October 20, 2026
6:30 PM
2354 State Route 434
Apalachin, NY 13732

Regular Meeting of the Owego Town Board

A. Call to order, roll call, and the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Hellmers called the meeting to order, Deputy Clerk called the roll, and Councilmember Jochum led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council:

Present: Supervisor Hellmers, Dean Morgan, Craig Jochum, and Emily Rush McClintock

Absent: Jonathan Marks

Department Heads:

Present: Peter Gordon, Town Historian
Rick Pedro, Sole Assessor
Irene Graven, Town Attorney

Absent: Mark Clark, Highway Superintendent
Tyson Stiles, Director of Utilities
Bill Carrigg, Planning & Zoning Administrator
Phil Baker, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Pamela Brown, Town Clerk & Tax Receiver

B. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The minutes of October 5, 2026, Special Meeting will stand as presented
The minutes of October 6, 2026, Regular Meeting will stand as presented

C. Consideration of bids: NONE

D. Public Hearings: None

E. Reports of Department Heads:

Irene Graven: Nothing to Report

Peter Gordon: Nothing to Report

Rick Pedro: We have been working on the Budget and the relevy for water and sewer. Preparing for December when County prints the taxes.

Pam Brown (Sarah Hogan, Deputy Clerk): Nothing to Report

F. Privilege of the floor:

- Bill Chandler: Was sent to speak on behalf of the Utility and Highway Departments regarding changes in proposed budgets for 2027. There was a concern from the Utility Department regarding the rental rate paid by them to the Town. Mr Chandler stated that they felt the rental rate of $7,000 per month was too high. Supervisor Hellmers clarified that the amount was $4,400 and outlined what services were provided by the Town to the Utility Department. Next he questioned the change in the 2027 budget for the Highway. Supervisor Hellmers explained the Town deficit and the need to make changes so the town does not go bankrupt. It was also explained that some funds have been allocated to different lines in the highway budget so to look at the budget as a whole.
- Residents of Gary Dr (Bob Raymond, David Lomonaco, & Tom Sayre- speakers): The residents spoke about the condition of Gary Road and looking to obtain services for the residents. It was explained by Supervisor Hellmers and Councilmember Morgan that the road is classified as a private driveway and would need to be brought up to Town Code in order for the Town to provide services. The residents were directed to contact Planning and Zoning to get the requirements to meet code as a starting point.

G. Presentation of Petitions, Communications, Notices, and Transfers: NONE

H. Abstracts:

General Fund	**$ 37,067.46**
General Fund- Town Outside	**$ 21,756.30**
Highway- Town Outside	**$ 339,896.77**
Water Districts	**$ 9,072.86**
Route 38 Water	**$ 1,277.24**
Sewer Districts	**$ 15,411.20**
Route 38 Sewer	**$ 11,815.50**
Lighting District 1	**$ 50.95**
Lighting District 2	**$ 228.05**
Lighting District 3	**$ 110.02**
Lighting District 4B	**$ 61.75**
Lighting District 5	**$ 64.88**
Lighting District 6	**$ 267.09**
Lighting District 7	**$ 60.27**
Lighting District 8	**$ 46.88**
Lighting District 9	**$ 31.18**
Lighting District 4A	**$ 37.71**
Lighting District 10	**$ 46.72**
	$ 437,302.83

Motion to Approve: Councilmember Morgan Second: Councilmember McClintock- Carried

I. Unfinished Business: NONE

J. Reports of Standing Committees:

- Councilmember McClintock- None
- Councilmember Morgan- Declare an emergency for Campville Commons and Hickories Park to replace the rip rap to protect from future storm damage. FEMA grant is for $63,000. Councilmember Jochum asked what the cost would be to the town over the amount of the grant. We currently do not have an estimate for the work. Councilmember Jochum and Councilmember McClintock motioned to table until we get more information on the cost for the project.

  In Favor (3): Jochum, McClintock, Hellmers Opposed (1): Morgan - Tabled

  Declare an emergency to replace the hot water heater in the shared services building. The current one sprung a leak and replacement will cost approximately $13,000 and will take 4-6 weeks to come in. Motion to make an emergency so that we can try to find one sooner. Councilmember Morgan made a motion, Councilmember Jochum seconded this. All in Favor- Approved

- Councilmember Jochum has been working with the Highway Dept regarding the purchase of a Caterpillar Wheel Loader. There are 3 options:
    I. Pay off the rental this year for $191,000.
    II. If it goes into next year, it is going to back that up to 90%.
    III. Opt to go with the leasing company, this would be the most expensive.

  Councilmember Jochum stated that he is going to have the finance people take a look at the options and make recommendations on what is best for the Town and we will revisit with input from the finance committee.

K. Presentation of Resolutions, Motions, and New Business:

I. Utilities- Legal notice request, Request for Qualifications for Engineering Consultant Services for the Town of Owego Water and Wastewater Cybersecurity Assessments. Councilmember Morgan motioned to table pending information to be received. Second by Councilmember McClintock.
All in Favor- Tabled

II. Revision to Tentative Budget- Transfer $50,000 from DB.0000.1120 Sales Tax to DB.5111.4830 Patch. Councilmember Morgan made a motion to approve. Second by Councilmember Jochum.
All in Favor- Approved

III. Move Revised Tentative Budget forward to Preliminary on file- Councilmember Jochum made a motion to move the Revised Tentative Budget to the Preliminary and make copies available in the Clerk's Office. Second by Councilmember McClintock.
All in Favor- Approved

L. Second Privilege of the Floor: NONE

M. Executive Session: NONE

N. Adjournment: 7:10 PM