

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Year-End Meeting on Friday, December 28, 2018 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

Present were Supervisor Gregory Lazzaro; Councilmen Louis Ferrara, David DeLelys, Douglas Avery and Vittorio Porretta. Also present were James Peterson, Highway Superintendent; Lt. Tim Snyder and a Member of the local media.

Supervisor Lazzaro called the Meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

New Business:

Special Event – New Year’s Eve Ball Drop: Mr. Lazzaro stated he is not going to put this into motion unless someone else does. He cannot approve this because it was given at such a late date and it’s not even fully filled out. He added it’s filled out in different color ink – it’s an incomplete application. The Town Clerk asked if she could say something; Mr. Lazzaro replied no.

Sarah VanBortel from The Gould stated she is new to the job and filled it out to the best of her ability. She did what she was told to do, and apologized. Mr. Lazzaro said because this involves closing of State Street, we have to give proper notifications to people. He will be voting no on this.

A motion was made to approve the New Year’s Eve Ball Drop by Doug Avery and seconded by Dave DeLelys.

Mr. DeLelys stated in the past when it was at Antonina’s it came in late sometimes and was approved. He added this has been signed by Mr. Spina and Chief Peenstra. He thinks it should be accepted as it is. Mr. Lazzaro said he doesn’t see where the Highway Superintendent, Fire Chief or the Water/Sewer Superintendent has signed off. Mr. Avery asked if it is normal that we get all five signatures on this – he can see the Chief, Highway and Mr. Spina signing off. Mr. DeLelys asked Mr. Peterson if he was notified; Mr. Peterson said Chief Peenstra notified him of the Event and told him to get barricades ready. Mr. DeLelys asked if Mr. Peterson has ever signed any applications in the past; Mr. Peterson replied no, he has not.

Lt. Snyder stated Chief Peenstra had a meeting last week and had concerns about it being so late. He is not sure how the meeting went. Brief discussion followed.

Mr. Avery stated he would like to see the Board approve this, but with a stern warning that any future applications must be submitted earlier. Mr. Lazzaro said he believes there are too many inherent dangers in approving something at such a late date and not having the appropriate people here to speak and why they signed off on it. Mr. DeLelys stated that he and Mr. Porretta are on the Rec Committee; Mr. Spina told them that it did come in late, and the insurance was all okay and that he and the Chief signed off on it.

Mr. Ferrara stated he can’t see shutting it down; there is a new person who came on board. He said it has been done in the past; knowing that, he thinks the Board should allow them to have their event. He added it will put them on notice to apply earlier the next time. Mr. Ferrara said the ball is up and the festivities are planned, and hopefully, it will bring people in the town to spend money at the Quality Inn. His opinion is to go ahead and do it.

The above motion made by Doug Avery and seconded by Dave DeLelys to approve the New Year’s Eve Ball Drop event was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Supervisor Lazzaro with the dissenting vote.

Payment of Bills:

Mr. Lazzaro stated he is taking off the Recreation Fund, Vince’s Park Fund and the Highway Fund.

A motion was made by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara to approve and order paid the bills in the General Fund. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

A motion was made by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara to approve and order paid the bills in the Miscellaneous Fund. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

A motion was made by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara to approve and order paid the bills in the Water Fund. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

A motion was made by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara to approve and order paid the bills in the Sewer Fund. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Mr. DeLelys asked why Mr. Lazzaro removed the Recreation Fund, Vince’s Park Fund and the Highway Fund .

Mr. Lazzaro replied because the Board received a memo from Mrs. Warfel the other day, and he thinks the Board needs more explanation of why, at the last minute, the Board was given this information that they are short on funds. Mr. Ferrara said his objection is that he feels that since we are not using landfill money – it hasn't been discussed how the landfill influx of money is going to be used. He doesn't feel the Board should be using the money to cover shortfalls until the Board figures out where and how they want to spend it, which he is still strong on infrastructure and public safety. Mr. Avery stated generally, he agrees with Mr. Ferrara that the Board needs to have a conversation as to how the money is going to be spent. It seems to him that the first thing the Board should be doing is covering a shortfall. Discussion followed.

Mr. Avery asked what will happen if the Board doesn't cover the shortfall. Mrs. Warfel replied the issue is that Vince's Park is out of money – she cannot close the books with a negative balance. She added the memo had to do with paying Vince's Park bills today; funds can be transferred from the General Fund or taken out of the third quarter money received from the Landfill. She said Vince's Park revenue was less than budgeted, causing excessive expenditures at Vince's Park.

Mr. Lazzaro inquired about the Highway Fund. Mrs. Warfel stated the remainder of her email referenced the need to budget the third quarter landfill revenue. She suggested using the third quarter landfill revenue as funds to cover the amounts in the 2019 budgeted for Highway, Water and the General Fund as the 2019 landfill revenue is in question due to ongoing litigation. Mr. Lazzaro asked if that decision needs to be made today; Mrs. Warfel replied no. Mr. Avery said the Board has to pay the bills – that issue doesn't refer to paying these bills. Mr. Lazzaro recommended that this be discussed at another time. Mr. Avery stated paying the Highway Fund bills has nothing to do with what Mrs. Warfel is saying – what she is saying about the Highway has to do with the 2019 Budget.

A motion was made by Doug Avery and seconded by Dave DeLelys to approve and order paid the bills of the Highway Fund. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 2 naves; Supervisor Lazzaro and Councilman Ferrara with the dissenting votes.

A motion was made by Doug Avery and seconded by Dave DeLelys to approve and order paid the bills of the Recreation Fund.

Mr. Porretta asked if this is independent of Vince's Park; Mrs. Warfel replied the Recreation Fund is separate from Vince's Park – Vince's Park is in the hole. Mr. Porretta asked if the Recreation Fund is okay to pay; Mrs. Warfel replied yes.

Mr. Lazzaro told Mr. Avery that he is a Councilman, right; Mr. Avery replied right. Mr. Lazzaro stated he is the CEO of the Town and he is making this recommendation, and he is being fiscally responsible with this Budget – Mr. Avery is not. That is why he is voting no on this.

The above motion made by Doug Avery and seconded by Dave DeLelys to approve and order paid the bills of the Recreation Fund was carried 3 ayes, 2 naves; Supervisor Lazzaro and Councilman Ferrara with the dissenting votes.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Greg Lazzaro and seconded by Lou Ferrara. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER  
Town Clerk

