

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a regular monthly Meeting on Tuesday, October 5, 2021 at the Seneca Falls Community Center, 35 Water Street.

Present were Supervisor Michael Ferrara; Councilpersons Steven Churchill, David DeLelys, Dawn Dyson and Douglas Avery. Also present were Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town; Richard Stabinsky, Zoning Officer; James Peterson, Highway Superintendent; Stuart Peenstra, Police Chief; Deborah Von Wald, Assessor; Mary Jones, Interim Parks & Recreation Director and Peter Baker, Town Engineer.

Supervisor Ferrara opened the regular monthly Meeting at 5:15 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

At 5:17 P.M., a motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery to go into Executive Session to discuss the employment history of a particular Town personnel under Public Officer's Law Section 105(f), and matters relating to collective negotiations pursuant to Article 14 of the Civil Service Law under Public Officer's Law Section 105(e). No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the regular monthly Meeting at 5:58 P.M. by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to add Privilege of the Floor to the Agenda by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara to add two resolutions to the Agenda – acceptance of gift from Seneca Meadows to Police Department and acceptance of gift from Seneca Meadows to Recreation Department, which were originally on the Agenda. Since there was no second to the motion, the motion did not carry.

Presentation by MRB – American Rescue Plan Act: Matt Horn of MRB gave a presentation relative to the American Rescue Plan Act which is associated to COVID, and focused on direct support to State and local governments. Funding is generally allocated according to population. The Town has received the first installment, and will receive the second installment sometime after January 1st of next year. The funds can be used in two funds, the first being any issues directly tied to COVID – they are directly reimbursable under the program. They have to be clearly identified as related to COVID and spent during the COVID crises. There is also funding associated with revenue recovery during the COVID period. They look at the 2019 bottom line revenue number for Seneca Falls, and the 2020 bottom line revenue, and if there was a down trend between 2019 and 2020 in general fund revenue, then the Town is eligible for revenue recovery. The rest of the funds is pretty specific as to how you can use it. Mr. Horn said generally, the most efficient way to use these funds are for infrastructure – water, sewer, broadband. If you have water needs or sewer needs, those are fundable under the program. Most recently, the interim final rule says that parks are an eligible expense as well.

Mr. Horn stated the approach they like to take is to sit down and look at those funding priorities – water, sewer, broadband, parks. Once they do that needs assessments, they identify the projects they think are eligible. Mr. Ferrara stated he had Mrs. Warfel compile the related COVID expenses; a lot of those expenses were in the Police Department. He said they have a good idea of what the COVID 19 labor and material expenses were. Mr. Horn mentioned that the funds don't have to be committed before 2024, and don't have to be fully expended until 2026. He further stated the State Government is not allowed to apply any additional restrictions over and above what the local government already has on the books. As far as record keeping, the funds have to be in a separate account for two reasons - the Town can keep any interest generated from these funds, and you want to be able to quickly audit these funds. Smaller communities, like Seneca Falls, are only required to file one report per year. The Federal Government just extended the date required to file your first report to April of next year.

Mr. Horn stated in terms of what they are going to do next, is to go over record calculations to make sure revenue calculations and expense calculations are complete, and then ask the Board to take action and move those funds. They will work with Staff to develop recommendations for the Board on other like expenditures, and work with Finance Department to establish an appropriate record keeping function. He added they will start tracking expenditures and be prepared to submit reports.

Mr. Avery asked if it's reasonable to think that the first thing we would do is reimburse ourselves for those COVID expenses; Mr. Horn replied yes. Mr. Ferrara mentioned that there are some major water and sewer projects out there already – certainly, some of this can be used for projects like that. He added there is a lot of flexibility; the Board doesn't have to make a decision tonight.

Petitioners:

Kent Gardner – Economic Impact Study for SMI Facility: Kent Gardner, Chief Economist at the Center for Government Research, stated CGR was engaged by Waste Connections in 2016 to assess the economic and fiscal impact of the facility on Seneca County and Town of Seneca Falls. They were asked to revisit those estimates using current data. He submitted their report to the Board, and proceeded to summarize their findings.

