

**TOWN OF SENECA**  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
NOVEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

The Special Meeting of the Seneca Town Board, County of Ontario, State of New York were held at 3675 Flint Road, Stanley, NY 14561 on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 2022 at 5:00 PM PM.

<b>PRESENT</b>	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor
Jason Mosher	Deputy Supervisor
Howard Keeney	Councilman
Jim Malyj	Councilman
Jesse Orbaker	Councilman
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk/ Tax Collector
Shana Jo Hilton	Town Assessor

Supervisor Wickham called the Special Town Board Meeting to order at 5:00 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was dispensed as all in attendance were already acquainted. Supervisor Wickham.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. The approval was motioned by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Motion carried.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Privilege of the floor was offered. There were no comments.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Wickham said that he had a couple of things to go over regarding the budget for tonight's meeting and told the councilmembers to speak up if or when they have any input regarding these things and then they could express any items that they needed to if they had any.

**1. SHARING OF PERSONNEL**

*[Before getting started on this, he added in that there was a note of interest. We received a resignation letter from the Highway employee.]*

Moving back into the Sharing of Personnel- Supervisor Wickham explained that he spoke with Highway Superintendent Lawson about this, he agreed that he wanted to move ahead with the shared position and will have to find someone else to fill the Highway Employee. So essentially, we will be looking to fill two vacancies- (1) Highway Employee and (2) Shared Highway and Water Employee. All councilmembers agreed with that and there were no oppositions stated at this time.

**2. THREE NEW TRUCKS**

Supervisor Wickham stated that there were 3 new trucks that were originally budgeted.

- Code Enforcement Officer Pickup
- Highway Superintendent Pickup
- Water Superintendent Pickup

Councilman Orbaker wanted to make sure that he was understanding that this would be three trucks total to which Councilman Mosher confirmed that it would be three trucks. Supervisor Wickham reminded the Councilmembers that we pushed the Code Enforcement truck off last year, so that is why there is 3 in there this year.

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Supervisor Wickham left this up to the Councilmembers to decide what we do with the trucks. He explained that when we used to trade them, it would cost us \$4,000.00 to \$5,000.00 to trade them in and now that we buy on state bid and sell them on the open market it probably costs us \$10,000.00.

Supervisor Wickham reminded the board that since we held off on the Code Enforcement Truck last year, that one needs to be replaced. He said that the board could decide to put another one off for this year. Councilman Mosher intervened and said he would like to put both other two trucks off for another year and there were voices of agreement throughout the board.

Councilman Malyj asked how many miles were on the trucks and Supervisor Wickham said that Highway Superintendent Lawson has roughly 40,000 miles on his and Water Superintendent Prater has roughly 30,000 miles on his. Councilman Orbaker asked about the mileage on CEO Hoover's truck and Supervisor Wickham was unsure of that at this time. With that, the board unanimously agreed that they would hold off on the Highway and Water trucks this year and only get the Code Enforcement Truck this year.

Councilman Mosher wanted to introduce a conversation regarding CEO Hoover's pickup truck. He explained that moving forward he wasn't sure it would be prudent for our town to put our Code Enforcement Officer in a \$50,000.00 pickup truck. He would like to have conversations moving forward- especially in consideration of the landfill closing. He explained that the Code Enforcement Officer in Canandaigua is driving a small Ford car- not a pick-up truck. Councilman Mosher said that he just wanted to introduce the idea for future budgets to see if it makes sense to keep spending that kind of money.

Councilman Orbaker asked if CEO Hoover ever gets in a situation where he needs a pick-up truck. Supervisor Wickham said that a while ago they had sized the CEO vehicle down to a cross-over type vehicle and then went back to the truck. Councilman Keeney asked if his bed was enclosed in his current truck for tools and Clerk Eagley confirmed that he has a tonneau cover on his current truck. Councilman Mosher remembers when he first got involved here, Code Officers weren't driving full-sized pick up trucks and that we should consider reverting in the future.

Councilman Mosher said that this truck in the 2023 budget should carry us for at least 4 years, considering that his current truck has been maintained for this long- so that's when we should start thinking about the change in vehicles or trying to find a way to save some money.

Councilman Keeney and Councilman Mosher discussed a few surrounding towns and how they've switched their Code Officer to an electric vehicle. They also discussed the possibility of getting an incentive for buying an electric vehicle.

Final statement from Supervisor Wickham regarding this topic is that we will be delaying the Highway and Water trucks for one more year.

### **3. COUNTY TAX BUYDOWN**

Supervisor Wickham wanted to confirm that this is not the Tax Buydown that is due to be paid out of this year's (2022) budget. He explained that we have a Tax Buydown that is scheduled to be paid from the 2022 budget around November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This topic is regarding the 2023 budget and is meant for the buydown that will be happening around November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Discussion was had regarding future county tax buydowns and it was ultimately decided to change the County Tax Buydown to \$400,000.00 instead of \$500,000.00. With the landfill closing, future water projects that are going out for bid, and a Kidder Road culvert project needed in the future- we could possibly use that money in another area. If we decide closer to November of 2023 that we are safe to use those funds on that Tax Buydown- we can solidify that later.

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Supervisor Wickham said that we are going to have some decisions to make soon because we'll have \$3 Million dollars that we must assign somewhere. Whether it is to seed a water reserve, highway reserve, or continue to seed the tax stabilization fund. He said that a lot of things will start to get clearer within this year once the final decision is made about the landfill. Councilman Orbaker asked if Supervisor Wickham had heard anything about the landfill at the county level. Supervisor Wickham stated that there isn't much "news" but if he had to gauge the situation, he would say that the board is very mindful that the host town rejected the Landfill unanimously.

On another note, Supervisor Wickham stated that Water Superintendent Prater contacted the Rural Water Association that we are a part of to get help evaluating our Water Rates [just like we did with our sewer back in 2020]. They will be meeting with us on December 6<sup>th</sup> to get a package together regarding our water rates.

Supervisor Wickham explained that the \$100,000.00 that we are taking out of the County Tax Buydown for 2023 can be earmarked or put into a Highway Reserve with the intention that it could be used for the Kidder Road Culvert, but that it does not have to stay there.

Another point of discussion regarded the past when we used to put excess Casella Revenue into the tax stabilization fund. The only issue is that we cannot use that money at any point in time unless it is regarding taxes- it's very hard to reallocate that money elsewhere. They discussed moving forward that there is a possibility that we allocated that extra money to other funds for right now until the future is clearer.

Supervisor Wickham explained that he had a discussion with Bookkeeper Hilton about how the Landfill Revenue is going to be about \$250,000.00 above what we budgeted. He said that there are four problem areas that he would like to look at focusing on with that extra revenue. Each of the three lighting districts are behind a little bit and the Sewer District is behind a little bit. The idea would be that we put \$10,000.00 in each of the lighting districts and about \$20,000.00 into the sewer. This would get us a little bit ahead. He explained that we will need to increase the lighting district taxes but allocating this extra revenue would allow us to keep the tax increase happen slower.

Councilman Mosher asked if Supervisor Wickham thought \$20,000.00 was enough or if there was a way that we could divert more. Supervisor Wickham confirmed that we could possibly divert more but that this wouldn't have to go through the board and that it's an item that the budget officer could make on their own.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Privilege of the floor was offered. No comments were made.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With nothing left to be said, at 5:53 PM Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to adjourn the Special November Meeting. Councilman Mosher made the motion that was seconded by Councilman Keeney and the meeting was officially adjourned.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley  
Town Clerk