

**TOWN OF SENECA**  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
DECEMBER 20<sup>TH</sup>, 2022

The Regular Meeting of the Seneca Town Board, County of Ontario, State of New York was held at 3675 Flint Road, Stanley, NY 14561 on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2022 at 7:30 PM.

<b>PRESENT</b>	
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 Prater	Water Superintendent
Randy Coolbaugh	Public Works Maintenance Assistant
Kathy Mastellar	Town Historian
Brian Sanders	Manager of the Ontario County Landfill
Amanda Gibeau	Director of the Stanley, Hall, Gorham Ambulance

Supervisor Wickham called the regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:30 PM and he led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was Dispensed as everyone in attendance was acquainted. Supervisor Wickham noted that CEO Hoover was necessarily absent this evening.

**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.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Supervisor Wickham offered privilege of the floor, and nobody wished to speak at that time.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**SAFETY REMINDER:**

Supervisor Wickham said that they review safety statistics at the County Level every month. He explained that 60% of our workers comp. claims are a function of slips, trips, and falls. He said that this is the season where that's most important because of the weather. He reminded all to please be careful and to remind everyone to be careful. Walk like a penguin while you're on ice. He also reminded Mr. Sanders to carry that on to his crew as well. Mr. Sanders said that they have safety meetings every month and that they are on top of it.

**UPDATE ON STANLEY PROPERTY:**

Supervisor Wickham announced that the Referendum expired on December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and that there were no petitions turned in by that deadline for the excess property located in Stanley. Supervisor Wickham explained that he would be moving forward and signing the Purchase Contract from Franklin Land Associates, LLC (Dollar General) unless any of the board members had any objections to that at this time. None of the board members had any objections or comments in this regard, so the plan is to move forward on the Purchase Contract.

**WATER CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE:**

Supervisor Wickham stated that the bids are out for the new tank, and they are going to be opened tomorrow (December 21, 2022). He said that we will know very soon who the contractor will be for the new tank on Olson Rd. As soon as we know the contractor, we will put together a project schedule.

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WATER RATE UPDATE:

Supervisor Wickham explained that he, Shana Jo, Haley, Brian, and Randy all met with a gentleman named John Barnes from the New York Rural Water Association. Mr. Barnes is titled as a Circuit Rider and among gathering a large amount of information from the town he had a formular that he can put information into in order help us get our Water Rates where they need to be. Mr. Barnes explained that sometimes the process can take up to 6 months, but a lot of that is gathering the information that our Water Department already routinely stores. There will be more updates on this topic as it unfolds.

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Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Special meeting and the November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Regular 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**

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

**HIGHWAY:** Supervisor Wickham any questions for Highway Superintendent Lawson:

1. Councilman Orbaker asked Mr. Lawson about the socket purchase made with Mac Tools. He asked if the Town Supplies tools for the Mechanics or if the Mechanics are expected to supply their own. Mr. Lawson stated that the Town provides tools.
2. A couple of questions were asked about some road signs in the town.

**Route 14A and Lake to Lake Rd. Intersection:** Councilman Orbaker said that he got a call from someone within the Town who also spoke to Mr. Lawson about the possibility of changing some road signs. The specific location is the intersection of Route 14A and Lake to Lake Rd. There is currently a stop sign and a concerned citizen of the farming community is curious about changing it to a yield sign. Councilman Orbaker just asked if that was something that could be done or not as driving that road and having to stop on that hill with a loaded tractor trailer is almost more dangerous than going through it. Once the trucks stop with a heavy load, it's very difficult for them to get going again to get over the hump and up over the hill fast enough before a car comes up over the bill. Highway Superintendent Lawson said it would have to be our Town Board who petitions to the state about this but ultimately, the state would have the final say. Highway Superintendent Lawson said that some people do just run that stop sign to avoid having to stop and try to get going again. Mr. Lawson explained that he isn't certain that the sate would decide on changing that.

Councilman Mosher explained that he thinks the state would be reluctant to change that because of the layout of the road and not being able to see cars coming over that knoll to begin with from the east to west.

Supervisor Wickham said that this is up to the board and followed up by asking the board if they feel that a petition should be started to change that. Councilman Keeney asked if there was ever a yield sign there before and Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that at one time,

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he thinks there was a yield sign there. Councilman Malyj asked that if it does go back to a yield sign and someone comes up over that knoll and happens to get in an accident or injured, is the Town liable to anything for petitioning that? Supervisor Wickham explained that since the state has the final say it would be on them with which ever decision they make.

