

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
 February 18th, 2025

PRESENT	
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
Pat King	Motor Equipment Operator
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 February 18th, 2025 at 7:30 pm.

The roll call was completed, and Supervisor Wickham opened the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2025- Tax Cap Override. Nobody wished to speak for or against said local law and the Public Hearing was closed.

On a motion made by Councilman Mosher that was seconded by Councilman Keeney, the Agenda for tonight’s meeting was approved. Supervisor Wickham looked to amend the agenda to make the following changes:

ADD:	C. under “communications”- DEC Insect Survey Request
CHANGE:	Under “old business” change the Stanley Property Update to Resolution #36-25- Award Bid for Stanley Property
ELIMINATE:	Executive Session- it is no longer needed.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was made by Councilman Malyj and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Wickham gave privilege of the floor and nobody wished to speak at this time.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Supervisor Wickham had no new information to add for his report tonight.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the minutes of the January 21st regular meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Keeney and that was seconded by Councilman Mosher.

COMMUNICATIONS

- Inside Dirt Newsletter for February (from Cornell)
- Resignation Letter- Kevin Moore- Water Department. Mr. Moore is moving over to the Highway Department.
- USDA Invasive Insect Survey Request- the USDA annually requests to access Town-Owned property and rights-of-way to conduct a survey on Invasive Insects.

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

All reports are on the Town Website for viewing. Any additional comments on the Department Reports are below.

HIGHWAY: Councilman Orbaker asked Highway Superintendent Lawson how many tons of salt they've used so far this year. Mr. Lawson gave a rough estimate (without having exact numbers in front of him) of 1700 tons so far this year. Councilman Orbaker asked if he should consider ordering more for next year, just to be safe, since we are down to 300 tons (and we used 560 tons within the last month). Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that he was hoping for 300 tons more to give us a buffer to finish out the year, but he does not think we should consider ordering more up front next year as this is what he has always done. Supervisor Wickham asked how much salt could fit in the salt shed and Mr. Lawson said about 2500 tons. Our filing requirements are still based on a 200 ton-limit, and we have always gotten the same amount whether we've had big storms or little storms. Councilman Orbaker said that he would just rather see us overprepared than see us run out at the wrong time.

Supervisor Wickham asked how we are for salt compared to other surrounding towns and Mr. Lawson said a lot of other towns are hurting [for salt], but that others have a different way of doing things.

Councilman Orbaker asked if we were being too conservative as he has received calls from some people asking why we aren't doing more. Highway Superintendent Lawson stated that we are not being too conservative and that he monitors the roads constantly to ensure they are safe. He added that all calls regarding this situation should be directed to him and that anybody who has questions about this should call him. The Town of Seneca is not a Bare-Road Policy.

Councilman Orbaker added that last Sunday, the roads had a considerable amount of slush, and he didn't think he saw a plow truck until late morning. He wondered if we should have done that sooner and if we should project for more salt next year if we are trying to be conservative [Highway Superintendent Lawson later added that this specific day they were out from 4:00 am until 8:00 am and then went back out at 9:30 am until 1:00 pm].

ASSESSOR: Councilman Orbaker asked if the AUD Report was up to date at this time; adding that the last he knew we had filed for an extension. While this question doesn't directly fall under "Assessor", Supervisor Wickham stated that the Town has 2023 completed and filed. Bookkeeper Hilton and CPA Golden are currently working on 2024 with a projection to get that done by the deadline at the end of February.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the Supervisor and Code Enforcement Financial Reports. Supervisor Wickham added that the Town Clerk's report was not ready tonight as there were some discrepancies that needed to get cleaned up. Clerk Eagley will submit her January financial report at the March Board Meeting (along with February's report). The motion was made by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Malyj.

WARRANTS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND	
#26-25	Authorization to pay the 2025 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Mosher	
				LIGHTING			
General \$75,063.65	Highway \$15,740.22	Water \$23,777.65	Sewer \$721.25	Trust & Agency \$426,995.00	Hall \$346.85	Stanley \$231.03	Seneca Castle \$291.40

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NEW BUSINESS

Res #	Title/ Description	Aye	Nay	Abstain	Motion	Second
#27-25	Authorization to Solicit Fuel Bids	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#28-25	Approval of Local Law #1-2025	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Keeney
#29-25	Authorize Casella Host-Fee Audit	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#30-25	Approve Amended Comprehensive Plan	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#31-25	Accept Quote for Water Appurtenances	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Mosher
#32-25	Authorization to Solicit Truck Bids	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#33-25	Approve Planning & Zoning Meeting Calendar	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Mosher
#34-25	Approve Supervisor to Engage Carol A. Golden, CPA for Accounting Services	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Malyj
#35-25	Authorizing Refund to Town of Geneva for Overpayment	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Mosher
#36-25	Award Bid for Purchase of Stanley Property	4	0	1	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Keeney

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered and Town Resident, Larry Townley, wished to speak. He asked if the Town was attempting to hire someone in the Water Department immediately [now that one employee has moved departments]. Supervisor Wickham asked Mrs. Hilton if it was posted yet; to which she said it is not posted yet. Mr. Townley had explained that we were finally making movements on some of the issues that he had addressed over the years, and he was concerned we would fall behind if we were short on employees in that department. Supervisor Wickham said that he has a meeting with Water Superintendent Lawson and Deputy Water Superintendent Rasmussen to figure out what they will do to move forward.

Mr. Townley followed up to Highway Superintendent Lawson on Salt spreading. He asked if there was a situation where the spinner on the salters needed to be sped up to cover both lanes. Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that the spinners themselves are going too fast and they will spit salt into the other lane and not underneath the truck on the all-season bodies. He explained that all of the hopper bodies are designed to cover both lanes. Mr. Townley explained that some roads he noticed only have one lane covered and that could be dangerous. Highway Superintendent said that he has noted that and will work on that.

Councilman Orbaker asked if there were any updates on the Digester project. Supervisor Wickham explained that they are held up a bit because some of what they are doing relied on some of the tax savings that would result in construction. Some of that has been reeled back, so they're looking to see where to go from here. Supervisor Wickham will have more updates at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

With nothing left to be said, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to adjourn the February Meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Orbaker and Seconded by Councilman Keeney. The meeting was officially adjourned at 7:54 pm.

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Respectfully,
Haley Eagley, Town Clerk