

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 19th, 2024

The Public Hearing and 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 19th day of March 2024 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	Assessor/ Bookkeeper
Jerry Hoover	Code Enforcement Officer
Kathy Mastellar	Town Historian
Brian Prater	Deputy Highway Superintendent
Randy Coolbaugh	Water Superintendent
Dan Jones	Ontario County Landfill

Supervisor Wickham opened the public hearing on Local Law #1-2024 at 7:30 pm. Supervisor Wickham offered the floor to anyone who would like to comment on this matter. With no comments offered, Supervisor Wickham closed the public hearing at 7:31 pm and called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Supervisor Wickham led the Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call was executed as we had a few new faces in the audience. Highway Superintendent Lawson as well as Brian Sanders were deemed 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. Supervisor Wickham announced one amendment to the agenda and that was to add Line F. under New Business for Resolution #40-24: Court Justice Audit Report and also add 12-a. Executive Session. Councilman Mosher made a motion to approve the amendment and Councilman Orbaker seconded it. Motion carried.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

LOCAL LAW UPDATE: Supervisor Wickham shared that we had initially had 2 Public Hearings on the agenda tonight and the second was for another local law. The Local Law that was proposed was for insurance purposes and basically states that if the Town is not notified of a public hazard (example: missing guard rail) then we cannot be held liable for negligence at that site for any reason because we may have not even known about the missing guard rail. Upon doing some research, CEO Hoover found that we already have a local law covering this. Local Law #1-1975 is titled, “Town of Seneca Prior Notice Law” and was adopted in March of 1975. This Local Law was removed from the draft agenda as there is no need to adopt a duplicate.

WATER PROJECT UPDATE: Supervisor Wickham shared that a lot is going on with this. We are in the homestretch of this project. The Town of Geneva is meeting tonight to accept the bid for the painting of the Kashong Switch tank. The way that it is written and planned is that will take place at the end of August and into September. We are looking at June for having the new Olson Rd. Tank up and operational. Now we have a good idea of where we will be with funding and timing. Supervisor Wickham explained that we got a budget estimate from the Town of Geneva and MRB Group. The original scope of the project was estimated at \$5,000,000. The project is now estimated to go over the original scope and will be closer to \$6,500,000. The good news is that we are nearing the end and will have an awesome water system once we are done.

MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE: Supervisor Wickham announced that we will be having our annual Memorial Day Service and explained that we are open to suggestions for speakers to say a few words- preferably who has been involved with the armed forces in some capacity.

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Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Minutes for the February 20th, 2024, Regular meeting Councilman Keeney made the motion and Councilman Mosher seconded. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

CASELLA: Mr. Jones reported that some of their parts that were scheduled to come in for the force main are being pushed off until next week. Supervisor Wickham stated that there was some reports of fugitive odor around Seneca Castle. Mr. Jones stated that it is an ongoing battle- occasionally wheel heads pop off or other things happen to cause these odors. They have and will continue to chase those issues down as fast as they can to get them figured out.

HIGHWAY: Deputy Highway Superintendent Prater was in attendance for Highway Superintendent Lawson. Mr. Prater commented that things are running great, and everyone is happy in the Highway Department. Supervisor Wickham commented that later in the meeting we plan to approve the purchase of material for the Kidder Road bridge and it is great to see this project coming together.

WATER: Councilman Orbaker mentioned that he noticed that the Highway and Water Departments purchase a lot of filters for various reasons. He suggested that they look into Monroe Tractor's Fleet Program, which is a program that offers a 50% discount on anything Fleet Guard after spending \$2,500 in one year.

CEO: CEO Hoover added that Verizon had a crane out setting their tower on Olson Rd. This tower will hopefully be online here in a couple of months and help out greatly with service. He also added (on another topic) that he met with the Town Court tonight. The Court was awarded \$20,200 for the JCAP Grant that they applied for. The caveat being that the funds have to be spent and receipts turned in within 6 months (by September 4th). CEO Hoover has met with a couple and plans to meet with a couple more contractors for quotes on re-doing the Court basement.

Councilman Mosher asked if this project was to get the water away from the basement of the Court. CEO Hoover answered that this is more for converting the office in the basement into a vault and getting a second sump pump down there as a backup. They fixed the issue with the court flooding about 2 years ago when they found a tree going through the drainage tile. Once they fixed that, the court didn't have any flooding problems in the basement.

