

TOWN OF SENECA
Regular Town Board Meeting
 September 15th, 2020

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 September 2020 at 7:30 PM.

PRESENT		Others Present	
Drew Wickham	Town Supervisor		
Jason Mosher	Deputy Supervisor/ Councilman		
Howard Keeney	Councilman		
Jim Malyj	Councilman		
Jesse Orbaker	Councilman	Necessarily Absent	
Haley Eagley	Town Clerk/Tax Collector	Brian Prater	Water Superintendent
Shana Jo Hilton	Assessor/ Bookkeeper	Jerry Hoover	Code Enforcement Officer
Kathy Mastellar	Town Historian		
Jim Lawson	Highway Superintendent		

Supervisor Wickham called the regular meeting to order at 7:30 PM. The Supervisor led the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was passed over as everyone in attendance was acquainted. A note was made for the necessary absence of CEO Hoover and Water Superintendent Prater. Supervisor Wickham made mention that Water Superintendent Prater has been out with a health issue for a couple of weeks and that he hopes to get cleared to come back within the next week or two.

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 Malyj. Motion carried.

In addition to the approved agenda, Supervisor Wickham wished to amend that for an addition to the supervisor’s report. We added “B.” for Budget Discussion. Supervisor Wickham looked for motion to approve the amended agenda for tonight’s meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Keeney and seconded by Councilman Malyj. Motion carried.

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

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

WATER TANK UPDATE: Supervisor Wickham received an email update from The Hunt Group regarding these projects. See below for more information.

KASHONG SWITCH TANK: The specs are complete for painting this tank and The Hunt Group is currently discussing these specs with MRB. The Hunt Group is working with a gentleman from Pioneer Pumps to identify various pump options for the Koshong Switch pump station. The pump options will be reviewed by Water Superintendent, Brian Prater and Water Consultant, Jim Lawson.

OLSON ROAD TANK(S): The Hunt Group has received a preliminary layout from MRB and they’re waiting on a geotechnical report for an exact location of where the tank is going to be placed. The borings were done about a month ago and they’re still waiting for the report to be delivered.

The specs are drafted and are getting sent over to DN Tanks for review. They hope the design will be complete in Mid-October for Water Superintendent, Brian Prater and Water Consultant, Jim Lawson to

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review. Once sent to the Department of Health it will take around 2 months for approval and then be ready for bidding in January. Supervisor Wickham hopes to have this project completed in 2021.

BUDGET DISCUSSION:

The Kidder Road culvert is a large, double wide culvert. Supervisor Wickham stated that without a doubt there is a lot of degradation in the culvert and that it needs to be re-done. This would be twice the job that the Little Church Road culvert was. Highway Superintendent Lawson is estimating \$150,000 for this project. One issue is- figuring out if it gets put in this year's budget or waits another year. He asked for Highway Superintendent Lawson's opinion to which he stated he's called the county to get their bridge crew here to inspect it and give recommendations to help determine if it has any more time left or if it could wait. There is a lot of large equipment and trucks that go over that culvert. Supervisor Wickham added that though we don't have the budget completed yet, we are making good progress and that they're discussing numbers regarding projects so we can come to an agreement.

Supervisor Wickham stated that he thinks we can be reasonably assured that the landfill revenue will remain constant. He made mention that the county is still budgeting a 16% decrease in sales tax in 2021 which is a conservative approach. While we're all hopeful that we would be doing better, there is a chance that we won't be. So, he thinks that we should be looking at the same number in our budget.

Supervisor Wickham mentioned that he'd like to give Highway Superintendent Lawson some credit because he brought him a budget that talked about reducing the expense for the Lake to Lake Rd. paving project. The only new piece of equipment that we are looking into is the 4500 series truck that was taken off of this year's budget. They also had originally put a 10-wheeler truck in this year's budget, but Highway Superintendent Lawson was in favor of stretching the trucks another year. Supervisor Wickham stated that instead of buying one every two years, we'll buy one every 3 years and we'll never have one truck for longer than 12 years.