Mr. Gardner stated SMI is an important and stable contributor to the local economy. Employment at the facility is about 70 with a total payroll of a little under \$5 million. Seneca Meadows impact on the public finances stands out. Between the HCA payments and the property tax, Waste Connections paid \$3.3 million to the Town in 2020 which is over 2/3 of the Town's total property tax levy. The school districts received over \$300,000 in property tax revenue, with Waterloo getting the most at about \$264,000; towns other than Seneca Falls received \$43,000 in property tax payments. Waterloo also benefits from a HCA which paid over \$600,000. In addition, Waterloo and Seneca Falls residents saved about \$384,000 through free solid waste disposal.

Mr. Gardner stated the tax rate arithmetic on closing Seneca Meadows is straight forward. They assume three things: Public services continue at the same level; the Town absorbs the cost of solid waste disposal into the tax rate; and the taxable property value of the facility is retained.

Mr. Gardner said for the median home in Seneca Falls, the annual tax paid would rise 74% from just over \$1,000 to about \$1,800. For a median home in Waterloo, they estimate the property tax would rise 58% from an estimated \$284 to about \$450. Seneca Meadows' largest impact comes from the Host Community Agreement. Recognizing that the Town's principal source of revenue is the property tax, plugging a \$3.1 million hole in the budget (which is what the HCA brings) would require replacing Seneca Meadows with a property assessed at \$322 million. For purposes of comparison, Seneca Meadows is currently assessed at \$16 million, del Lago Resort at \$101 million, and Goulds Pumps is assessed at \$5.5 million; total of those three assets is \$123 million. Mr. Gardner stated you need an asset value of \$322 million to make up for the payment that comes in for the HCA.

Mr. Churchill asked Mr. Gardner who contracted him to refresh this; Mr. Gardner replied they were contracted by Waste Connections, Seneca Meadows' parent company. Mr. Churchill said they paid for the study; Mr. Gardner replied yes, they did indeed. Mr. Churchill asked if Mr. Gardner was aware that Seneca County and the IDA partnered in 2019 and developed an economic development strategy for Seneca County report – has he seen that report. Mr. Gardner replied he has not seen that report. Mr. Churchill stated the report identified some of the great things that are going on in our County – agri-tourism, heritage tourism, cultural, etc. He said on the other hand, Seneca County faces some obstacles, one of them being the odor from Seneca Meadows Landfill. In the proposed action section of the report, they talked about establishing Industry sector round tables to address common issues, such as concerns of Seneca Meadows. Mr. Churchill commented that while Mr. Gardner's report may paint things as wrinkles and unicorns, the County's report shows major concern amongst most businesses in this County in regards to Seneca Meadows – this is an independent study. Mr. Ferrara asked if Mr. Churchill had a copy of the report; Mr. Churchill replied it's available online. Mr. Ferrara asked if the report talked about the enhancement of green energy throughout the County like it does in the SF Development Corporation's economic plan. Mr. Churchill replied if Mr. Ferrara would like to read it, he will send him a copy – he addressed the issues he wanted to address.

Joelle Murney-Karsten: Joelle Murney-Karsten thanked the Town for putting their best foot forward for the September 24th dedication of Ripples of Change statute; it received National attention and they received a tremendous amount of praise for a wonderful event. There are many people who contributed to making this event successful, and she thanked them - Chief Peenstra and Staff; Jim Peterson, Community Center employees, Town employees, Patrick Morrell, Doug Avery, SFDC Members and Greg Zellers. Mr. Ferrara said we need to also thank Joe Tullo and the W/S Department who dug the trench connecting the wires from the corner of Ovid Street to the statute to save on the electrical contractor's work. Mrs. Murney-Karsten said they also had children from the School District come, and they had the brass ensemble and vocal ensemble perform. She said Seneca Falls shone very brightly and it was a big feather in everybody's cap.

Mrs. Murney-Karsten mentioned the issues with the culvert, and said it is her understanding that the grant that was suggested that the Town apply for was voted down by the Town Board. She understands some of those concerns, and wanted the Board to know that they are exploring additional options.

Mrs. Murney-Karsten said as considerations are made for the upcoming budget, she gave a quick story of what fires up the SFDC and guides them on the mission they are on. In 2017-2018 when they were in the process of updating the strategic plan for economic development, 92% of accomplishments and investments were

focused in the Rochester region – there was no mention of Seneca Falls and little mention of any surrounding counties.

