

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 21ST, 2021

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 21ST day of December 2021 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor
Jason Mosher	Deputy Supervisor/ Councilman
Howard Keeney	Councilman
Jim Malyj	Councilman
Jesse Orbaker	Councilman
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk
Shana Jo Hilton	Assessor
Jerry Hoover	Code Enforcement Officer
Jim Lawson	Highway Superintendent
Brian Prater	Water Superintendent
Kathy Mastellar	Historian
Brian Sanders	Manager of Ontario County Landfill

Supervisor Wickham called the regular meeting to order. The Supervisor led the pledge of allegiance. Roll call was dispensed as all in attendance were acquainted.

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. The supervisor requested a couple of additions to the agenda. Under Supervisor's Report, add **B. Insurance Update** and under New Business add **F. Resolution #97-21: 2022 Ontario County Dog Control Contract**. The approval of the amended agenda was motioned by Councilman Orbaker, seconded by Councilman Malyj and carried unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered and nobody wished to speak at this time.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 STATISTICS:

Supervisor Wickham wanted to share some COVID-19 statistics. The County Director of Public Health, Mary Beers, reviewed 200 of the most recent positive cases (as of 12.3.2021) and of those 200 records:

60%	Unvaccinated
35%	Breakthrough cases (received 2 doses, but no booster)
2.5%	Received only 1 dose
2.5%	Received both doses and booster shot

Supervisor Wickham recommended that if you can get the vaccine, that would be great. If you are someone who cannot get the vaccine due to a conflict of health- he wants you all to be safe.

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TRANSFER STATION:

Supervisor Wickham and Mr. Sanders have talked about bits and pieces of the Transfer Station over the years in their conversations of the landfill as a whole. One of the challenges that we consistently face with the Transfer Station is that we have a very busy Saturday. With nothing being dumped or transferred on Sunday, we open right back up on Monday morning at 7:00 AM. Monday mornings are just as full as the Saturday afternoons, which leaves our residents no place to put their garbage.

Supervisor Wickham proposed that it's time to change the business days of the transfer station to keep it flowing smoothly. The discussion consisted of changing the business days of the transfer station to Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. This will allow at least one business day in between each Transfer Station day for Casella to get in there and dump/transfer the garbage.

None of the board members had any opposition and Mr. Sanders also agreed to these days. All were in agreement that this would overall make the Transfer Station run more smoothly. Mr. Sanders decided to hold this schedule change until **February 1, 2022** to give the town and Casella a chance to notify the residents of this change.

Another bit of change will be the possibility of moving the attendant shack out towards the entrance to better monitor the people that go in there. Mr. Sanders stated that the attendant has started to check everybody to make sure that they had the correct documentation or permits to be disposing in our Town Transfer Station. Unfortunately, there are some abusers of our Transfer Station which reflects in the tonnage that our transfer station acquires. Mr. Sanders explained that the tonnage is a bit excessive.

Supervisor Wickham stated that he is in agreement with starting to better police our Town Transfer Station.

Starting on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 the new transfer station days will be Tuesdays (7 AM- 6 PM), Thursdays (7 AM – 6 PM) and Saturdays (7 AM – 3 PM).

INSURANCE UPDATE:

Supervisor Wickham offered a quick insurance update. Every year at this time we request quotes for insurance policies. We received quotes from Trident and NYMIR and we will be moving forward with our current policy administrator, Trident.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the minutes from the November 16, 2021 Regular Meeting. Councilman Keeney offered the motion that was seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Motion was carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

One important communication that Supervisor Wickham discussed was the High-Speed Internet Service Availability Survey that Ontario County is encouraging all homes and businesses to take. The New York State Department of Public Service is mapping out the actual availability of high speed (Broadband) internet service to homes and businesses across the state to be used to ensure that state and federal funding for broadband access gets allocated to where it is really needed! The survey and internet speed test can be found at www.empirestatebroadband.com . While they are encouraging ALL residents and businesses to participate, it is ESPECIALLY important to participate in the survey if you don't have broadband access at your home or business.

All other communications were reviewed and are available to view at the Town Hall upon Request.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

The reports were reviewed by the board and are available to view in person, upon request, at the Town Hall.

TOWN CLERK

PAVILION: There was some discussion regarding the reservation of the pavilion. Starting in the new year, we will no longer be accepting phone reservations or payments over the phone for reservations. The only way to reserve the pavilion starting January 3, 2022 will be to come in, in-person, and pay the deposit/fee and sign the paperwork at the Town Hall. Telephone inquiries about open dates are okay, but the reservation will not be entered into the calendar until the person come into the town hall to book it.

