

A Town Board Meeting of the Town of Owasco was held on July 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, Michael Dellostritto

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

RESOLUTION 23-091 approval of Town Board Agenda for July 13, 2023

Motion by Councilor Gucciardi; 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>		

RESOLUTION 23-092 approval of Town Board Minutes for Town Board Meeting on June 8, 2023 & Special Meeting June 22, 2023.

Motion by Councilor Vitale; Second Councilor Gucciardi

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:

Resident Pat McQueeney addressed the board as to a timeline to remove the drainage pipe owned by the town as he is getting water into his property.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion: Land owned by the town off Letchworth St, (Paper Street) to consider selling.

- The Town owns property off Letchworth St. at the end of Third and Fourth Ave and have agreed to list if for sale. Supervisor Wagner will look into what the best option would be, auction or broker.

- Councilmen Cornelius inquired on the status of the scheduling of the Surveyor at the hamlet playground.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**RESOLUTION 23-093 TO INTRODUCE LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2023 PROVIDING A TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO NEW YORK REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW.**

**\*\* RESOLVED** to direct the Town Clerk to schedule a public hearing on proposed Local Law No. 4 of 2023.

Below is the proposed text.

**TOWN OF OWASCO**

**LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2023**

**A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A TAX EXEMPTION FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE WORKERS PURSUANT TO N.Y. REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW**

**BE ENACTED BY** the Town Board of the Town of Owasco, as follows:

**SECTION 1 - LEGISLATIVE INTENT:** It is the intent of the Town Board of the Town of Owasco to exercise the authority granted to local taxing jurisdictions by N.Y. Real Prop. Tax Law, § 466-a; *Volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers*, which became effective on December 9, 2022. This recent state legislation provides a mechanism by which the (city, village, town or county) can properly thank and reward those individuals who volunteer their time providing emergency response to the town's residents at a crucial time. The Town Board of the Town of Owasco is also keenly aware of the need for new membership in many of the fire companies and departments throughout the town and county and finds that offering a tax incentive will supplement recruitment efforts across the town and county.

**SECTION 2 - EXEMPTION AUTHORIZATION**

Pursuant to Real Prop. Tax Law § 466-a, the Town of Owasco will provide for an exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of their primary residence from town tax, provided that they are an enrolled member, including a member and spouse, of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service beginning July 1, 2023.

**SECTION 3 - ELIGIBILITY**

- a. The applicant for such exemption shall be a resident of the city, town, or village served by the incorporated volunteer fire company, or fire department, or incorporated voluntary ambulance service (hereinafter as "Volunteer Responder Organization) of which the applicant is a member;
- b. The property must be the primary residence of the applicant;
- c. The property is used exclusively for residential purposes; provided

however, that in the event any portion of such property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to full taxation and the remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided by this local law; and

- d. The applicant has been certified by the chief executive of the Volunteer Responder Organization as having been an active, enrolled member of the Volunteer Responder Organization for at least two (2) years.

**SECTION 4 - LIFETIME EXEMPTION**

Any enrolled member of a Volunteer Responder Organization who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active service and is certified pursuant to Section 3(d) of this Local Law shall be granted a lifetime exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of their primary residence from the town tax, provided that their primary residence remains within the town.

**SECTION 5 - FILING OF APPLICATION**

Applicants shall file with their local assessor on or before March 1 the following documents to be eligible for the following year's partial town tax exemption:

- a. Certification of Service specified in Section 3(d).
- b. Form RP-466-a-vol, or other form as prescribed by the New York Commissioner of Taxation and Finance.

**SECTION 6 – RESERVED**

**SECTION 7 – RESERVED**

**SECTION 8 – SEVERABILITY**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law, or the application thereof to any person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair, effect or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or part of this law or in its application to the person, individual, corporation, firm, partnership, entity or circumstance directly involved in the controversy in which such order or judgment shall be rendered.

The Board voted to schedule the Public Hearing for the proposed resolution.

Motion by Councilor Gucciardi; Second Councilor Vitale

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

**RESOLUTION 23-094 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A NEW YORK  
STATE WATER INFRASTRUCTURE  
IMPROVEMENT ACT (WIIA) GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Owasco wishes to apply to the New York State Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant for a Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Project.**

**WHEREAS, the grant application requires approval from the governing board for submission**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Owasco authorizes the submission of a New York State WIIA grant application for a Sanitary System Improvements Project; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to submit the WIIA grant application on behalf of the Town, and to execute any agreements, instruments or other documents in connection with the Town’s acceptance of any such grants and/or the funding thereof; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.**

**Motion by Councilor Cornelius; Second Councilor VeVone**

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 23-095 RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SUBMISSION OF A NEW YORK  
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION NEW YORK STATE  
REVOLVING FUNDS FINANCING APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Owasco wishes to apply to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation State Revolving Funds for a Sanitary Sewer System Improvements Project.**

**WHEREAS, the financing application requires approval from the governing board for submission**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Owasco authorizes the submission of a New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation New York State Revolving Funds Financing Application for a Sanitary System Improvements Project; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is hereby authorized to submit the application on behalf of the Town, and to execute any agreements, instruments or other documents in connection with the Town's acceptance of any such financing and/or the funding thereof; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately**

**Motion by Councilor VeVone; 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>	

**RESOLUTION 23-096 GRANT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A GRANT APPLICATION TO NYSDEC URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY – ROUND 16 FUNDING**

**WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has announced the 2023 Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program, which includes a grant offered for UCF2 Tree Maintenance; and**

**WHEREAS, the Town of Owasco would like to apply for the Tree Maintenance Project # UCF2 grant in the amount of \$75,000, requires a 25% match by the Town which would be in the amount of \$18,750 and paid out of the Town’s shade tree operating budget account; and**

**WHEREAS, as a requirement of this Program, the applicant must obtain the approval/endorsement of the governing body of its municipality, the Owasco Town Council, in which the project will be located.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Owasco Council does hereby authorize as follows:**

- 1. That the Town is authorized to submit a grant application to the Tree Maintenance Project #UCF2 in the grant amount of \$75,000, which will require an additional 25% match of \$18,750 and shall be paid out of the Town’s tree operating budget account A8560.400**
- 2. That the Supervisor, or other appointed designee, is authorized to submit all documents, required for the application of the grants and, upon award notification, execute any and all grant agreements and submit any and all documentation necessary for the grants;**
- 3. That the Town Bookkeeper is authorized to receive and appropriate grant funding into the appropriate departmental accounts;**
- 4. That a certified copy of this Resolution shall be forwarded with the grant application, as required; and**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption**

**Motion by Councilor Vitale; Second Councilor Cornelius**

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

**RESOLUTION 23- 097 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 #07 2023 Vouchers # 496-592 in the amount of \$ 337,432.25  
Trust & Agency Voucher # 7059-7069 in the amount of \$22,764.74  
for a grand total of \$360,196.99.**

**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>		

**\*Board discussed the prior purchase of a new truck that was issued to the Water Department.  
Was the vehicle reserve used and if not why not?**

**\*Ed updated the board on the Grant Application that he will be applying for in hopes they will get a matching donation for the walking trails at the Lake View Country Club. The Country Club will be purchased by West lake Art Council and after the close the town will purchase the land for walking trails, if grants are received.**

**Meeting adjourned at 4:33PM**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Deputy Clerk Lori Reed**