In 2018, they decided they were going to gain attention and investment, and that is why they wrote the first DRI; they revamped it and wrote it again in 2019 and won \$10 million for the Town. In addition, they have secured the Summer Excursion Program through the NYS Canal Corporation last summer, the Kids Activity Program for under-privileged youth and the Statute dedication this year along with the fountain.

Mrs. Murney-Karsten stated they can't afford to lose the momentum they have. The DRI contracts are going out directly to the large projects from the State. They have a \$600,000 improvement fund that is coming, and they are engaged with real estate and developers who are attracted by all of this buzz. She added we need to keep Seneca Falls more business friendly. Mrs. Murney-Karsten stated she hopes the Board will continue to work with them to keep this economic development momentum moving forward.

Mr. Ferrara thanked Mrs. Murney-Karsten for her leadership on that Committee for six years. Mr. Churchill commented that the dedication was an outstanding event. The only fault he could find was that the invitation went out to 50 people and he understands why. Everybody in this Town should have been invited because it was a moment to be proud to live in Seneca Falls. Mrs. Murney-Karsten stated they had 48 hours of work, and they were limited with parking; there were also security issues. She added it was live-streamed.

Barbara Reese – Waste Management Advisory Committee: Barbara Reese, Member of the Waste Management Advisory Committee, thanked the Board and Jim Peterson and Highway Department for the work they have been doing in support of the recycling program. The Town now has a food waste drop-off site for Town residents. She said as of September 25th, they went live at the new official transfer station at the Highway Department. An Attendant is on duty from 8 AM to 1:45 PM, Saturdays and Sundays so that you can bring your food waste there and it will be composted. Mrs. Reese said the Waste Management Advisory Committee will keep doing their part in finding opportunities to be responsible in waste management.

Mr. DeLelys asked about having containers for people to buy. Mrs. Reese replied the price went up when the quantity they wanted went down, so they decided it wasn't worth doing it. She added if they can find a way of doing it to bring the price back down for a larger quantity – she knows several people that are interested. Mr. Avery said they are not sure of whether we should be in the business of selling them and how.

Mr. Ferrara thanked Mrs. Reese and said it's the beginning of our contribution to eliminating organics from not only this Landfill, but any landfill.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Town Board Meeting of October 5, 2021 by Dave DeLelys and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Reports:

Dog Control Officer: A motion was made to accept the August 2021 and September 2021 reports of the Dog Control Officer by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Zoning Officer: A motion was made to accept Mr. Stabinsky's report by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Parks & Recreation: A motion was made to accept Mrs. Jones' report by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Highway Superintendent: A motion was made to accept Mr. Peterson's report by Doug Avery and seconded by Dawn Dyson.

Mr. Peterson stated tomorrow they will start milling Daniel Street, part of VanCleaf Street and Butler Avenue. He added next Tuesday, they will be paving those three roads.

The above motion made by Doug Avery and seconded by Dawn Dyson to accept Mr. Peterson's report was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Assessor: A motion was made to accept Mrs. Von Wald's report by Steve Churchill and seconded by Michael Ferrara.

Mr. Avery asked about the property searches for September (Heritage Preservation Letters) she mentioned in her report. Mrs. Von Wald replied they do that when the Town Clerk or Miss Howell asks when they send out letters to property owners for Planning and ZBA and the HPC when they have a project

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Michael Ferrara to accept Mrs. Von Wald's report was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Attorney for the Town: Mr. Morrell noted there were things coming up on the Agenda.

Water/Sewer: A motion was made to accept Mr. Tullo's report by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara.

Mr. Churchill stated on the report, it is noted that they had an inspection of the Water Plant and the entire system – will the Board be seeing that report. Mr. Avery replied he is sure the Board can. James Varricchio stated traditionally, a copy of the report gets sent to the Supervisor. Mr. Ferrara said when he gets the report, he will share it with the Board.

The above motion made by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara to accept Mr. Tullo's report was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Town Justices: A motion was made to accept the reports of Judge Lafler and Judge Kelley by Dave DeLelys and seconded by Michael Ferrara. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Police Chief: A motion was made to accept Chief Peenstra's report by Dave DeLelys and seconded by Dawn Dyson.

Chief Peenstra stated the Police Department recently accepted funds from NYS Senate through Mental Health and Community Collaboration on behalf of NYS Office of Mental Health, for iPads for mental health (right now, they have three of those iPads for three different patrol cars on a shift).

