3675 Flint Road

Stanley, New York

December 19, 2017

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

Charles Smith, Councilman Howard Keeney, Councilman

James Malyj, Councilman Terri Quartaro, Town Clerk

Shana Jo Hilton, Assessor Rick Allison, Highway Supt.

Jim Lawson, Water Supt.

Supervisor Wickham led the pledge of allegiance and dispensed with the roll call. Both Jason Mosher, Councilman and Jerry Hoover, CEO, were declared necessarily absent. The agenda was approved on motion of Councilman Smith, seconded by Councilman Malyj. Supervisor Wickham requested one additional communication to the agenda, which was then approved, as amended, on motion of Councilman Malyj, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

Privilege of the floor was offered. Steve Roe asked if he would be able to comment later during the water superintendent discussion and the board agreed that he would not be allowed to comment during the discussion, but they would allow a second opportunity for privilege of the floor at the end of the meeting. Privilege of the floor was then offered to Ruth Frier from the Gorham Library. She described some of the library’s services, presented their 2018 budget, and thanked the board for their financial support.

Supervisor Wickham reported that the county was working on year end items. The minutes of the last board meeting were approved on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

Only one communication item was received this month: Cooperative Extension’s Annual report for 2017.

Written reports were submitted by the highway superintendent, water superintendent, and assessor and are on file.

Rob Fadden, from Casella, reported that the new cell has been completed and reports submitted and they expect approval soon to be able to start using it. They have contracted with Chrisanntha for engineering the new maintenance building. There may be some changes made at the transfer station regarding the traffic flow and replacing open bins with compacting ones.

WARRANTS

General, claims #600&601, 622, 627-664, in the amount of $45,628.81

Highway, claims #599, 606-621,623-626, in the amount of $24,171.90

Water, claims #170-185, in the amount of $12,614.73

Sewer, claims #604-605, in the amount of $81.22

T&A, claims #111-117, in the amount of $1,050.00

Hall light, claims #602-603, in the amount of $417.39

Stanley light, claims #602-603, in the amount of $388.09

Seneca Castle light, claims #602-603, in the amount of $328.06

Town Clerk’s and Supervisor’s monthly reports were all approved on motion of Councilman Malyj, seconded by Councilman Keeney and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Wickham offered his reasons for recommending that the newly elected highway superintendent, Jim Lawson, be offered a stipend to continue on as the water superintendent:

* Ben Karlsen, water maintenance assistant, is an incredible young employee that shows great promise. We need to find ways to encourage his continued growth and commitment and we do not want to send the wrong message by bypassing him.
* Efficiency – easier to make the best use of combined talents and equipment shared between water and highway departments, as needed.
* Training- a methodical, logical way to continue transferring Jim’s extensive knowledge of the town water system to others.
* Financial savings for the town.

The appointment would be for one year with another full time employee hired in the water department. Councilman Keeney asked who would hold the title of safety officer. Supervisor Wickham stated he has asked Jerry Hoover to take over most of those duties.

Supervisor Wickham the offered a motion to offer a stipend to Jim Lawson to also work as the water superintendent for the year 2018. Motion was seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

In discussions with the human resources office at the county, both the current and the new position in the water department requires a different job title to be able to work on sewer issues, therefore, Supervisor Wickham proposes creating two public works maintenance assistant positions. This was approved on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

The two current positions titled water maintenance assistant, one of which is vacant, shall be abolished, approved on motion of Councilman Malyj, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

The appointment of Ben Karlsen to one of the new public works maintenance assistant positions was approved on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

We will be advertising for another full time public works maintenance assistant to be hired soon.

The organizational meeting will be held January 2, 2018 at 4:00 pm; approved on motion of Supervisor Wickham, seconded by Councilman Smith and carried unanimously.

Carol Golden, CPA, has submitted her audit reports for the justices and there were no exceptions to be reported. Acceptance of her reports was approved on motion of Supervisor Wickham, seconded by Councilman Keeney and carried unanimously.

The 2018 dog control contract with the county was approved on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

Supervisor Wickham reported the Stanley drainage project only requires finish work and the Cornell case was presented in court last week and it is awaiting the judge’s ruling.

Privilege of the floor was offered again at this time to Steve Roe who asked how this water superintendent appointment was different from what was already tried eight years ago. Supervisor Wickham explained that there is no eliminating of any elected positions. We still have an elected highway superintendent and the water superintendent has always been an annually appointed position. We will be advertising for one new full time person under the title of public works maintenance assistant.

Rick Allison asked how much of a stipend will be paid to Jim Lawson. Supervisor Wickham stated that amount had not yet been determined but it would be listed in the org minutes along with all the other job titles and salaries.

Larry Townley stated that he didn’t think the safety officer should be the highway superintendent and that the job of checking the pavilion after every party should be offered to any other employee who might be interested in it. Also he wondered why the new position was being advertised when the board has already made a decision on who was getting hired. Supervisor Wickham stated the board had not decided who would be hired, have not interviewed anyone and didn’t even have the job title from the county until yesterday. Any information that Mr. Townley has heard is just rumor. Mr. Townley also addressed Mr. Fadden with a complaint that the landfill odor is out of control. He then thanked the board for allowing a second privilege of the floor at the end of the meeting and thinks this is a good idea and should be done at every meeting.

Supervisor Wickham then thanked both Mr. Allison and Mrs. Quartaro for their many years of dedicated service to the town and wished them well in their retirements. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 on motion of Councilman Keeney, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

Terri Quartaro, Clerk

Town of Seneca