

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 16, 2018

Justice Court Audits were performed at 7:15pm by the Seneca Town Board.

The regular meeting of the Seneca Town Board, County of Ontario and State of New York was held on the 16th day of January, 2018 at the Seneca Town Hall, 3675 Flint Road, Stanley, NY 14561 at 7:30pm.

The regular meeting of the Seneca Town Board was called to order at 7:30pm by Supervisor Wickham.

Also present were:

Jason Mosher, Councilman

Howard Keeney, Councilman

Jim Malyj, Councilman

Shana Jo Hilton, Assessor

Kate Silverstrim, Town Clerk

Jim Lawson, Highway & Water Superintendent

Jerry Hoover, CEO

Charles Smith, Councilman - necessarily absent.

Supervisor Wickham led the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was passed over as all in attendance were acquainted. Supervisor Wickham then presented the following addition to the agenda:

- Supervisor's report, addition of B. Update on the Public Works Maintenance Assistant position.

Councilman Keeney motioned to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Councilman Malyj, and the motion carried.

Privilege of the floor was offered, no one wished to speak.

Supervisor Wickham reported on Sewer Development. The Town's Comprehensive Plan seeks development along Route 5 & 20. In order to accomplish this we may need to extend the sewer. Supervisor Wickham wishes to develop and outline for prospective applicants so that expectations are clear and uniform. He will work with CEO, Jerry Hoover to develop these guidelines within the next few months.

Supervisor Wickham then reported on the search for a Public Works Maintenance Assistant. The process is that we request applications and then the applications go to the county for approval. At this time we have not received all of the applications back from the county but hope to have them by the end of the week. Once all applications have been reviewed by the county, Supervisor Wickham, Councilman Mosher, Superintendent Lawson, and an employee of the Water Department will conduct interviews with the selected approved candidates. Supervisor Wickham is excited to have had so many great candidates submit applications.

Supervisor Wickham asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last board meeting. Councilman Malyj made the motion, seconded by Councilman Keeney, and carried.

Supervisor Wickham presented the communications. He read the review of Seneca Town Court from “Eye on the Courts” and commended the Justices and Court Clerk for their excellent job.

Written reports were submitted by the Highway & Water Superintendent, CEO, and Assessor and are in file in the Town Clerk’s office.

In addition to the Highway Department Report, Superintendent Lawson said that his crew had been out plowing 13 of the first 17 days of the year. There will be overtime because of this and he has submitted the last of the 2017 bills to this meeting’s warrants. Additionally he is working on fleet management, has started mixing sand into the salt to conserve resources, and feels the department is working very well together. Councilman Mosher asked if Superintendent Lawson still plans to purchase a new or used laptop for the Mechanic. Superintendent Lawson said he is working with the county to get a used laptop which can sometimes take time. Councilman Mosher felt that a new laptop would be more secure and was the way to go.

In addition to the Water Department Report, Superintendent Lawson reported that there was a hydrant hit on Old Mill Road during the first snow storm. It has been repaired and a bill was sent to the driver’s insurance company. Last week there was a house fire outside Stanley. It took a while to dig up the curb stop because of the cold, but the service was successfully turned off. He is keeping up with UFPO’s and giving more administrative responsibilities to Water Department employees. Councilman Keeney asked if customers concerned about high usage were satisfied. Superintendent Lawson stated that the new meters store data that can be extracted and shown to the customer, which will usually resolve any concerns.

In addition to the CEO report, Jerry Hoover reported that he has begun work on check sheets for the development office and would be looking to the board for guidance on the financial aspects. Also, he is working with several companies to receive quotes for a phone system since our current system was struck by lightning last year. He would like to explore digital options and is working with vendors to get a low price. He will have more information at the next meeting.

In addition to the Assessor’s report, Shana Jo Hilton reported that property tax relief checks are rolling out. They vary by income, are based on 2015 taxes, and can range from \$23-\$200. Also, the numbers are still coming in from the state for this year. So far seven towns in the county are not at 100% equalization rate. This process has changed recently as personnel within the state changed and the task was moved to another department that seems to just crunch numbers. Preliminary numbers show that we are close to 100% so she will be requesting an increase to farmland only this year, thus delaying a full reval until 2019. Additionally, New York State has added verbiage to the 487 Solar Exemption that she recommends the Town opt out of because this additional verbiage was not included in Local Law No. 5 of 2014 adopted by the Town Board.