The Chief stated they will be having a Drug Take-Back day on October 23rd at Kinney Drugs, 10-2. He reminded people that they have a Drug Drop-off in their Lobby that can be utilized 24-7.

The above motion made by Dave DeLelys and seconded by Dawn Dyson to accept Chief Peenstra's report was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Barton & Loguidice: A motion was made to accept Mr. Baker's report by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson.

Mr. Baker stated they are working with MRB on two applications – the equalization tank and one for Kingdom Road. He noted there will be discussion on SEQR for the Kingdom Road project later in the Meeting; as part of that process, there is a bond resolution, and a Public Hearing will have to be scheduled for that bond resolution. He requested that the Board advertise and schedule a Public Hearing at the November Town Board Meeting

Mr. Ferrara stated some of the local flooding in August that they are working on is the Miller Street area. They are working on roto-rooting to try and get some of the roots out of the drainage pipes that are causing some problems. He added they are looking at a couple of options for one address on Miller Street; they will share the cost with the Board and then make a decision – it's not going to be cheap. Mr. Ferrara said they are also working on some long-term plans for that part of the Town.

The above motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to accept Mr. Baker's report was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

MRB Grant Writing Services: A motion was made to accept the report of MRB Grant Writing Services by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery.

Mr. Avery asked if MRB lost Ms. Palumbos; Mr. Horn replied yes – she is working on her own. Mr. Ferrara said Rhonda Destino replaced Ms. Palumbos and is taking care of the needs of the Town.

The above motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery to accept the report of MRB Grant Writing Services was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SF Development Corporation: A motion was made to accept the report of the SF Development Corporation by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara.

Mr. Avery remarked that there are always people at the Ripples of Change statute – they are not people that he recognizes. He added hopefully, it will be an ongoing thing. Mrs. Reese said she knows it will be a permanent thing in Peoples Park, but are they going to move When Cady met Stanton as well. Mr. Ferrara replied they are going to be moved when the project at Peoples Park is done, which is part of the DRI. He added Generations Bank has plans for that site; they purchased a Liberty Bell to commemorate Women's Rights Movement. Mr. Ferrara said there is no plan to move When Cady met Stanton.

The above motion made by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara to accept the report of the SF Development Corporation was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Other Committee Reports:

Mr. Ferrara stated we are three-quarters of the way done with the street lighting project which is converting the Town completely to LED lighting. He said this took a great deal of time and effort at no cost to the taxpayers. He thanked Matt Horn and MRB with helping him with suggestions. The Town pays \$180,000 a year for electricity for the streetlights; when complete, the Town will save 35% to 40% in electricity which will be a savings of \$65,000 to \$72,000 a year.

Mr. Ferrara said he has been working with the NYS Canal Corporation and an Engineer. They cleaned up around the mouth of the culvert and Benton Creek. At the statute dedication, Brian Stratton, Chairperson of the Canal Corporation, and Senator Helming talked to him and questioned the Town's application for the Bridge NY Grant which would have been used to fix the culvert. They were strong supporters of the Grant and were wondering what happened. Mr. Ferrara informed them that the Board decided not to make application for the Grant because the majority of the Board felt that the culvert is not the Town of Seneca Falls' responsibility.

Mr. Ferrara stated the fountain is here with the collaborative effort of Parks & Recreation, James Varricchio and people from the Highway Department. They got the fountain in the water; it was turned off Sunday night and will be taken out of the water Thursday. Mr. Ferrara said the generator that ran the fountain will go back to the Canal Corporation; the pump belongs to the Town and will be stored in the Storage Building. He has a line item in the budget for the fountain, and a decision will be made between now and the Preliminary Budget.

Mr. Ferrara stated he was informed by the County today that Seneca Falls is listed as one of the top ten affordable places to live – this is something conducted by Realtor.com – it's the only town in New York State that got the distinction.

