

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 21ST, 2023

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 February 2023 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT	
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	Town Assessor/ Bookkeeper
Randy Coolbaugh	Town Water Superintendent
Kathy Mastellar	Town Historian

Supervisor Wickham called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call was completed and everyone in attendance was acquainted. CEO Hoover, Highway Superintendent Lawson and Mr. Sanders were deemed necessarily absent tonight.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Supervisor looked for a motion to approve the agenda for tonight's meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. A couple of additions for tonight's agenda were for Reece Middlebrook, presenting the completion of his Eagle Scout project and under Old Business, we will discuss the Stanley, Hall Gorham Ambulance. Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion was made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Malyj.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Supervisor Wickham offered privilege of the floor to anyone who wished to speak and there were no comments offered at this time.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

WATER UPDATE: Supervisor Wickham stated that there was a water meeting scheduled that was supposed to happen before this board meeting, but it got postponed. He does not have much of an update at this time but will update as he knows more.

COUNTY ROAD 4 & COUNTY ROAD 20- CHRIS DAY: Chris Day from Ontario County Public Works was present to give a small presentation regarding the upcoming round about project. His presentation included photos and will be available on our website for interested parties to view. Mr. Day explained that they are hoping to advertise the project next month. There are some administrative items that they have to complete with the DOT and the Federal Highway Authority. Once they get through those, they will have their advertisement, then the bid opening. They are hoping to start construction by the end of May. As soon as the construction is authorized to commend, the contractor will likely close the road. At this time, there is no set date for the road closure, but it will likely be in June if everything goes as scheduled. Once the date of the closure is known, the County will have signs up two weeks in advance and they will do a mailing to the town and a number of other individuals. Everyone will know what the date is long before it happens. They are anticipating the road closure in June with the road back open by October and final completion in November. The construction cost is still estimated at \$3.3 Million which is the same number that they've had throughout.

Councilman Malyj inquired if they have ever had any issues with any of the other round abouts in the county and larger farm equipment. Mr. Day explained that they haven't had really any issues with it and they've had a lot of farm equipment go through the other roundabouts.

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EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT: Reece Middlebrook was in attendance with his photo presentation of the work that he did at the Butcher Cemetery on Prospect Hill Road. He did this for his Eagle Scout project. He did some amazing work there and our Town Board is very impressed. We appreciate the effort that Reece put into this project in making it stand out! The photos are available on our Town Website for all to view.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the January 17th, 2023 Regular meeting. Councilman Mosher made the motion and councilman Orbaker seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY: Highway Superintendent Lawson was away on vacation, but Supervisor Wickham offered to try to answer any questions that anybody had. Councilman Orbaker wanted to express some concern with the ongoing employment situation in the Highway Department. He explained that it seems to be a reoccurring issue that people come and go often, including Deputy Highway Superintendents. He is curious to know why; if it's training, lack of training, lack of communication between departments, etc. He acknowledges that we have had a few employees who have been there for decades but lately seems like there's some unhappiness and especially now with the Union coming in. He explained that what ever the problem is he would like to be involved and be a part of the solution and provide any assistance or support that he can.

He pointed out that it is already hard to find employees and that if we keep this revolving door going, when will it become a problem where we cannot take care of the things that have been so well taken care of since forever? Councilman Orbaker is concerned and wanted to get to the bottom of it.

Supervisor Wickham explained that he understands where Councilman Orbaker is coming from and that he will catch up with Highway Superintendent Lawson when he is back from vacation. Councilman Keeney added that he and others have received concerns from the community as well. Councilman Mosher added that we should see what (if any) training is available and utilize that.

ASSESSOR: Supervisor Wickham wanted to clarify that he was reading Assessor Hilton's report correctly in that the state's final market analysis, indicates we will not be able to claim a 100% equalization rate at this stage of the game. Assessor Hilton said that he was right; but we are not the only ones as everyone in the county is waiting for the real estate market to stabilize and the only ones at 100% are those doing updates this year and they will most likely fall next year. For 2023 we will be claiming our Level of Assessment and RAR (Residential Assessment Ratio) both at 93%.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO Financial Reports. A motion was made by Councilman Keeney and Seconded by Councilman Mosher.

NEW BUSINESS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND
#45-23	Authorization to pay the 2023 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker
#46-23	Approve Signers on LNB General Credit Card	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#47-23	Authorize Highway Superintendent to Solicit Fuel Bids	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Keeney

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#48-23	Authorize Audit of 2022 Casella Host Fee Payments	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Orbaker
MOTION #1	Set Public Hearing for Local Law # 1-2023- Tax Cap Override	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Mosher
MOTION #2	Set Public Hearing for Charter Communications Franchise Agreement	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Mosher

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Wickham touched on the Ambulance subject tonight. He recapped that we sent a letter of cooperation to them and they're currently looking into funding. They're making headway in their processes.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered, and Roslyn Grammar (Town of Seneca Representative for the Ontario County Planning Board) relayed some information to our Town Board from the County Planning Board that we need to start thinking about in the Town. Supervisor Wickham appreciated her being our representative and relaying information to us as needed.

Councilman Orbaker asked if there were any updates regarding the Landfill. Supervisor Wickham stated that the county is moving through their process and discussing everything. There is nothing new to report on, but they are still working on this, and we will update as we know more.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:35 pm, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Keeney. The motion carried was officially adjourned.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley
Town Clerk