

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 15th, 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 15th, day of March 2022 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor
Jason Mosher	Deputy Supervisor/ Councilman
Howard Keeney	Town Councilman
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk
Shana Jo Hilton	Town Assessor
Jerry Hoover	Code Enforcement Officer
Shaun Kunes	Deputy Highway Superintendent
Randy Coolbaugh	PWMA- Water Department
Jeff Gallahan	NYS Assemblyman, District 131

Supervisor Wickham called the regular meeting to order. The Supervisor led the pledge of allegiance. Roll Call was completed and all in attendance were acquainted. Supervisor Wickham welcomed Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan and gave appreciation for his presence.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Supervisor Wickham looked for motion to approve tonight's agenda. Motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker. There were a few additions to the agenda that Supervisor Wickham would like to add. Under Supervisor Report, **add B. Albany Update from Assemblyman Gallahan, and add C. Verizon Tower Update.** In addition to those changes, Supervisor Wickham will be **pulling Resolution #52-22 from the agenda** as the timing of that was not right at this point. Supervisor Wickham looking for Motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion was made by Councilman Keeney and Seconded by Councilman Malyj.

Supervisor Wickham offered privilege of the Floor, and nobody wished to speak at this time.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

MEMORIAL DAY PLANNING:

Supervisor Wickham asked for input from the board on if they had any other ideas for our Memorial Day Service that we hold here at our Veterans Memorial Park. All board members agreed that past years have gone well and the 8:30 AM timing is a good time. We will move forward with planning this service as we have in the past.

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFF GALLAHAN:

Supervisor Wickham invited Assemblyman Gallahan to update us on anything that he could share about Albany. Assemblyman Gallahan appreciated the opportunity to speak to us. He explained that they like to keep themselves informed about what is going on in all the towns and introduced his Chief of Staff, Alexis Ogra, who was in attendance with him.

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Assemblyman Gallahan mentioned that this was his first year in Albany and there were a lot of firsts for everyone throughout this year. He explained that one of the firsts was that the 150-person assembly room had a max capacity of 30 people during the pandemic. There was no public access, there were armed guards, and Zoom was an acceptable form of attendance from where-ever you might have been.

Assemblyman Gallahan mentioned that the second first for the year was the loss of our Governor, Andrew Cuomo. The third first (among many others) was that New York State appointed their first Female Governor, Kathy Hochul. Overall, Mr. Gallahan explained that it was an eerie feeling not seeing many people in that building for so long.

Currently, Zoom is still an acceptable form of attendance for their meetings. One normalcy that returned was that you must be on the floor to debate a bill. During the pandemic, debating a bill through Zoom was acceptable. This has changed back to allowing attendance from Zoom, but debates must be made on the floor at the meeting. Assemblyman Gallahan is pleased that this has returned. He explained that it's much better that way. He feels strongly that the people's business needs to be handled in person, in that room. Not through Zoom.

Switching gears to the 2022 New York State budget. Assemblyman Gallahan mentioned that they're working diligently on the budget and that proposals have been out. We currently have a \$226 Billion dollar proposal (which is bigger than Texas and Florida combined). He explained that they're at a 10.5% Tax Cap. The CHIPS fund and our Winter Recovery will not be receiving an increase this year. There is a new Pothole Program that has \$100 Million Dollars in it. Assemblyman Gallahan compared that the MTA (Metropolitan Transportation Authority) in New York City itself has an increase that will be larger than the overall CHIPS budget.

Councilman Malyj asked Assemblyman Gallahan to explain what CHIPS means. CHIPS is a program that reimburses local municipalities for roadwork. Assemblyman Gallahan made another point that the price of petroleum is still rising, yet there is no increase in our CHIPS budget. With that point being made, Assemblyman Gallahan explained that this looks as though the CHIPS budget is on the decrease. Mr. Gallahan also made mention that although towns get CHIPS money, it is based on reimbursement, meaning each town must pay their roadwork bills up front and wait for a reimbursement check in the mail. This sometimes can take up to 6 weeks.

Assemblyman Gallahan recognizes that some changes need to be made and he wanted us all to know that he works diligently on this. He thanked Supervisor Wickham for allowing him the time to speak and the appreciation was returned.