Communications:

A motion was made to receive and file Communications numbered 1 to 3 by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays. Communications numbered 1 to 3 are as follows:

1. Letter from NYS Department of State informing Town that Local Law #7 – 2021 has been received and filed.
2. Minutes of the Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting of August 24, 2021.
3. Checks and deposits totaling \$50,408.04 representing Retirees Insurance; disability reimbursement; background/record check; SFSC District fuel reimbursement; Community Center deposits; copy of accident report; Town Clerk's August report; dumpster fees; Vince's Park deposits; Bridgeport Fire District fuel reimbursement; culvert pipe reimbursement; tote purchase; insurance claim – pump repairs; copies of Police reports; Judge Lafler's August report; 60 State Street September rent and Judge Kelley's August report.

Old Business:

Sale of Surplus Property – 115 Fall Street: Mr. Morrell stated he has been in contact with the Attorney for the Buyers. The title work is being updated and should be completed before the next Meeting.

Town Demands Related to SMI License to Operate Landfill: Mr. Morrell stated he is working with David Hou in getting together ground rules for alternative dispute resolution that is required in the Host Community Agreement. He referred to Mr. Hou and his Appellate Division arguments for the Town regarding the Town's parking law, and said we should have something together towards the end of the month.

Security Cameras – Veterans Bridge: Mr. Churchill stated he met with the former Highway Superintendent and they have come to the conclusion that fencing off the areas that they paint would be a better solution and probably less costly. Mr. Ferrara asked if it would be on our property; Mr. Peterson replied it would be on our property because we own that bridge. Mr. Morrell said before these plans go anywhere, they need to be sent to him. Mr. Avery said doesn't a fence present a more interesting challenge; Mr. Churchill replied they would have to work awful hard to get to the areas that are painted. Brief discussion followed.

Mandatory Vaccinations for all Town Employees or Weekly Testing: Mr. Ferrara stated he did more work on the agreement and checked out testing availability; the County is currently testing three times a week at no charge.

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Town Board is very concerned about the health and safety of all their employees and the overall well being of the general public; and
WHEREAS, COVID-19 vaccinations have proven to be very effective in stopping the spread of the virus or at a minimum, reducing greatly the seriousness of the virus; and
WHEREAS, effective November 1, 2021 all Town of Seneca Falls employees will be required to have either the first Jansen/Johnson, first Pfizer or Moderna, and the second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna by December 6; and
WHEREAS, proof of completed and current COVID-19 vaccination, including any booster shots as recommended by the FDA or CDC will be required by all employees, unless a reasonable accommodation for medical, pregnancy or religious reasons is approved as required by law. Unvaccinated employees will be required to be tested on a weekly basis starting November 1, 2021; and
WHEREAS, COVID-10 testing is available three (3) times a week at the Seneca County Health Department at no charge. The employees will be allowed to be tested during their normal work day schedule or at their own convenience; and
WHEREAS, acceptable proof of vaccination is limited to a completed copy of the employee's NYS Excelsior Pass or Excelsior Pass Plus or other official documentation authorized by government authority of competent jurisdiction or medical records signed by a licensed health care provider indicating vaccine name and dates of administration and/or provide weekly test results to the Town Supervisor's office on or before November 1 for vaccinations, and immediately share test results when the results are made available
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Seneca Falls Town Board, by majority, strongly supports this policy and strongly encourages all Town employees to be vaccinated, if possible, based on the recommendations of the FDA, CDC, Surgeon General and Seneca County Health Department.

Mr. Churchill said in his estimation, four of the Whereas clauses should be Resolved clauses, and the last clause struck out. He also said the employee should get tested on their own time. Mr. Ferrara said on the advice of the Town's employment Attorney, they highly do not recommend that because you are imposing a policy, a restriction, on them. Mr. Churchill said he sees it as an opportunity of getting an hour off from work. Mr. Churchill suggested they do it after hours; Mr. Ferrara replied the availability of testing is not after hours. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Michael Ferrara to amend the above resolution by changing the Whereas clauses in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Resolve clauses and the bottom clause be struck.

Chief Peenstra said what if an employee is off during that given testing time, or they are not working during testing time – how do we handle that. Mr. Ferrara replied at their own convenience. Mr. Churchill said it doesn't tell what happens if they don't produce proof of testing. Mr. Ferrara replied when the policy goes out to employees, it will be outlined as to what the consequences are as far as the guidelines of labor employment law. After further discussion, Mr. Churchill said he will not support this because it has no teeth, and essentially all it affectively does is give the people who decided not to get vaccinated an hour off with pay.

