

TOWN OF SENECA
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
MARCH 15TH, 2022

7:30 PM Regular Meeting

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Privilege of the Floor
5. Supervisor's Report
 - a. Memorial Day Planning
6. Approval of Minutes: February 15th, 2022- Regular Meeting
7. Communications:
 - a. Ag & Markets Dog Control Officer Inspection Report
 - b. Ag & Markets Municipal Shelter Inspection Report
 - c. S. Pierce Correction of Error (Ontario County RPTS)
 - d. Ontario County Solid Waste Correction of Error (Ontario County RPTS)
 - e. Inside Dirt Newsletter
 - f. Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Letter Re: Water Billing Assistance
 - g. Survey from Environmental Facilities Corporation
 - h. Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag Appreciation Banquet Invitation
 - i. Town Hall and Court Fire Inspection Report
8. Reports:

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| Highway |
| Water |
| CEO |
| Assessor |
| Town Clerk |
| Historian |
| Casella |

9. Accept Supervisor, Town Clerk, and CEO Financial Reports
10. Warrants:
 - a. **Resolution #51-22:** 2022 Warrants
11. New Business
 - a. **Resolution #52-22:** Opposing Any Decrease to the Farm Labor Overtime Threshold
12. Old Business
13. Privilege of the Floor
14. Motion for executive session
15. Adjournment of Executive Session
16. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Resolution # 51-22

Authorization to Pay the 2022 Audited Vouchers

| Claim Category | Claim Numbers | Claim Amount |
|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| GENERAL | | |
| HIGHWAY | | |
| WATER | | |
| SEWER | | |
| HALL | | |
| STANLEY | | |
| SENECA CASTLE | | |
| TRUST & AGENCY | | |
| WATER CAPITAL SYSTEM | | |

| Ayes | Nays | Abst. | Absent | Motion | Second |
|------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
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Resolution #52-22

Opposing Any Decrease to the Farm Labor Overtime Threshold

WHEREAS, Agriculture is New York State's largest industry; and

WHEREAS, There are 33,400 farms in NYS and 6,900,000 acres of operated farmland; and

WHEREAS, Farms are critical components of our regional economy and are necessary to ensure supermarkets are stocked with food; and

WHEREAS, The agricultural industry in New York State contributed more than \$5.4 billion in agricultural economy sales to the New York economy each year; and

WHEREAS, The Farm Laborers Wage Board has proposed to decrease the farm labor overtime threshold from 60 to 40 hours; and

WHEREAS, From the outset of the COVID-19 Pandemic, farmers have stepped up and ensured their operations continued and were responsible for donating thousands of pounds of food to local food banks at a time of significant need; and

WHEREAS, Western New York Farmers face a tremendous number of challenges outside of their control including changes in consumer demand leading to price change, obtaining labor, climate change, land management policies, foreign market competition, livestock and crop disease; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the practical issues related to growing and selling food products, New York farmers have to contend with wavering levels of government regulations including changes in wages and overtime thresholds; and

WHEREAS, One of the more pressing issues for the farming community has been mandated overtime requirements since the 25019 Farm Laborers Fair Practice Act, currently gives farmworkers a right to overtime after sixty (60) hours work each week; and

WHEREAS, Western New York farmers are reliant on migratory work forces during the short growing season here in Western New York as workers are here for only a few month in the spring and summer ad they have only so many hours each year to get the work done; and

WHEREAS, the act does not prohibit the Farm Laborers Wage Board from arbitrary decreasing the overtime threshold again hereby increasing costs to local farms; and

WHEREAS, Decreasing the overtime threshold will negatively impact the farming community by increasing costs to farmers, who are already operating under very tight margins and will potentially cut into work opportunities for migrant workers; and

WHEREAS, cutting budgeted support levels and drastically increasing costs through government interference should be avoided whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, NYS Assembly Deputy Minority Leader Steve Hawley has voiced concern through letters written to Governor Kathy Hochul and NYS Labor Commissioner dated January 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, most of the testimony provided in the hearing process requested “No Change” to the overtime threshold. This is another example of New York City Interests ignoring the “other New York” and its robust economy; and

WHEREAS, The Planning and Environmental Quality Committee has reviewed this resolution and recommended its adoption; now, there, be it

RESOLVED, This board urges the support of the farmers and migrant workers who do not want their hours reduced and urges utilizing all budgeted funding for the promotion of New York State farming products, provide critical applied research, ensure access to markets, educate the public and connect them to their food and other programs designed to benefit local farmers; and further

RESOLVED, This board urges opposing any decrease to the 60 hour farm worker overtime threshold proposed by the Farm Laborers Wage Board; and further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution ne sent by the Clerk of this board to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senator Majority Leaser Stewart-Cousins, NYS Assembly Speaker Heastie, Assemblyman Hawley, Senator Rath, NYS Labor Commissioner, NYS Agriculture and Markets Commissioner, NYS Farm Bureau, Assemblyman Jeff Gallahan, Senator Pamela Helming, Senator Samra Brouk, and the Ontario County Farm Bureau

| Ayes | Nays | Abst. | Absent | Motion | Second |
|------|------|-------|--------|--------|--------|
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