

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20TH, 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 20th day of April 2021 at 7:30 PM.

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

Supervisor Wickham called the regular Town Board Meeting to order at 7:30 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was passed over as everyone in attendance was already acquainted. It was noted by Supervisor Wickham that CEO Hoover was necessarily absent from this meeting. Brian Sanders with the Ontario County Landfill was joining us by telephone.

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. In addition to the approved agenda, Supervisor Wickham wanted to move the Adjournment to #15 and replace #14 with Executive Session. Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the amended agenda. Motion was made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Malyj. Motion carried.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

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

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 Update:

Supervisor Wickham stated that we are doing very well as a county in regards to the COVID-19 Vaccine. At this time, 50% of the Ontario County Residents have their first dose. 30% of Ontario County is fully vaccinated.

The only other challenge that we've had within the county is that one of the vaccination clinics was left with around 200 unused doses. This was a Moderna first dose clinic. This was before they lowered the age to 17.

If anyone is curious as to when there are vaccination clinics, the Town of Seneca will be posting as many notices as possible on Facebook as they come through from the county.

Soil & Water Update:

This update is about the Seneca Water Intermunicipal Organization. The Town Board discussed this at the March Board Meeting. Supervisor Wickham stated that he's still been discussing this with Supervisor Venuti with the Town of Geneva- Mr. Venuti is the chairman of that group. Supervisor Wickham made mention that someone from our town should be a representative of that group. He mentioned that Councilman Malyj would be a good fit for this group. Councilman Malyj has been in discussion with

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Supervisor Wickham about possibly being the representative. Supervisor Wickham stated that when Councilman Malyj is not able to go, he would fill in for him.

Supervisor Wickham said that it would be a good idea for our town to be involved in this group as they are looking to protect the water shed. He made mention that in discussion with Supervisor Venuti, they've learned that Cayuga Lake has some problems with their Water Shed and at this point the Federal Government and the D.E.C. are now in control of what goes on in the Water Shed- not the surrounding towns. Supervisor Wickham stated that the argument is that WE (as the surrounding towns of Seneca Lake) should stay in control of what is going on. Supervisor Wickham stated that there was a Memorandum of Understanding that the SWIO put out to all municipalities looking to get municipalities to sign on.

While we didn't put it in the budget for this year, Supervisor Wickham feels strongly that we should keep talking about it and put it in the budget for next year. Supervisor Wickham stated that he thinks it is appropriate to appoint Councilman Malyj as our representative for this group.

Councilman Mosher made mention that he would like the board to have a chance to read through the documents before we vote on paying the annual fee to get involved in the organization. Supervisor Wickham concurred and said he would get the documents out to the board members after the meeting.

With that, while Councilman Malyj abstained from this vote, Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to appoint Councilman Malyj as the Town of Seneca representative for the Seneca Water Intermunicipal Organization. Motion was made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Motion carried.

Memorial Day Planning:

Supervisor Wickham reported that we are still working on planning the Memorial Day ceremony. He welcomed any thoughts or suggestions on the planning if anyone had any.

Motion: EnSol Report Re: Casella Host Fee Audit:

Supervisor Wickham stated that after the audit and all of the calculations, Casella owes the Town of Seneca \$22.85, which is great considering how much revenue is circulating there. Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to accept the Audit Report from EnSol. Motion was made by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Malyj. Motion carried.

Supervisor Wickham looked for motion to approve the minutes from the March 16th, 2021 meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by councilman Malyj. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Casella Host Fee Payment:

Supervisor Wickham touched on report from Casella that was dated April 9th, for our January 1st through March 31st Host Benefit Agreement Payment. He stated that the Town of Seneca will be receiving a check in the amount of \$499,260.00 for 174,389 acceptable waste tons.

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REPORTS

The Reports were reviewed by the board. No questions were asked regarding the department reports; however, they are available to view in person, upon request, at the Town Hall.

Highway:

Supervisor Wickham made mention that one of the items on Highway Superintendent Lawson's report calculated the difference in cost if we were to have waited and complete the Lake to Lake Road pavement this year. Last year, we held a special board meeting to allow Highway Superintendent Lawson to amend the highway budget with this project as the prices were about to go up and he was hoping to save money for the Town. This was approved and the project was completed in 2020.

Based on the cost of oil today, the pavement job on Lake to Lake Road would have cost the town \$20,000 more than it did last year if we waited. That is just in the cost of Oil. That number does not include the trucking. Big Kudos to Highway Superintendent Lawson in looking ahead for the Town.

Landfill:

Mr. Sanders joined us by phone. He announced that they've started the excavation process for the final tap work on the southeast side of the landfill. They'll be working from South to North. They will be starting on the new road next week.

Mr. Sanders stated that things are moving along well. He mentioned that while they don't expect any issues or uptick in odor associated with this, he wants to make all aware that they did start this project and they will be doing a lot of excavation along the East side. Supervisor Wickham asked what the duration of the closure project would be and he stated that if all weather cooperates, we could see this completed in the next couple of months.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO Report. Motion made by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Malyj.

RESOLUTIONS

RES. NUMBER	TITLE	AYES	NAYS	ABSTAIN	MOTION	SECOND
#59-21	Approval of the 2021 Audited Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Keeney
#60-21	Direct Energy Bid	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Wickham mentioned that last month we talked about him possibly purchasing a piece of town property to add a building lot on the south side of his property. Supervisor Wickham spoke with Mike Roulan, the town attorney, who didn't see any harm in that. Supervisor Wickham thanked Councilman Mosher for taking it a step further and reaching out to the Association of Towns to inquire about this and they shared many case-law points with us. These case-law points state that it is illegal to purchase municipal property for anyone who has a vote or a say in the purchase of the property. Even if they were to abstain from that. Supervisor Wickham stated that we are scratching this idea and it will not be brought up again.

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PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Councilman Malyj wanted to bring up one thing before we sent the meeting into Executive Session. In light of the possibility of legalizing Cannabis sales in New York State, Councilman Malyj read that municipalities can opt out of hosting places of sale.

Supervisor Wickham stated that he knew it was passed and he listened in on a webinar that the Association of Towns had last week. He stated that a municipality must opt out if they DO NOT want sales in their town- not to be confused with use.

Supervisor Wickham believes that you have one chance to opt out. So, if a municipality wouldn't be able to "test the waters" then opt out later if they wanted to. He also mentioned that we don't have to decide on anything today and that he was just trying to start discussion for when that day does come.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:20 PM Councilman Orbaker made motion to enter into executive session under the Open Meetings Law: Article 7, Section 105, Sub-Section F: "For the medical, financial, credit, or employment history of a particular person, or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation." Councilman Keeney seconded that.

At 8:40 PM Councilman Mosher made motion to exit executive session, seconded by Councilman Keeney.

Councilman Orbaker made motion to adjourn the April board meeting, motion was seconded by Councilman Malyj and at 8:41 PM the board meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully,
Haley S. Eagley