

**TOWN OF SENECA**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**  
January 21<sup>ST</sup>, 2025

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<b>PRESENT</b>	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor
Jason Mosher	Councilman
Jim Malyj	Councilman
Howard Keeney	Councilman
Jesse Orbaker	Councilman
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
Shana Jo Hilton	Bookkeeper/Assessor
Jim Lawson	Highway & Water Superintendent
Cordell Rasmussen	Deputy Water Superintendent
Jerry Hoover	Code Enforcement Officer
Kathy Mastellar	Historian

Supervisor Wickham called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and led the pledge of allegiance. The regular monthly meeting of the Seneca Town Board, Ontario County, State of New York was held at 3675 Flint Rd., Stanley, NY 14561 on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

Supervisor Wickham opened the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan amendments. Nobody wished to speak for or against any of the amendments to the Comprehensive Plan and the Public Hearing was closed. Roll Call was dispensed as everyone in attendance was acquainted.

On a motion made by Councilman Mosher that was seconded by Councilman Orbaker, the Agenda for tonight’s meeting was approved. Supervisor Wickham had a couple of minor changes to the agenda. We will replace the Seneca Castle solar project discussion with a Fire Efficiency Grant discussion. CEO Hoover’s report discusses, in detail, the Seneca Castle Solar Project. Supervisor Wickham is also looking to add 3 communications on that were received after the agenda went out. Those will be presented allowed. Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the amended agenda. The motion was made by Councilman Malyj and seconded by Councilman Keeney.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Supervisor Wickham gave privilege of the floor. Town Resident, Larry Townley, wished to speak. His question was directed at Dan Jones with Casella. He asked if there was a reason why the dumpsters weren’t getting dumped in between their business days lately as he has noticed that they’ve been full when he takes his trash. Mr. Jones explained that they are short on men at the moment as the individual that takes care of that route is dealing with an illness. Mr. Townley thanked Mr. Jones for the answer.

**SUPERVISOR’S REPORT**

**Terrorist Insurance:** When it came time to renew our insurance at the Town, they offered us Terrorist Insurance. Supervisor Wickham only had a couple of days to make a decision and after having a discussion with the Board Members, they decided not to add Terrorist Insurance to the Town’s Policy. It would have been \$1,000.00 and if there was more interest in discussing this further, Supervisor Wickham would have called a Special Meeting for this. The Board Agreed that it was unnecessary for this add-on, so there was no reason to hold a special meeting.

**Stanley Property Update:** At the Organizational Meeting, Supervisor Wickham made mention that the Town Board is taking bids for the property over in Stanley that has been discussed on and off over the course of the last few years. CEO Hoover has placed a “For Sale” sign up over there. If anybody has an interest, please reach out to Clerk Eagley for information or to place a bid through February 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Fire Efficiency Grant:** Supervisor Wickham moved on to discuss the Fire Efficiency Grant. Back in 2012 or around that time, Supervisor Sheppard commenced a fire study with our 3 Fire Districts that would possibly combine the Fire Districts. At the time, the fire companies weren’t interested in consolidating. This time around, the Fire Districts are interested in the idea. They wouldn’t necessarily consolidate to one location; they would stay as 3 separate departments. The things they would

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work together on would be purchasing and sharing equipment instead of all 3 of them buying the same piece of expensive equipment. They could also assist each other with recruiting volunteers and help each other when one department gets called out.

Supervisor Wickham stated that the commissioners in Stanley have been working on this for around 18 months with assistance from the other two Fire Departments. The three Fire Districts have agreed that they will apply for a government efficiency grant for about \$45,000 to have someone come in to see how they can do this together. The 3 Fire Departments are looking for a letter of support from the Town. All board members were on board with a letter of support on this subject.

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Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the January 6<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Keeney and that was seconded by Councilman Malyj.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

- Letter of Resignation- Kate Silverstrim-Jensen- ZBA (this appointment was filled at the Organizational Meeting).
- Notification from the Department of Health- Our Public Water Samples are in and meet the requirements.
- Newsletter- Commission on Rural Resources- Rural Futures.
- Letter of Resignation- Kevin Stape, our Mechanic/ MEO. His last day will be January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.
- Letter- Ontario County Board of Supervisors: they voted to be the Lead Agency on a SEQR for the Landfill and the permit adjustment that will need to be made if we are going to continue to dig out the borrow area.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension- Annual Report.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Department Reports were reviewed and are on the website for anyone interested to view. Councilman Malyj asked Dan Jones (Casella) if there was any reason or anything going on that would increase the smell at the Landfill lately. Mr. Jones said that they are fighting weather issues. He explained that the cold weather pushes everything down and they're fighting with things freezing up on them.

**SHG AMBULANCE:** Zack Gibeau was in attendance with SHG Ambulance. He had some year-end numbers from 2024. They had 187 calls, 23 of those were mutually aided by other agencies. In the Town of Seneca there was only 10 mutually aided calls in 2024. Mr. Gibeau also stated that they are hosting an EMT class at their Ambulance Base this year. There are 27 students in this class.