Another change- on January 3, 2022 we will be unlocking the doors right at 8 AM and handing out playing cards to the first people (if there is a group/line). This will be done with a shuffled deck and completely at random.

Aces = 1	First Pick
2	Second Pick
3	Third Pick
4	Fourth Pick
5	Fifth Pick
6	Sixth Pick
7	Seventh Pick
8	Eighth Pick
9	Ninth Pick
10	Tenth Pick
K	Eleventh Pick
Q	Twelfth Pick
J	Thirteenth Pick

As always, we highly recommend picking two or three dates of interest for the case that the first date you have chosen is not available.

DOG LICENSES: Clerk Eagley will be proposing a license fee increase after the first of the year to cover our contract with the county. With our dog licensing renewals, the Town of Seneca uses postage, envelopes, paper, pays a county contract fee, a state fee, and sets aside time-worked to complete this. There hasn't been any history of changing the fees for dog license renewals at the Town of Seneca and with prices rising in many areas we would like to cover those costs. The proposal will be:

\$23.00 for Spayed/Neutered
\$30.00 for Un-Spayed/Un-Neutered

CASELLA the Monthly report for Casella and the Ontario County Landfill is available upon request at the Town Hall.

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NEW BUSINESS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND
#91-21	Authorization payment of 2021 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
	FUND	VOUCHER NUMBERS		AMOUNT		
	General	606-613, 618 & 651, & 677		\$ 47,704.19		
	Highway	652-676		\$ 30,531.20		
	Water	196-219		\$ 56,944.34		
	Water Capital System	220		\$ 7,228.87		
	Sewer	614 & 678		\$ \$85.49		
	Hall Lighting	615 & 679		\$ 534.55		
	Seneca castle Lighting	616 & 680		\$ 495.95		
	Stanley Lighting	617 & 681		\$ 421.08		
	Trust & Agency	95-120		\$3,825.00		
#92-21	Approve New Highway Employee Hire	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Keeney
#93-21	Approve New Highway Employee Hire	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Mosher
#94-21	Approve Part-Time Clerk Hire (Court Security)	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#95-21	Set Date for Organizational Board Meeting	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Keeney
#96-21	Authorize the Appraisal of Town Property	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Malyj
#97-21	Approve 2022 County Dog Contract	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Orbaker

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Wickham opened discussion for whether we would opt-in or opt-out of Cannabis Law §131 Opting out of allowing retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites. He asked the board to give their pros and cons of the matter and gave each board member a chance to speak. Supervisor Wickham stated that 400 out of the 1900 municipalities in New York State have opted out.

Supervisor Wickham made a very good point that in his mind, what we do in this municipality won't make much of a difference in the grand scheme of things. The specific aspect of the Cannabis Law that we are voting on pertains to dispensaries and on-site consumption sites. What we vote on tonight won't change the fact that it is still legal to possess & grow (in moderation) and that regardless of whether we opt-out, anybody can just drive to one of the surrounding towns who opted in and still have access to it.

Councilman Mosher added that if we opt-out now, we always have the chance to opt in later. He explained that with so many unknowns, he would rather be cautious and see how this all plays out before opting-in. Currently, the New York State regulations are:

- If you opt-out now, you can always opt back in (if the board sees a need or enough interest.
- BUT, if you opt-In now, you cannot opt back out for any reason,

Supervisor Wickham explained that he had stopped at a dispensary himself (knowing that he was going to have to discuss this for his own town) just to see what it was about and mentioned that he had to show his license many times before even going into the place. These are very highly regulated environments.

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After a very constructive discussion on the pros and cons of the matter, Supervisor Wickham ultimately asked the board members to go around the table and say "in" or "out".

Supervisor Wickham	In
Councilman Mosher	Out
Councilman Keeney	In
Councilman Malyj	Out
Councilman Orbaker	Out

With the idea that you can opt-in later, we had more councilmembers vote out at this point. While some had reasons for opting-in, in the end they all agreed that it would be best to opt-out for now and see what happens.

With that, The Seneca Town Board does hereby establish a Public Hearing to be held for said Local Law #2-2021- **A Local Law To Opt-Out Of Allowing Cannabis Retail Dispensaries And On-Site Consumption Sites As Authorized Under Cannabis Law Article 4**. The Public Hearing will take place on Thursday, December 30th, 2021, at 5:00 PM at the Town Hall in the Meeting Room. At such hearing, any persons may be heard in favor of or against this local law. Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the setting of the public hearing. Motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Keeney. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered, and nobody wished to speak at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing left to be said, Councilman Mosher made motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Orbaker. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:36 PM.

Respectfully,
Haley S. Eagley
Town Clerk
Town of Seneca