Supervisor Wickham wanted to point out that he appreciates how Highway Superintendent Lawson treats the town's money as if it's coming from his own wallet. He's very careful and considerate of where our Highway money is spent. Supervisor Wickham stated that it wouldn't be a bad idea to start thinking in terms of post-landfill because we're going to shift into post-landfill soon enough. He believes that the budget that Highway Superintendent Lawson has presented to him is extremely responsible. It's one thing not to buy a truck, it's another thing to have a culvert with integrity concerns. He looks forward to the county's recommendations on the culvert.

Another thing that has come up in the budget discussion is adding another building to the facility. This discussion stems from our new grader sitting in Bay #1 of the Highway Garage all summer. The Backhoe and the Box truck both take up the Water Bay and our cold storage is pretty full. Supervisor Wickham stated that we really don't have a lot of "junk", but that we just have a lot of things we use that we would rather keep it under storage. Discussion was had about holding off until next year as this is not absolutely needed.

Councilman Mosher asked if we were getting a fantastic deal if we were to complete it this year. Highway Superintendent Lawson replied that we weren't getting a deal with the way building supplies are right now. He wants the idea pushed around a little bit and even talk about the idea of starting a reserve fund for it. Councilman Mosher stated that he would be a little gun-shy of biting off a project like this given the state of affairs, to which Highway Superintendent Lawson agreed.

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Councilman Orbaker asked Highway Superintendent Lawson if this storage would just be for the Grader or if this was for other items. Highway Superintendent Lawson stated that it would house some items from the Water Department as well because their Bay is completely full. Councilman Keeney asked if this was going to be shared between Highway and Water and the response was that some items from both departments would be stored in it.

Councilman Orbaker asked if it was “just enough” room for the grader or if it was a size that we could potentially grow into. Highway Superintendent Lawson stated that in the winter-time, the wing and the plow will be on the grader and that this would go wall-to-wall in our current cold storage. He stated that if we were able to add this as another bay or build this up against the salt barn, the size would still allow for another 20 feet of storage for other items that can be kept in cold-storage.

No further questions were asked and Supervisor Wickham stated that these are just ideas to get some early opinions and that we would have further discussion when we get into our budget meeting.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 18th, 2020 meeting. The approval was motioned by Councilman Mosher and seconded by Councilman Keeney. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Wickham went over the Communications for this month which included:

1. Virtual Trainings offered by the Association of Towns
2. Department of Taxation and Finance- 2019 Full Aid Certification Notification
3. The Inside Dirt
4. New Dental Insurance for Town Employees
5. Seneca Lake Watershed Funds Request
6. Tire Recycling Event- Registration information is available on our website

These are all available to view at the Town Hall upon request.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Before moving on to the department reports, Councilman Mosher wanted to back up a step and ask some questions about the new Dental Insurance we have for Town Employees. He wanted to know if we ever investigated further into offering the town employees an additional option for health/dental care so that employees could choose what they wanted. Supervisor Wickham stated that we review rates and plans annually. We just received 2021 which are in the process of being reviewed.

Supervisor Wickham stated that they looked at the plans last year, and to incorporate an alternative plan into the town’s benefit package it would not have even been in the ball field as the one we have now. He said although we have a high deductible plan; the plan that they looked into would have cost the town more than the current one and the benefits for the employees weren’t as good as the one we have now.

Councilman Mosher mentioned that he would not mind revisiting the health/dental insurance issue again and possibly sitting in on the meeting with the broker if they come in again.

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Supervisor Wickham went through each of the department reports and asked if the departments had anything to add.

HIGHWAY: Supervisor Wickham gave kudos to the Highway Department & Highway Superintendent Lawson on the Little Church Road culvert. He said that they all did a great job from start to finish and it looks great.

WATER: The water guys have prepped the Yaegel Road project and are set to start on Monday, 9/21/20. Water Consultant Lawson added that DN Tanks is building a tank for the Water Filter Plant on Freshour Rd. in Shortsville. He wanted to extend the invite to the board members to come and see how the panels get set and give them an opportunity to ask questions if they have any. As explained above, DN Tanks is who will be doing our tank on Olson Road as well.

