

**A Town Board Meeting of the Town of Owasco was held on April 13, 2023
At 4:00 PM in the Owasco Town Hall with the following members present:**

**PRESENT: Supervisor Edward Wagner
Councilperson Fred Cornelius
Councilperson Gucciardi
Councilperson, Jeremy VeVone
Councilperson Mike Vitale**

ABSENT:

**OTHERS PRESENT: Riccardo Galbato, Walt Aikman, Daniela S, Amber
Shutter, Betsy Meyer, Pat McQueeney, Robert Bruno.**

CALL TO ORDER: 4:02 PM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 23-042 approval of Town Board Agenda for April 13, 2023.

Motion by Councilor Cornelius; Second Councilor Vitale

Roll call vote:	Councilor Cornelius <u>Yes</u>	Councilor Gucciardi <u>Yes</u>
	Councilor VeVone <u>Yes</u>	Councilor Vitale <u>Yes</u>
	Supervisor Wagner <u>Yes</u>	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**RESOLUTION 23-043 approval of Town Board Minutes for Town Board Meeting on
March 9, 2023**

Motion by Councilor Cornelius; Second Councilor Vitale

Roll call vote:	Councilor Cornelius <u>Yes</u>	Councilor Gucciardi <u>Yes</u>
	Councilor VeVone <u>Yes</u>	Councilor Vitale <u>Yes</u>
	Supervisor Wagner <u>Yes</u>	

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Betsy Meyer of 67 First Ave, yard repair concern.

In the fall the town highway department removed dead trees and brush located on the town property at Archie & Melrose. In the process it was necessary to go onto resident property at 67 First Ave to remove some of the trees. Mrs. Meyer was upset as she was not informed they would be on her property ahead of time. Her concern now is the state the land was left, the tree stumps were not ground down and ruts in the ground were left on her property.

Highways Superintendent Bob Bruno stated as soon as the land dried up as well as warmer temperature he would be in to stump the trees and plant grass seed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Yearly Audit Presentation Review for 2022 by Drescher & Malecki LLP

***The financial audit was completed and presented to the town board, over all the town is in good financial health. Residents my view the final report as a copy was left in the office for viewing.**

Golf Cart concerns on area streets & roads.

*** Over the past year golf carts have become an issue on town/county & state roads within the Town of Owasco. Complaints and concerns have come into the town from residents regarding the safety and legality as the whether they are allowed on the roads. There has been issues with a few young adolescent driving the golf carts onto the town’s playgrounds rubber service as well as up and down the streets with a few children on board creating a very dangerous situation. Other concerns included children driving the carts at Owasco Elementary school during the dismissal time and not following the Crossing Guards**

***Two mothers address the board in favor of their children driving on the roads.**

*** Prompted by the request of the Cayuga County Sheriff’s office for the Town Board to make a decision to allow or not allow golf carts on town roads as they have pulled a few of the individuals over.**

***NYS DMV New York State Golf Cart Laws
Golf carts tend to lack the required street legal fundamental features and are therefore prohibited from operating on public roads except in cases such:
Operating on roads designated by a county or municipality to be used by golf carts**

*** All councilmen had safety concerns, will be put to a vote on Resolution 23-046**

Solar Farm Moratorium update – The board will schedule a workshop for May 4th and the Public Hearing on May 11, 2023

Lakeview Country Club, 6642 East Lake Rd. Inquiries have come to the town and the owner with the interest of placing a Solar Farm on the property. The property is currently a golf course. The property is currently for sale for 1.5 million, Supervisor Wagner would like the board’s permission to talk with the owner and entertain the idea of the town purchasing the property. It is also his hopes to investigate the option for grants to purchase the property.

OLD BUSINESS:

Walt Aikman Park Committee Presentation: Walt addressed the Board with the question as to how the Town Board would like to move forward with the Ad-Hoc Playground Committee or would they like it to be a permanent committee. The Board would like it to become permanent.

COMMUNICATIONS

RESOLUTION 23-044 to accept and approve the 2022 Annual Town Audit

Motion by Councilor Gucciardi; Second Councilor Cornelius

Roll call vote:	Councilor Cornelius	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Gucciardi	<u>Yes</u>
	Councilor VeVone	<u>Yes</u>	Councilor Vitale	<u>Yes</u>
	Supervisor Wagner	<u>Yes</u>		

RESOLUTION 23- 045 AUDIT AND PAYMENT OF CLAIMS: authorizing the audit and payment of the following claims: General and Highway Funds, Special Districts, (Water and Sewer Districts), Capital Project and Reserve Fund claims, and ratifying the payment of the prepaid claims as authorized by resolution 16-006 adopted January 4, 2016, all in accordance with the attached abstract of claims.