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Michael Ferrara to amend the above resolution by changing the Whereas clauses in paragraphs 3, 4, 5 and 6 to Resolve clauses and the bottom clause struck was carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution with amendment, mandating vaccinations for all Town employees or weekly testing. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

New Business:

Approval of Special Events: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve the following Events;

It's a Wonderful Life Festival 2021 – December 8-12, 2021

Halloween Train Ride (SF Historical Society) – October 30, 2021

It's a Wonderful Run 5K – December 11, 2021

Election 2021 Kick-Off Event (SF Democratic Committee) – October 23, 2021

Halloween Walk in the Park 2021 (SF Parks & Recreation) – October 30, 2021

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Introduction of 2022 Tentative Budget: Mr. Ferrara stated people need to understand that this is a tentative budget – nothing more than a collection of each Department's requests; nothing has been done with the requests other than they have gone into the Budget. He mentioned that Budget Workshops will be held at 5:30 P.M. on October 7th, October 25th and October 28th – all at the Town Offices. He said a Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget has to be held by November 4th. He is proposing that the Board have the regular monthly Meeting and Public Hearing on Wednesday November 3rd at 6:00 P.M. at the Community Center. He asked if there were any objections from the Board. The Board agreed to conduct the Public Hearing on the Preliminary Budget at 6:00 P.M. on November 3, 2021, followed by the regular monthly Meeting of the Board.

Mr. Ferrara mentioned some of the items in the Budget which are as follows:

- 3% raise for all non-union employees.
- Budget uses \$1.1 million of landfill money, down from \$1.4 million in 2021, \$330,000 of taxpayer reserve fund and \$110,049 from the unexpended fund balance.
- Overall expenditures are up 4%.
- 15% increase in tax rate, and exceeds the tax cap limit for 2022 by \$490,752.
- (Page 2) Line item A1220.101 – Town Manager \$110,000.
- (Page 3) Assessment Line item A1355.416 – Revaluation \$200,000.
- (Pages 5) Buildings Line item A1620.201 – Add heat, new overhead door and entrance door and paint exterior of Cinder Block building - \$35,000.
- (Page 8) Safety Inspection Line item A3620.100 – Code Enforcement Officer part-time to full time at \$50,000.
- (Page 10) Parks Line item A7110.203 – Pave Kids Territory and new Playground equipment for Bridgeport Playground - \$70,000.
- (Page 11) Culture and Recreation Line item A7989.201 – Bring electricity permanently to the fountain - \$33,400.
- (Page 13) Cemeteries Line item A8810.407 - Cemetery Commission is requesting an increase of \$8,000 (\$32,000 to \$40,000) to work on fencing and stone replacement at other cemeteries besides Restvale.
- (Page 11) Celebrations Line item A7550.405 – It's a Wonderful Life Museum is requesting \$10,000; \$5,000 is currently in the budget.

Mr. Ferrara stated these are the major things the Board should pay close attention to.

Brad Jones stated a consultant from SMI said taxes are going up 74%; the worst case scenario right now is 15%. They said Waterloo is going up 58%; Waterloo taxes are being held. Mr. Jones said we are going to use \$300,000 of landfill money each year for the next three years, weaning ourselves off landfill revenue. He added as a volunteer, along with Sue Porter, they assisted the Town free of charge, not by paid Consultants. Brief discussion followed.

Accept Resignation of Court Clerk: A motion was made to accept the resignation of Eileen Schmidt as Court Clerk effective September 24, 2021 by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. DeLelys thanked Mrs. Schmidt for all her years of service to the Town.

Approve Filling the Court Clerk Position: A motion was made to approve filling the vacant Court Clerk position, a part-time position not to exceed 20-25 hours per week, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson.

Mr. Churchill stated given the changes to the operation of the Court where they are doing arraignments at the Law Enforcement Center, there are two Clerks – is filling this position a real requirement. Mr. DeLelys replied yes – there are all kinds of mandates that the State has.

Judge Kelley stated prior to Mrs. Schmidt's resignation, they had discussion regarding the duties she was performing which are forever increasing relative to the different law changes. He mentioned she was working on expunging some of the backlog of Court records which go back decades. This requires extra work than the normal day-to-day business. The new law passages require the mandatory expunges of records which is a time

consuming process. Judge Kelley stated due to Mrs. Schmidt's resignation, all of her duties have to be split up between the two Court Clerks – they really don't have enough time to do that. Lengthy discussion followed.

