County...and yet, we could have a local law put in place that would look after the community’s interest. The interest of the existing tax base structures like the one up for vote tonight.

It is a falsehood to say that new development cannot happen in Owego. It can. Housing and business structures are going up all over the nation in areas with histories of extreme flooding. It is being done carefully and is having to take into account the increase damage fill and construction may cause with hydraulic studies and standard build studies, in smart communities that demand that proper consideration to flood mitigation for preexisting structures, homes and human beings are taken into serious account.

Moreover, there has been misinformation spread that if someone is rebuilding an already existing building this proposed law would impact them, that is simply not true.

Yes, if an entirely new structure like a huge garage was wanted and that pre-existing footprint did not exist of course it would have to take in consideration, rightfully so, flood mitigation onto surrounding neighbors.

I am not against in any way the building of affordable housing.

I am for new builds that are done well.

I am for new builds that have studies showing they will not harm me and others.

I wish that such IDA tax abatements and assessing a \$13 Million dollar proposed bill for a mere \$580K was not happening, since that will mean that already existing taxpayers will be handling the vast majority of the cost of increase coverage for these residents in the form of OFD and OPD services for the foreseeable long-term future. For decades to come.

But that was done by the County and a county’s agency.

But for the village to not have any direct control over what builds happen is unacceptable.

Please pass the Local Law Amending Chapter 117 this evening to protect our historic community and your constituents.

Laura Young

- The report on stimulus money is not due until January 31, 2022

Discussion on the need to set a public hearing on the new marijuana law.

Mayor's Report:

- Talked to Meg Gilbert, DPW Secretary, about doing the minutes for the planning and zoning boards. Will try to put a plan in place

Public Comment:

Trustee Plater – most of the Village is in the flood zone. Need a new and extensive study on drainage for the river and the creek.

Julie Nucci – there is only one violation left on the FEMA list. There is a new software package that can manage the paperwork. It gives you more points if you enhance your regulatory standards. We also get extra points for having A B F E +2 as an enhanced standard elevation. You need 500 points for each level on the CRS. There is work to be done, but if it is a priority, it can be done.

Trustee Fuller – on pilot programs – 231 Main – no taxes for 10 years. Owego Gardens I - \$2,000/year and Owego Gardens II is \$3,000/year.

Mayor Baratta thanked Supt. Soules for installing the new TV for meeting use.

Motion by Trustee Fuller, seconded by Trustee VanHousen, to adjourn at 9:27pm.

Unanimously Approved