ASSESSOR: Supervisor Wickham gave Kudos to Shana Jo for the win in the property tax legal battle against the Cornell Solar Farm. Councilman Keeney asked if this was unanimous and it was.

TOWN CLERK: A couple of board members have asked if they can get their hunting licenses yet. Unfortunately, New York State has updated their website and login process, stating that Clerk Eagley was not the agent of record. It was unknown to everyone that this is something that requires a special training. At this point, the state has told Clerk Eagley that she cannot offer any hunting licenses to anyone without that training. The state has conveniently locked our team members out with their new upgrade and have also stated that they don't know when they'll be able to offer this training to get us back up and running.

LANDFILL: Supervisor Wickham stated that General Manager Sanders was not feeling well and could not make it to the board meeting tonight. Mr. Sanders filled Supervisor Wickham in on what is happening up at the Landfill. Supervisor Wickham spoke about the Leachate Storage Tank project being on hold. Mr. Sanders explained that they put the leachate project on hold to give the aeration project a chance to work and that they had to redesign the tank to accommodate the aeration.

Supervisor Wickham looked for a motion to approve the Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO financial reports. A motion was made by Councilman Malyj and seconded by Councilman Orbaker. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Number	Resolution Title	Ayes	Nays	Absent	Motioned	Seconded	Carried?
# 77-20	2020 Vouchers	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Keeney	Yes
# 78-20	Adopt new MU-1 Schedule	5	0	0	Councilman Malyj	Councilman Orbaker	Yes
# 79-20	Re-Levy Property Maintenance Bill	5	0	0	Councilman Keeney	Councilman Mosher	Yes
# 80-20	Retirement of Don Kinney	5	0	0	Councilman Mosher	Councilman Orbaker	Yes
# 81-20	Abolish MEO position and adopt MEO/Mechanic position	5	0	0	Councilman Orbaker	Councilman Malyj	Yes

***Regarding resolution # 81-20:** Supervisor Wickham explained that, with Don retiring, Highway Superintendent Lawson and himself have had discussions about changing an MEO position to an MEO/Mechanic position that could be cross trained. There was discussion about the possibility of having a pay differential and they have not set a rate for this position yet. We could possibly hire within for someone who is qualified. This would add

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flexibility as the MEO/Mechanic can work inside the shop and outside the shop where needed. At this point the only other Mechanic fill-in is Highway Superintendent Lawson.

On another note, Supervisor Wickham wanted to discuss the possible requirement of MEOs getting annual DOT Physicals. Currently, the law does not require municipalities to do this. Supervisor Wickham's thoughts are that we should start doing it because if someone has an impending health issue, we will know about it and we could possibly help them overcome it. However, if we turn a blind eye to it, we could be found negligent because we had an idea but never required them to do anything. Supervisor Wickham stated that there are two sides to this. He said that we certainly are not making the decision tonight, but that he would like to start discussion. This would be an annual physical.

Councilman Mosher stated that his only reservation would be if someone took a physical and something came out of that physical and we weren't able to act upon it in an efficient manner and an accident happened- could we be held liable to an extra extent than we would have been had we not done the physical. Councilman Mosher stated that he would be curious to know why the county stopped doing these physicals being a lot larger than us. Supervisor Wickham stated that he would investigate it.

OLD BUSINESS

Supervisor Wickham stated that the budget meeting we originally had planned for Wednesday, September 30th, at 5 PM. He stated that he had a county meeting come up at 5:30 PM that he really didn't want to miss that day and asked if the Councilmen would be okay with coming into the Town Hall at 4:00 PM so that he could get to that meeting. All councilmen agreed with that time. With that, Supervisor Wickham asked if there was no other information to come before the board if we could adjourn. Councilman Keeney made motion to adjourn, Councilman Malyj seconded and at 8:20 PM the Town Board meeting was Adjourned.

Respectfully,

Haley Eagley
Town Clerk