Judge Kelley stated they have established job duties that she had, and their proposal is to meet with the Board Members and present what her job duties were and why they need extra help. Mrs. Dyson suggested tabling this until the Board gets that list and discusses it. Mr. Kelley said yes – they were going to present it at the Budget Workshop.

Mr. DeLelys mentioned that the Town Court caseload is heavier - - biggest in the area. Judge Kelley said to compare the Town Court to other towns, they have a much larger calendar – other than County Court, they are the biggest jurisdiction than any other town.

After further discussion, the above motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to refill the position vacated by Eileen Schmidt did not pass, as the vote was 2 ayes, 3 nays; Supervisor Ferrara and Councilman DeLelys voting yes and Councilpersons Churchill, Dyson and Avery voting no.

Mr. Avery stated it's not a dead issue – the Board would like to hear more at the Budget Workshop.

Reappoint Board of Assessment Review Member: A motion was made to reappoint Jean Gilroy as Member of the Board of Assessment Review, said term to expire September 30, 2026, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Recreation Resolution – Transfer Funds to Kids Territory Flooring: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the flooring at Kids Territory is in great disrepair.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board approves the transfer of funds from the sale of the floating docks in the amount of \$6,395 to replacing with an epoxy floor, the bathroom and concession stand at Kids Territory in the amount of \$6,250.00.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SFPD Resolution – Declare Surplus 2017 Ford Utility and Used iPhones: A motion was made to declare the following items surplus for the SF Police Department:

- 2017 Ford Utility – 85,841 miles
- Four used iPhones XR-10

Monies received from the sale of this vehicle through Auctions International will go into the Police Department's surplus Vehicle and Equipment Fund.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

WWTP - Replace Secondary Clarifier Skirt: Mr. Ferrara stated Mr. Baker sent information to the Board. The materials are here; a motion is needed to hire a contractor for the installation of the clarifier.

A motion was made to award the bid for installation of the skirt clarifiers to the low bidder, Streeter Associates, in the amount of \$27,000 this year and \$27,000 in 2022, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Introduction of Proposed Local Law to Override Tax Levy Limit: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to override the tax levy limit imposed by General Municipal Law Section 3-c;

WHEREAS, Subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly authorizes the Town Board to override the tax cap by the adoption of a local law approved by vote of sixty percent (60%) of the Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law #8 of the year 2021 entitled "A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c" be and the same is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls, New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law have been presented to each Member of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on said proposed local law at the Town Recreation Center, 35 Water Street, Seneca Falls, New York at 6:00 P.M. on November 3, 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Clerk publish or cause to be published a notice of said Public Hearing in the official newspaper of the Town at least five (5) days prior thereto.

Mr. Avery stated every year, the Board has done this as a pro-active measure and then the taxes have been flat every year – the two are not connected at all – this is something we do every year. Mr. Morrell added most towns do this.

The above motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys to adopt the above resolution introducing proposed local law to override tax levy limit was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Recreation - Accept Resignation of Recreation Leader: A motion was made to accept the resignation of Paul Russo as Recreation Leader for the SF Parks and Recreation Department effective October 15, 2021 by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Fall and Leaf Brush Pickup: Mr. Ferrara noted that the Fall leaf and brush pickup will be held on November 8th, one day only.

Water/Sewer Resolution – Pay Increase Adjustmen: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board realizes that Operator/Trainee Joshua Sahler has received his 2A Plant = D distribution Water Operator License and has received a CDL B Driver's License since becoming an Operator/Trainee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board does hereby authorize a raise of \$2.00 an hour to a salary of \$25.00 for Joshua Sahler for obtaining all of these certifications.

Mrs. Dyson asked how many people at the Water Department do we need to be certified. Mr. Avery replied the program we entered into will give them maximum flexibility of the two plants. Mrs. Dyson asked when do we stop; Mr. Avery replied with any new hire we stop. Sarah Wright stated once COVID hit, W/S department was wiped out at one time, so it is really good to have them cross-trained so they can go to another department.