Councilman Mosher made a motion to set a public hearing on Local Law No. 1 of 2018 opting out of the amendment to the solar and wind energy tax exemption. The motion was seconded by Councilman Malyj and the motion carried. A public hearing on this local law will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 2018 at 7:30pm.

Rob Fadden presented a verbal report from Casella. Cell 9C1 was approved by the DEC on 12/26/17 and will reach 100% operation with the month. On January 5, 2018 it was an extremely windy and cold day. There was a build-up of debris on the netting to the SE corner. The netting tore and litter blew across the road. It was a hard to predict situation. They suspended tipper operations immediately after this occurred. They also covered the open areas as much as possible. They have already begun clean up. Casella has hired extra man power to pick up the litter and professional tree-climbers to address litter caught in the trees. They have scheduled a lift to be on site to make repairs to the netting and long-term plan to replace the entire SE netting and extend netting all the way to the north. They have also purchased 2000 feet of HD netting that can be positioned and installed as needed in high wind situations. Councilman Keeney asked if there was already a barrier to the north. Mr. Fadden stated that there is but only a small amount and they wish to extend this. Councilman Mosher asked if it would be a benefit to make the netting higher as the trash on the north side of the site is higher than the netting. Mr. Fadden stated that the new cell is on the east side so the north side would not get any higher at this time. Supervisor Wickham reported that he had received resident concern that there was not enough soil to cover entire areas on windy days. Mr. Fadden stated that they cover areas on a daily basis and meet regulation standards. Councilman Keeney asked when landfill operations would shut down due to wind. Mr. Fadden stated that this has been a popular conversation lately and that there are no clear rules, only guidelines. The difficult aspect is that they receive trucks from all over the state, so if they were to suspend operations there would still be trucks en route and the question would become what to do with those trucks. Councilman Malyj stated that he noticed a lot of the flying debris is plastic bags and when they gather in one area they become like a sail which is likely why the netting ripped. He then asked what can be done about that. Mr. Fadden stated that they wait until the wind dies down and the plastic falls to the ground. Supervisor Wickham thanked Mr. Fadden for his report and encouraged him to keep cleaning up.

WARRANTS

2017 expenses:

- General, claims #665-671 & 675-684 in the amount of \$4,648.37
- Highway, claims #682 & 686-693 in the amount of \$7,888.33
- Sewer, claim #685 in the amount of \$84.53
- Hall Lighting, claims #672 & 679 in the amount of \$444.57
- Stanley Lighting, claims #673 & 679 in the amount of \$414.45
- Seneca Castle Lighting, claims #674 & 679 in the amount of \$351.18
- Water, claims #186-196 in the amount of \$2,445.84
- Trust & Agency, claims #118-120 in the amount of \$386.32

The 2017 abstract was approved on the motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried.

2018 expenses:

- General, claims #694-719 in the amount of \$31,681.07
- Highway, claims #699,700, 712, 713 & 719-730 in the amount of \$52,949.81
- Water, claims #197-203 in the amount of \$71,667.27
- Trust & Agency, claims #1-7 in the amount of \$2,288.26

Town Clerk's, Supervisor's and CEO's monthly reports.

The 2018 abstract was approved on the motion of Councilman Malyj, seconded by Councilman Keeney and carried.

TRANSFERS

Fund	From	To	Amount
General (A)	A1990.0 (Contingency)	A1420.41 (Attorney)	\$4,000.00
		A1440.4 (Engineering)	\$5,700.00
	Fund Balance	A8540.4 (Stanley Drainage)	\$97,000.00
Highway (DA)	DA5130.4 (Contractual)	DA5142.4 (Snow Removal)	\$1,000.00
		DA5110.41 (Tree Removal)	\$1,000.00
	Fund Balance	DA5110.4 (Road Repair)	\$75,000.00
Water (SW1)	SW1-8340.41 (Electric)	SW1-8340.4 (Contractual)	\$4,000.00
		SW1-8320.4 (Supply Source)	\$750.00
Sewer (G)	Fund Balance	G-8130.4 (Contractual)	\$4,000.00

Transfers were approved on the motion of Councilman Mosher, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried.

RES#32-18 authorizing expenditures from the general fund building capital reserve fund was approved on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried

RES#33-18 authorizing expenditures from the water repair reserve fund was approved on motion of Councilman Mosher, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried.

Supervisor Wickham stated that there was nothing new to report regarding the Cornell certiorari. Councilman Keeney asked how long it has been. Supervisor Wickham stated that it has been 18 months at least.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Mosher and carried.

Kate Silverstrim, Clerk
Town of Seneca