**ABSTRACT #04 2023 Vouchers #254-334 in the amount of \$123,085.85
Trust & Agency Voucher #7022-7035 in the amount of \$25,964.77
for a grand total of \$149,050.62**

Motion by Councilor Gucciardi; Second Councilor Cornelius

**Roll call vote: Councilor Cornelius Yes Councilor Gucciardi Yes
 Councilor VeVone Yes Councilor Vitale Yes
 Supervisor Wagner Yes**

RESOLUTION 23-046 to approve the use of golf carts on town owned roads.

Motion by Councilor Cornelius; Second Councilor Gucciardi

**Roll call vote: Councilor Cornelius No Councilor Gucciardi No
 Councilor VeVone No Councilor Vitale No
 Supervisor Wagner Yes**

RESOLUTION 23-047 to approve the continuation of the Owasco Playground Committee & its proposed recommendation.

Motion by Councilor Gucciardi; Second Councilor Vitale

**Roll call vote: Councilor Cornelius Yes Councilor Gucciardi Yes
 Councilor VeVone Yes Councilor Vitale Yes
 Supervisor Wagner Yes**

ADJOURNMENT:

RESOLUTION 23-048 to adjourn the meeting:

Motion by Councilor VeVone; Second Councilor Vitale

**Roll call vote: Councilor Cornelius Yes Councilor Gucciardi Yes
 Councilor VeVone Yes Councilor Vitale Yes
 Supervisor Wagner Yes**

Meeting adjourned at 5:13PM

Supporting Documents to Resolution 23-047 Whereas: the donation of the park property to the Town of Owasco in 1957 was a gift of monumental consequence to Owasco and the wider Finger Lakes Community, and;

Whereas: growing demands for recreational services at Owasco’s 11.1 acre Town Park prompted the Owasco Town Council to form a recreational committee on December 8th, 2022 to help the Council and residents consider management options for the Park, and;

Whereas: the gazebo, the shelter, the pickle ball courts, basketball court, playground and splash pads are an increasingly popular recreational destination in the area, and that costs, litter, and vandalism are increasing commensurately, and event-driven parking demands complicate fire

fighting and emergency services response at the adjacent 2.2 acre Owasco Fire Department property, and;

Whereas: park lighting spilling into adjacent residential backyards creates discomfort for neighbors, and;

Whereas: approximately 7.6 acres of impervious surfaces upstream and inside the park create conditions whereby surges of storm water from large storm events drains into the 11 acre park, with storm water runoff episodes causing flooding next to the Fire Department and along East Lake Road;

Therefore, we, the Ad-Hoc Owasco Town Park Planning Committee do hereby resolve that the management concerns at the Owasco Town Park require both immediate and long-term attention, and;

the traffic management at the park requires an improved and gated road to provide reliable egress from the park, especially during large park events, and;

while the soils in the park are not suitable for dry well installation along the road, carefully placed swales with low berms and appropriate trees and shrubs can help manage runoff and enhance neighbors' privacy, and;

the necessity to install successful swales, berms, and plants depends on a determination of accurate elevation control points as well as a survey of the Park's Southern boundary, and;

since each additional acre of impervious surface adds to the storm water burden on the Fire Department and East Lake Road, all future additional parking construction should be developed using permeable pavers or porous asphalt, and;

the lighting in the park requires careful retrofit to reduce the illumination pouring into neighbors' property, and;

since the Owasco Town Park is vital to the sustainability of the Owasco community, a long-term commitment to secure planning support funding is necessary, and;

the Town of Owasco is committed to secure funding for an engineering study of storm water runoff and engage the landscape design and engineering community to develop competing concepts for an attractive and easily maintained storm water retention basin adjacent to the Owasco Fire Department, and;

formally contact the Auburn Enlarged City School District to discuss a partnership to identify, measure and quantify the volume and rate of water flow from the Owasco Elementary School property into the Owasco Town Park, and;

continue to research and clarify any and all drainage channels from the Park to the Owasco River.

Known costs:

• Survey, as per contractor:	\$1,200
• Road, as per contractor:	\$36,260
• Trees & shrubs, as per nursery quotes:	\$4,500
• Rain garden / retention basin educational project	\$3,500
• Parking signage	\$500
• <u>Summer 2023 Parking assistance staffing</u>	<u>\$2,500</u>
	\$48,460

Finally, although the Committee did not formally vote on the following two items, there is consensus that the Town Council may wish to consider:

1.) Establish the Ad-Hoc Owasco Town Park Planning Committee into a standing committee hereafter designated as the "Owasco Town Park Management & Planning Committee", and;

2.) Request the Town Clerk and Town Highway Department discuss, plan, and implement an interim park traffic and parking plan for 2023, with an eye to procuring new signage, organizing additional parking control assistance at events, communicate this Summer's changes to residents via eMail and the Town's website, and randomly gather data on traffic and parking use at the park.