Supervisor Wickham asked the board what their decision was. Councilman Orbaker wants to support the comments that the farmer made as he knows a lot about being in that situation. Councilman Keeney and Councilman Mosher both said that they don't have an opinion either way and Councilman Malyj would also support the farmer's comments. Supervisor Wickham said that he will work on getting something prepped to send to the state about documenting the perspective that the board and farmers are coming from.

Lehigh Street and Little Church Road: Councilman Orbaker received some feedback regarding the Yield Sign heading North on Lehigh Street (Coming off Route 245). This is a residential area in which children play in their yards and the feedback was that the yield sign is heavily ignored and often, people are speeding through that area.

A motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Highway Superintendent Lawson said that he would likely be changing it soon as he already has a stop sign in the shop.

3. Councilman Orbaker explained that he received a couple of calls from residents with concerns on road conditions. Councilman Orbaker just wanted to make sure everything was okay and that nothing was wrong as there were a couple of specific areas that he noticed during the last snowfall. Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that nothing has changed with their routine and that they were out more than once during all the weather events thus far.

Highway Superintendent Lawson wanted to add something to his report. He mentioned that Bridge New York Project applications are due on January 13<sup>th</sup> and since there is no funding for the Kidder Road culvert he would like to apply. He stated that this is a reimbursement grant, so we would need to pay for it up front and get reimbursed. Mr. Lawson explained that he was speaking with Chris Day at the County, and he made mention that there was more money for Culvert Replacements available than there ever has been. Supervisor Wickham asked if it was a dollar-for-dollar match on the project and Highway Superintendent Lawson said that the state will reimburse 95%. Supervisor Wickham said that at that reimbursement rate, we can find a way to pay up front. The councilmen corroborated. Councilman Malyj said that he spoke to Soil and Water and that they are willing to help with permitting.

**TOWN CLERK:** Clerk Eagley added in that she attended a Tax Collection training regarding the new Collection Software. The new software will be a great change to the process and will be much more user friendly. It was also noted that the new permits for the Transfer Station for 2023 are officially available as of December 20<sup>th</sup>. As always, there's a small form to fill out and you will get your permit sticker for the year.

**CASELLA:** Mr. Sanders was there to report the things that they have been working on this month. As always he welcomes any questions that anyone has about their operations. He stated that the Transfer Station will be shortening hours on Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Transfer Station will be open from 7:00 AM to 12:00 PM those days and will continue with normal business hours following the holidays. Mr. Sanders stated that he would make sure that someone is there early on to get the Transfer Station grounds gritted down (sanded) in anticipation of the inclement weather. He added that due to the expected wind and weather he wanted to let everyone know that they will only be accepting small trucks at the landfill all day Friday.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and Code Enforcement Officer financial reports. The motion was made by Councilman Malyj and seconded by Councilman Orbaker.

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**RESOLUTIONS**

<b>RES. NUMBER</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>AYE</b>	<b>NAY</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>	<b>MOTION</b>	<b>SECOND</b>
#94-22	Authorization to pay the 2022 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Mosher
#95-22	Approve Shared Position	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#96-22	Initiate SEQR, Declare Lead Agency, and Set Public Hearing	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Mosher
#97-22	Set Organizational Board Meeting	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Orbaker
#98-22	Approve 2023 Dog Control Contract	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker
#99-22	Establish a Highway Capital Improvement Reserve Fund	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Keeney
#100-22	Approve Year-End Budget Transfers	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Keeney
#101-22	Approve 2023 Excavation Permit for Gas Installation	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Keeney

**OLD BUSINESS**

Just a reminder that the Court Justice Audit is scheduled of January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:15 PM.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**STANLEY, HALL, GORHAM AMBULANCE:** Director Amanda Gibeau was in attendance and ready to give an update on the new Ambulance. They are currently waiting on Five Star Bank for their offer of financing. Once they get their offer, they can apply for USDA Funding. Another thing that slowed down the financing process a little bit was that the New York State Department of Health came in to do an inspection of the Ambulance. Mrs. Gibeau explained that they do this every couple of years. They passed their inspection with flying colors but needed to change some wording in a few of their policies. They changed those and submitted their policies and now they can focus back on the funding for the new building. They're hoping to have the financing piece finished up by the end of January and the contractor bids will be due around the end of January, so she's hoping to have some more updates at the January or February meeting. They hope that if things can keep pushing along, they can start breaking ground next Fall sometime. She will keep us updated as this unfolds.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:17 pm, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to enter executive session [Addendum: regarding collective negotiations pursuant to article 14 of the civil service law]. A motion was made by Councilman Orbaker to adjourn executive session, the motion was seconded by Councilman Mosher. At 9:40 PM, a motion was made Councilman Keeney to adjourn the regular meeting of the Seneca Town Board, that motion that was seconded by Councilman Malyj. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley  
Town Clerk