CEO Hoover also added that he is in the process of securing quotes for the Pavilion. We will take out the fireplaces and the center wall in the pavilion to open it up and place a secondary room on the south side of the building (but next to the bathroom entrance) and this is where the new furnace will go. The system will be prepped for air conditioning in the event that we try and add that down the road. The Pavilion is blocked off for a 2 week timeframe out in September to complete this project.

ASSESSOR: Councilman Mosher asked when Assessor Hilton may be looking for re-vals again and Assessor Hilton said most likely in 2025.

STANLEY HALL GORHAM AMBULANCE: Zach Gibeau was in attendance again this evening in place of Amanda. The ambulance closed on their new property at 2422 Gorham Rd. They completed all of the financing as far as the building goes. They're currently working with Sloth Electric to get a quote for the electric portion and installing a backup generator. They will also increase the service to 200 Amp and get parking lot lights installed. In the next steps they will be going to the bank to secure financing for the electric portion and move forward as they can.

Supervisor Wickham explained that he's very excited for what the ambulance found here in this property and feels that it is a great move for them. In reflection of the community they serve, it will be affordable and will still be what they need.

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

NEW BUSINESS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYE	NAY	ABSENT	MOTION	SECOND
#34-24	Authorization to pay the 2024 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Orbaker
#35-24	Deem Excess Property	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#36-24	Approval to Purchase Material Under State Contract	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker
#37-24	Authorize Automobile Raffle in the Town of Seneca	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Malyj
#38-24	Approval of GC-2 Application	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj
#39-24	Approve Local Law #1-2024-Tax Cap Override	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker
#40-24	Court Audit Report	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Malyj

OLD BUSINESS

Councilman Orbaker wanted to circle back to the Water Project Update. He asked that since they're proposing we'll be \$1,500,000 over budget, where the money for that was coming from. Initially he thought we were diverting money from the tax stabilization fund that we would later put back into the tax stabilization fund but it sounds like we won't be able to now. Supervisor Wickham explained that it wouldn't be as much as we wanted to put back into the Tax Stabilization Fund. He doesn't have the exact numbers for these funds but explained that we have significant funds in operating reserves because we were anticipating having to pay a major portion of those bills.

Councilman Orbaker asked how much money we had actually diverted away from the tax stabilization fund itself that was supposed to be put back in, that will now be shorted. Supervisor Wickham stated that he uses the term "reserves" generally because we could have put the money in several different reserve funds (tax stabilization being one of them). Supervisor Wickham stated that as we move closer to the closure of the Landfill, the picture becomes a lot clearer of where the funds would be best served.

Councilman Mosher spoke up and said he and Supervisor Wickham discussed some numbers today and that we can take some comfort in knowing that, while a totally different topic, the Kidder Road Bridge is costing us significantly less money than what we initially thought. We initially thought that project would be well over a million dollars, but it actually is ending up closer to \$250,000. Councilman Mosher acknowledged that it is a different topic, but still a substantial savings. He added that it's a good thing that we addressed the water rates when we did instead of waiting any longer as it puts us in a pretty strong position given the unknowns of this water project.

Councilman Orbaker explained that one of the most frequently asked questions with the discussion of the Landfill closing, is how much we have been putting into the Tax Stabilization fund. He explained that everyone is expecting results, but there hasn't been an answer yet. Adding that when the time comes, we are going to have a lot of questions to answer.

Supervisor Wickham apologized that he didn't have the exact numbers, but they have a rough format of this and can put it in the board meeting folders for a brief discussion next month. Supervisor Wickham added that

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another fact that is really good news for us is the 5% interest rates. He explained that we have made significant monies off of those capital funds. He added that within the next 9-12 months we'll have a much better idea of where we will be, and the discussion will be much clearer towards the end of 2024.

Councilman Orbaker explained that he just knows that people are expecting answers out of the Town Board and that eventually we'll have to give the answers. Supervisor Wickham doesn't want to have this conversation prematurely and said that the first quarter of 2025 will have a lot more information on this.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Privilege of the floor was offered, and Mr. Gibeau wanted to add that the Ambulance sent out a mailer this week to all of the people within their district. He said that along with the story of where they came from, there's a donation letter in there and they appreciate any and all donations to the Ambulance.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:11 pm, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss proposed, pending, or current litigation. The motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Keeney. Supervisor Wickham said that there would be no business to come out of this executive session and that it was solely for discussion. At 8:30 pm a motion was made by Councilman Mosher and Seconded by Councilman Maljy to exit executive session and immediately following at 8:31 pm a motion was made by Councilman Keeney and Seconded by Councilman Orbaker to adjourn the March Board meeting.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley
Town Clerk