

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Special Meeting on Monday, January 27, 2014 at Town Hall, 81 W. Bayard Street, Seneca Falls.

Present were Supervisor Donald Earle, Councilpersons Duane Moore, David DeLelys, Chad Sanderson and Emil Bove. Also present was Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town.

Supervisor Earle called the Special Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. All Board Members were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

New Business:

Discussion - Appointment of Acting Assessor: Mr. Bove stated last week, the Assessment Committee met with James Bastian of the County Real Property Tax Office. In the course of the Meeting, Mr. Bastian expressed concern that the Town didn't have an Assessor, and suggested that they speak with a Candidate that was willing to help the Town out temporarily with the assessment process. Mr. Bove said there are a number of functions that have to be performed that can be performed only by an Assessor over the course of the next few months. He added the feeling was the Board felt the Town had to have an Assessor to perform those functions.

Philip Griswold was invited to the Meeting; he is the Assessor in Junius and Tyre, and has been the Assessor for many years. Mr. Bove noted that Mr. Griswold was the Assessor in Seneca Falls when Janet Pfeiff was Supervisor. He is an experienced Assessor and has a very fine reputation; he also worked for Soil & Water Conservation and is retired from that position. Mr. Bove said Mr. Griswold is willing to help the Town out for the next few months. He mentioned that Mr. Griswold is a retired Member of the NYS Retirement System, and he will need a waiver if he is going to be earning more than \$30,000.00. Mr. Bove stated it behooves the Town to appoint Mr. Griswold. He mentioned that the Town has a joint Program with Fayette who will be acting on this later this week. He said there is a salary in the Budget, and he is proposing that if Fayette appoints Mr. Griswold, he receive the salary that is in the Budget. He added if Fayette does not appoint Mr. Griswold, other arrangements for his salary will have to be made. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Earle thanked Mr. Griswold for his offer to help the Town out. Mr. Morrell stated Acting Assessor would be the appropriate title; there is a section of Law that specifically addresses that and allows for an appointment on a temporary basis. He suggested appointing Mr. Griswold Acting Assessor under Section 314 of the Real Property Tax Law.

Mr. Moore said in the meantime while Mr. Griswold is Acting Assessor, is the Board suppose to be looking for an Individual to fill this position down the road. Mr. Griswold replied he thinks that is the intent. He will come in on a temporary basis to allow the Town of Seneca Falls to seek Candidates. Mr. Griswold proceeded to explain to the Board the procedures he will be following for the next few months. Mr. Moore expressed his appreciation for Mr. Griswold's efforts to help the Town out. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Morrell stated Mrs. Sloan is full time; the reason for that is that she also services the Town of Fayette through the CAP Program. Under the State Law that controls these coordinated assessment type programs, if the same Assessor is not appointed, then the agreement under the State Law is terminated. He added if Fayette also appoints the same Assessor, then this will continue to function under the CAP Agreement. If Fayette does not appoint the same Assessor or does something else, by operation of Law this Agreement will be terminated. Further discussion followed relative to Mrs. Sloan's position and whether it should be full time or part time, Assessment Budget and salaries of Assessor and Mrs. Sloan.

A motion was made by Emil Bove and seconded by Duane Moore to appoint Philip Griswold as Acting Assessor for the Town of Seneca Falls under Section 314 of the Real Property Tax Law; if the Town of Fayette appoints Mr. Griswold, the salary will be as set forth in the 2014 Budget with no benefits, and if the Town of Fayette does not appoint Mr. Griswold, his salary will be the result of multiplying \$12.00 times the number of parcels in the Town on a pro-rated annual basis. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Griswold informed the Board that he spoke with the Supervisors of the Towns of Junius and Tyre who indicated that they had no problem with him being appointed on a temporary basis for the Town.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Emil Bove and seconded by Don Earle. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