Supervisor Wickham asked how big of an area these students were from. Mr. Gibeau said there are people from Wayne, Seneca, Yates, and Ontario Counties. They are hoping to gain some people from Ontario County. Councilman Malyj asked how long the course was and how much is costs to do. Mr. Gibeau said that it is a 6 month course, twice per week for 4 hours per night. It costs about \$1,000. He explained that when you're a volunteer fireman or ambulance, you'd typically have a sponsoring agency that helps you pay the cost of that course.

**HIGHWAY:** Councilman Mosher was glad to see that Highway Superintendent Lawson got his truck back. We were able to turn in the rental truck that he had. Supervisor Wickham asked if we are ahead or behind on plow/salt trips this year. Highway Superintendent Lawson informed the board that the number of plow trips so far this year, being middle of January, is nearing the total trips that they took last year (with their last call being in March of 2024). He also said that they are still a third full of their salt pile and he feels like they should be good for the season.

Supervisor Wickham asked if it would be difficult to get salt product if we need it. Mr. Lawson stated that it is difficult right now and a lot of towns are struggling to get it. We are in good shape as we pre-order all of our salt in August (before the bad weather hits). Councilman Orbaker asked if the Salt plants just don't have it or what was happening and Mr. Lawson said that they just can't make it fast enough. They've been limiting quantities to everyone who needs it. Mr. Lawson said that he orders enough in August so that he doesn't have to order until next August.

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**WATER:** Councilman Mosher commented that he likes the plan that is noted at the bottom of the water report for exercising the valves. Supervisor Wickham added that he is also pleased with the plan to service and flush the hydrants. Mr. Lawson stated that they always did the hydrants toward the end of the summer. Once the contractors are nearing the end of their season. Councilman Orbaker asked how long it has been since some of these have been serviced. Mr. Lawson stated that a lot of them haven't been done in the last couple of years, but that he didn't anticipate any issues with any of them. He said he could open any of the hydrants on the spot.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the Supervisor, Town Clerk and Code Enforcement Financial Report. The motion was made by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Orbaker.

**WARRANTS**

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND	
#23-25	Authorization to pay the 2025 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Orbaker	
				<b>LIGHTING</b>			
General \$50,979.12	Highway \$20,775.49	Water \$11,660.31	Sewer \$0.35	Trust & Agency \$426,995.00	Hall \$47.49	Stanley -	Seneca Castle \$43.29

**NEW BUSINESS**

Res #	Title/ Description	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
#24-25	Approve Highway 284 Agreement	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#25-25	Accept Town Clerk Annual Report	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker
MOTION	Set Public Hearing for Local Law #1-2025	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Malyj
MOTION	Accept Justice Hoods Financial Records as presented.	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Keeney

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Privilege of the floor was offered and Mr. Townley wished to speak again. He asked what was happening with the property signs for any properties that are under review for the Town. That idea has been discussed throughout the last year to use signs in the yard of those who are under review for any reason to help people stay informed. CEO Hoover answered that he is working on getting a final design and getting them ordered to start utilizing them soon.

Mr. Townley also asked if The Board could touch on the email/ letter that he sent to them last month. Supervisor Wickham read a portion of the Water Department report from Water Superintendent Lawson. It said:

***“Cordell and I have put together a servicing schedule for the upcoming year. When the weather breaks, we will start exercising all 630 main line valves since they are the first line of defense on Water Main Breaks. After the main line valves, we will continue to locate curb boxes and operating curb stops. Then the servicing and flushing of the 388 fire hydrants will take place from August through mid-October. Doing the hydrants after the construction season allows us to make sure all hydrants are serviced and drained back before the winter.”***

Mr. Townley reminded all that he has been talking about this for 6 years and he wants to stay on top of it.

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Mr. Townley then turned to Highway Superintendent Lawson to discuss the salt/sand usage. He explained that he realizes that in colder temperatures the salt doesn't work as well, then asked if we have sand in the town. Mr. Lawson stated that the sand is mixed in with the salt. Mr. Townley asked why there was still snow and ice in our town because he noticed other towns had bare intersections. He said that the intersections should be done so that you're not sliding into another road at an intersection and gave examples of 5 & 20 and County Road 6 from Healey Road. Mr. Lawson explained that they put salt down on every intersection yesterday morning.

Mr. Townley said that it wasn't melted at the intersections he was at, so he was curious about sand for more grit. Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that they mix Salt and Sand in a 3:1 ratio. Mr. Townley said that it didn't look that way to him and Mr. Lawson responded that he checks every road 3 times per day and the sand/salt was there.

Mr. Wickham thanked Mr. Townley for his comments and asked if there was any other comments.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing left to be said, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to go into executive session for the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal, or removal of a particular person or corporation. Supervisor Wickham reiterated that there would be no business taking place after the executive session. Councilman Mosher made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:57 pm and Councilman Malyj seconded that motion.

At 8:30 pm Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to exit the executive session. The motion was made by Councilman Orbaker and Seconded by Councilman Mosher. The meeting was officially adjourned at 8:31 pm on a motion made by Councilman Keeney and Seconded by Councilman Malyj.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley  
Town Clerk