VERIZON TOWER:

Supervisor Wickham explained that while it's been limited, there's been continuous communication on this matter. He showed the board members a map of the planned area which shows the location of our Olson Road Water Tank and the intended location of the Verizon Tower. The Verizon Tower is positioned a substantial amount away from any of our facilities; however, Verizon would be looking for a possible easement for use of our water tank driveway. Nothing is definite at this point, but there doesn't seem to be any disagreements.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the February 15th Regular Board Meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker. This motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

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DEPARTMENT REPORTS

HIGHWAY

Highway Superintendent Lawson gave kudos to his Deputy Supervisor, Shaun Kunes, for taking over the Highway Department while Mr. Lawson was out on medical leave. Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that he did a wonderful job, handled everything very well, and all ran very smoothly. He was very pleased with his Deputy.

Councilman Orbaker asked Highway Superintendent Lawson about the variety in vendors with our recent vouchers. He asked if we should try to narrow the variety down a little bit with the way the fuel prices are rising. Highway Superintendent Lawson explained that we get government pricing. Highway Superintendent Lawson is looking at all the changes that might need to be made with vendors and pricing and keeping a good eye on that.

WATER

Supervisor Wickham stated that our new Public Works Maintenance Assistant, Kevin Moore, started on February 28th and all is going well with him.

ZONING

CEO Hoover mentioned that the only thing he had to add to his report that the property on Wilson Road is starting to get cleaned up quickly. He said that 30-50% of the stuff is cleaned up at this point.

Supervisor Wickham questioned the portion of CEO Hoover's report about lights shining from Gates Road to Sutton Road. CEO Hoover recommended to drive down Sutton Road in the dark and there would be no mistake made as to where these lights are.

ASSESSOR

Supervisor Wickham mentioned the page of Assessor Hilton's report about the STAR Program. They're changing the STAR program up once again. Assemblyman Gallahan mentioned from the floor that this is very confusing for the elderly.

TOWN CLERK

Supervisor Wickham questioned Clerk Eagley on the Tax Collection software portion of her report. The county has been thinking about having the towns switch their collection software to Systems East, which would sync Ontario County and the towns together (we currently use different systems). He asked Clerk Eagley if this new system would be a new cost to us and Clerk Eagley responded that she believed we currently pay Ontario County each year for the current collection software. She believes the new system would work the same way, which would be invoiced annually by the county.

HISTORIAN

Historian Mastellar explained that she created a new form for donations to keep it all on record.

CASELLA

Supervisor Wickham explained that Mr. Sanders wasn't with us tonight as he and his second in command, Dan Jones, were in Buffalo for a Solid Waste Symposium. He offered to attempt to answer any questions for Mr. Sanders tonight.

Supervisor Wickham explained that while they expected final approval of waste placement in the new cell, they have not received that yet.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO Financial Reports. Motion was made by Councilman Malyj and seconded by Councilman Keeney.

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NEW BUSINESS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND																											
#51-22	Authorization to pay the 2022 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Malyj																											
<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>FUND</th><th>VOUCHER NUMBERS</th><th>AMOUNT</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>General</td><td>131-134, 140-182, 210</td><td>\$45,875.90</td></tr><tr><td>Highway</td><td>183-206</td><td>\$19,435.36</td></tr><tr><td>Water</td><td>34-51</td><td>\$16,766.17</td></tr><tr><td>Sewer</td><td>138 & 139</td><td>\$217.32</td></tr><tr><td>Hall Lighting</td><td>135 & 207</td><td>\$550.64</td></tr><tr><td>Stanley Lighting</td><td>136 & 208</td><td>\$511.08</td></tr><tr><td>Seneca Castle Lighting</td><td>137 & 209</td><td>\$434.40</td></tr><tr><td>Trust & Agency</td><td>3-5</td><td>\$417,488.00</td></tr></tbody></table>							FUND	VOUCHER NUMBERS	AMOUNT	General	131-134, 140-182, 210	\$45,875.90	Highway	183-206	\$19,435.36	Water	34-51	\$16,766.17	Sewer	138 & 139	\$217.32	Hall Lighting	135 & 207	\$550.64	Stanley Lighting	136 & 208	\$511.08	Seneca Castle Lighting	137 & 209	\$434.40	Trust & Agency	3-5	\$417,488.00
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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 for the regular meeting, Councilman Mosher made motion which was seconded by Councilman Orbaker at 8:03 PM to move into Executive Session for discussions regarding proposed, pending, or current litigations and the medical, financial credit, or employment history of a particular person, corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Supervisor Wickham confirmed that no action would be taken after executive session, but that all were welcome to hang around if they wished.

Executive Session was exited at 9:15 PM on a motion made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. A motion was made by Councilman Mosher at 9:16 PM to officially adjourn the regular monthly Town Board Meeting. Motion was seconded by Councilman Malyj.

Respectfully,

Haley S. Eagley
Town Clerk
Town of Seneca