

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16TH, 2024

The Public Hearing and Regular Meetings of the Seneca Town Board, County of Ontario, State of New York was held at 3675 Flint Road, Stanley, NY 14561 on the 16th day of January 2024 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor
Jason Mosher	Deputy Town Supervisor/ Councilman
Howard Keeney	Councilman
Jim Malyj	Councilman
Jesse Orbaker	Councilman
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
Shana Jo Hilton	Assessor/ Bookkeeper
Jim Lawson	Highway Superintendent
Brian Sanders	Manager of the Ontario County Landfill

Supervisor Wickham led the Pledge of Allegiance and completed the Roll Call as there were a couple of attendees this evening. CEO Hoover and Water Superintendent Coolbaugh were deemed necessarily absent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the agenda for tonight’s meeting. The approval was motioned by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Motion carried. Supervisor Wickham added a communication letter to the agenda and looked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Councilman Malyj made a motion which was seconded by Councilman Mosher.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Wickham offered privilege of the floor and two people wished to speak at this time.

Amanda Gibeau, Director of Operations for Stanley Hall Gorham Ambulance: She shared that she had good news this month. She started off with numbers for 2023 and said that they were dispatched on 265 emergency calls. 36 of them were mutual aided to a difference ambulance which brings the mutual aid rate down to 14%; this is a major positive for them as 2 years ago they were at 40%. The ambulance is in the middle of their NYS Inspection which means that they have applied for all of their new licenses that they need. She shared that the Ambulance found a home of Gorham Road that was for sale. They put a purchase offer in and it was accepted. They will be working toward making that their home as the house had everything they needed. There is a garage large enough to house 1 ambulance and they would work toward making enough inside space for the second ambulance.

Jeremy Kauffman, RIC Energy: Jeremy spoke along side David Patrick & David Patrick Jr. Mr. Kauffman was there to display interest in building a solar project within the Town. He explained that it would be roughly 15 Megawatts, 15 Acres, and 2.5 megawatt capacity. It would be sited on agricultural land. The Town of Seneca’s current zoning law prohibits Solar Projects on Agricultural Land which Mr. Kauffman explained is basically an outright ban on solar in the Town of Seneca. Mr. Kauffman said that while he respects and recognizes the Town of Sneeca’s desire to preserve farmland; it is proposed in an ideal location as it would have minimal impact on local agriculture and the town’s rural character. Mr. Kauffman stated that they are ready to get an application in and that they look forward to working with our town. Mr. Kauffman also stated that if the Town were to look into adjusting the Solar Regulations, they kindly ask that Section 3 be removed or that we consider location based regulations.

Supervisor Wickham thanked them for coming in and displaying interest. He would take a look and help steer them in any direction they could.

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Mr. Kauffman followed up by asking if the Town of Seneca had been reconsidering a solar update. Supervisor Wickham stated that we have not considered it at this time. Councilman Mosher explained that what we have is fairly new. Mr. Kauffman added that compared to a building being developed, this land would still be suitable for agriculture if or when the life of the project was over. Supervisor Wickham thanked them for coming tonight.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

MEO JOB DESCRIPTION BROADENING: Supervisor Wickham explained that there is a new system that they would like to implement within the Town. Highway Superintendent Lawson and Supervisor Wickham have been looking at having 3 types of MEOs within the Town based on the level of knowledge, skills, and experience of the individual applying. We would have an MEO 1 and MEO 2 available within the Town of Seneca. Supervisor Wickham explained that there is an MEO 3 available; however, that has tractor trailer driver wrapped into that and that is not applicable here. Our goal is to develop this system so that we are able to hire someone who may not have all of the experience or qualifications of the current crew and we wouldn't need to bring them in at the current crew's rate. This would provide flexibility for us. As the hire went through certain experiences or qualifications, that would advance them to an MEO 1, MEO 2, or MEO 3. We're currently looking through the process to see how to get it switched and still looking to make sure it's suitable for us. Supervisor Wickham explained that we will likely try to put this into play within the next couple of months.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the December 19th, 2023 Regular meeting and the January 3rd, 2024 Organizational Meeting. Councilman Keeney made the motion and councilman Malyj seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

All communications were reviewed and are available to view during business hours at the Town Hall upon request.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY: in addition to his written report, Highway Superintendent Lawson said that the winter has been nice and gradual for the 3 newer guys that they have over there. He explained that he was able to teach them everything in steps versus having them learn by scenarios. He complimented that they have all been doing really well.

TOWN CLERK: Clerk Eagley did not have a written report this month as she had just returned from maternity leave and didn't have much to report on. Spoke: Tax Payments and Water Payments are in full swing. She is getting back into the motions of everything and is happy to be back.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO Financial Reports. A motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker.

NEW BUSINESS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND
#23-24	Authorization to pay the 2023 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#24-24	Authorization to pay the 2024 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered, and nobody wished to speak at this time.

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ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 pm, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Keeney and Seconded by Councilman Mosher. The motion carried and the meeting was officially adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley
Town Clerk