Mr. Avery mentioned that these certifications are one of the things that are considered as we figure out where an employee goes on the matrix. He added to him, we need to do this, but we also have to ask the question as to at what point is there enough people cross-trained. Discussion followed relative to the matrix, yearly reviews of employees and process for requesting employee increases.

A motion was made by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara to amend the above resolution regarding pay increase for Joshua Sahler to reflect implementation effective January 1, 2022.

Mr. Ferrara said he doesn't think we have done this for other people. Mr. Avery stated no the Board hasn't, but it does single out this person. Mr. Ferrara said he can't support changing it in midstream. He added in the future, we need to communicate to everybody that it will be effective in a certain time period.

The above amendment to the resolution made by Doug Avery and seconded by Michael Ferrara regarding pay increase for Joshua Sahle to reflect implementation effective January 1, 2022 was carried 3 ayes, 2 nays; Supervisor Ferrara and Councilman DeLelys with the dissenting vote.

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery to adopt the original resolution regarding pay increase for Joshua Sahler with amendment to reflect implementation effective January 1, 2021 did not carry, as the vote was 2 ayes, 3 nays;; Supervisor Ferrara and Councilmen Churchill and DeLelys with the dissenting votes.

Frank Sinicropi stated he was Personnel Director for 33 years at the County, and he doesn't ever remember hiring a fully qualified Water/Sewer Treatment Plant Operator – they all came in as trainees. You get the advantage of hiring someone at a lessor salary; they have between 12-18 months to get their full certification. When they get it, they get promoted and get the extra money. Mr. Sinicropi said the resolution the Board just passed against this person not getting a raise, tomorrow he is going to file a grievance because the Board violated past practice, singling this person out to not get the raise.

James Varricchio stated two months ago, the Board moved up two W/S Operators who went to the same classes as this employee. The Individuals who moved up passed and got their certifications. Mr. Sahler didn't get his certification until last Friday in the mail. Mr. Varricchio said the Board is going to do this to him now because of that reason.

A motion was made to pay Joshua Sahler an increase in salary of \$2.00 per hour to a salary of \$25.00 per hour for obtaining certifications by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried

4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilwoman Dyson with the dissenting vote.

Kingdom Road Pump Station and Force Main Project – Environmental Review: Mr. Ferrara said Mr. Baker is going to explain the SEQR for this Project. It will not be completed tonight; it will be added to the October 25th Budget Workshop Meeting. He requested that the Board look over the Form carefully, and the process will be completed October 25th.

Mr. Baker stated this is a 12-page document; Part I is supporting information; Part II goes through potential impacts, and Part III identifies those impacts and talks about how they will be mitigated. He referred to documentation and said we have to show at least a 30-day window. The letters that they received back, Seneca County, DOT and Department of Agriculture, state they have no objections for the Town to serve as lead agency; no other feedback has been received yet. Mr. Ferrara asked if this has to be done by November 3, 4 or 5; Mr. Baker replied this is part of the reason if the Town chooses to apply for a grant. You want to have SEQR done before the bond resolution.

Mr. Morrell advised the Board to look over the document, and said they are available for any questions beforehand and also at the October 25th Meeting.

Water/Sewer Credits:

A motion was made to approve the Water/Sewer credits in the amount of \$323.64 as per attached Memo dated October 5, 2021 by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dave DeLelys. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Any Other New Business:

Approve Filling the Recreation Leader Position: A motion was made to fill the position of Recreation Leader upon the resignation of Paul Russo by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Schedule Public Hearing – Kingdom Road Project/Equalization Tank: A motion was made to schedule a Public Hearing for Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. relative to a bonding resolution for the Kingdom Road Project and Equalization Tank by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Doug Avery. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Babbitt asked about getting the servicemen's names on the windows in the Atrium. Mrs. Jones replied the people who were on that Committee aren't around any longer. She will check into it.

Payment of Bills:

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve and order paid the following bills:

General Fund - \$349,849.76 (Abstract #10)	Recreation Fund - \$45,512.95 (Abstract #10)
Miscellaneous Fund - \$134,726.87 (Abstract #10)	Vince's Park Fund - \$9,501.57 (Abstract #10)
Highway Fund - \$48,941.73 (Abstract #10)	Sewer Fund - \$139,648.40 (Abstract #10)
Water Fund - \$198,074.55 (Abstract #10)	

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Dave DeLelys and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

