

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Public Hearing and regular monthly Meeting on Tuesday, September 6, 2022 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street, Seneca Falls.

Present were Supervisor Michael Ferrara; Councilpersons Frank Sinicropi, Steven Churchill, Dawn Dyson and Kaitlyn Laskoski. Also present were Peter Soccia, Town Manager; Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town; Peter Porcelli, Zoning Officer; Deborah Von Wald, Assessor; Stuart Peenstra, Police Chief; Joseph Tullo, Chief WWTP Operator; Sarah Wright, Principal Account Clerk and Lesen Haracz, Town Engineer.

Supervisor Ferrara opened the regular monthly Meeting at 6:00 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Public Hearing – Water Treatment Plant Improvements: A motion was made to open the Public Hearing by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. Haracz stated in June, they submitted a preliminary engineering report which included improvements to the Water Treatment Plant as well as the water distribution system. The Water Treatment Plant was constructed in 1939, and there has been minimal improvements since then. She said there are quite a few important upgrades that need to be made. They summarized in the preliminary report a number of improvements that they recommend making. Ms. Haracz stated we are applying for a WIIA Grant which the maximum amount of funding would be \$5 million. She noted this is not binding – what is being done today is just setting us up to apply for the Grant, and hopefully, achieve that grant funding. This application will only be for the Water Treatment Plant.

Mr. Ferrara stated \$24 million is a lot of money. He said part of the NYSERDA study looks at the distribution part of the project, as there are still some parts of the Town that do not have water. It also looks at sewer lines.

Mr. Churchill mentioned that there should be County water and sewer. Mr. Ferrara said that is being studied by MRB at the County. Mrs. Laskoski asked if there will be any other projected grants that we can apply for. Ms. Haracz replied she is not certain if there are any additional applications, but she can look into it.

The question was asked as to details of what the improvements are. Ms. Haracz replied the engineering report is available with the Town Clerk – it includes the Water Plant improvements and the distribution system; this is just for the Water Plant improvements. Mr. Ferrara said it will be put on line. He told Ms. Haracz that she did a great job of highlighting the different high points of the project.

Being there were no further comments, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Civilian Life Saving Award: Chief Peenstra stated the Seneca Falls Police Department believes in recognizing civilians, their actions and their outstanding efforts and service to the Community. In keeping with this belief, the Town of Seneca Falls and the Seneca Falls Police Department recognizes Hannah M. Sullivan for outstanding efforts that occurred June 11, 2022. The SF Police received a call regarding someone who fell into the Seneca-Cayuga Canal in the area of the Ovid Street Bridge. Someone was attempting to rescue that person; that someone was 16 year old Hannah Sullivan from Romulus. Hannah could see that the person was having trouble staying above water, and with disregard of her own safety, jumped into the Canal. She was able to help the young person stay above water until a nearby boat responded to help. Hannah's quick response, recognition of the severity of the emergency and immediate actions resulted in saving the life of a 14 year old girl.

Petitioners:

Harriet Haynes: Ms. Haynes was not present.

Jacqueline House – Concerns pertaining to Cayuga Nation: Ms. House was not present.

Allison Stokes: Allison Stokes stated she is here to speak about two Citizens who made tremendous contributions to our Community – Councilman David DeLelys and Wilhelmina Pasmucans, Founder of the Ludovico Sculpture Trail, both have passed away. She spoke of the Ceremony honoring Dave in Veterans Square in which a tree and plaque were dedicated. Dave felt his biggest accomplishments in life were his duty to serve the people. He served two years on the Village Board and eight years on the Seneca Falls Town Board.

Ms. Stokes stated in 1998, Frank and Julia Ludovico deeded their property along the canal to Wilhelmina to

establish a sculpture trail. The Trail – it's a magical place. It's where art and nature meet. She mentioned that a portion of the DRI funds is earmarked for the Trail which is important. Ms. Stokes said if you haven't walked the Trail its full length, if you are able, you must.

Cayuga Nation Issues: Karen Wylie of Ken-Mor Estates stated in the last couple of days, there has been an increase in activity between the Seneca tribe and Cayuga Nation. She asked if the Board Members had seen the video of what went down on Garden Street Extension, and asked what is happening and what are we doing. She lives near their farmland, and they are now doing target practice with AR15s. Mr. Ferrara stated that he, Chief Peenstra, the Police Department and the Town Board are working trying to get other law enforcement agencies at the Federal level to help intercede as much as we can. Mrs. Wylie said she called two places and they said they would get back to her; now when she calls, they must see her number and they don't answer.

Celeste Dyson stated her grandson was on Garden Street when this all went down. She said no one is protecting her and her family when Nation Police act recklessly in dealing with tribal members who don't support Clint Halftown. She said from now on, they are standing up for themselves. Mr. Ferrara stated we are doing everything in our ability to make an effort to bring some type of resolution to the issue. He added we can't arrest Cayuga Nation Police. Chief Peenstra went on to explain that the Cayuga Nation Police are recognized by the Federal Government as a law enforcement agency, whether you like it or not. They have law enforcement authority over native Americans on Indian owned land, and the BIA has stated that 64,000 acres is Indian land. The Chief stated they are actively investigating the incident that happened on Garden Street, and they are asking anyone who has information on that to come in. Lengthy discussion followed.

Jacqueline House, a Cayuga Nation Member, agreed with those who place the blame on Clint Halftown and his tactics. She accused Halftown of terrorism against the Cayuga Nation. Clint Halftown is one man that has no title. In their constitution, they have Chiefs and Clan Mothers, and they are being ignored by everybody. Ms. House mentioned the tribal courts which she said does not belong on their territory; they govern themselves through natural laws. She asked who would be responsible for the bloodshed if it comes down to that. Mr. Ferrara said he can't answer that question. After further statements from Ms. House, she thanked the Board for allowing her to speak. Mr. Ferrara thanked her for her time, and said we are trying to figure it out as much as we possibly can.

After further discussion, Mr. Ferrara suggested that a lot of these arguments that are being made should go to the Federal Government and make appeals and send it to your Representative Chuck Schumer. He said it's not a Seneca Falls issue – it's a Federal Government issue.

Recognition of Jim Peterson: Mr. Ferrara stated he has the pleasure of recognizing a very dedicated employee of Seneca Falls. He presented Mr. Peterson with a plaque in recognition of his 33 years of service to the Town of Seneca Falls. Mr. Ferrara stated he has done nothing but made his job easier which he appreciates. On behalf of the Town Board and the people of Seneca Falls, Mr. Ferrara thanked Mr. Peterson for his service.

Mr. Peterson stated he had a good run for 33 years with the Town. He worked with a great bunch of Department Heads and Board Members and appreciate everything they have done, also the employees of the Town. Mr. Peterson thanked his family, and especially his wife, for putting up with the late night calls.

At 6:55 P.M. a motion was made to go into Executive Session for specific personnel reasons by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the regular Meeting at 7:15 P.M. by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of July 26, 2022 by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular monthly Meeting of August 2, 2022 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of August 25, 2022 by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Communications:

Mr. Ferrara noted there were six Communications, which include minutes of the Zoning Board, Planning Board and HPC. Mr. Sinicropi mentioned that there was something in the Planning Board minutes that talked about the Cayuga Nation. Mr. Ferrara stated it's for the growing facility which they want to build here on Ovid Street.

Old Business:

Sale of Surplus Property – 60 State Street: Mr. Morrell stated 60 State Street has been transferred. The Purchasers of the property also own Café 19, and they intend to turn this into a restaurant. He said some of the DRI funding will be involved with this project. Mr. Morrell stated he delivered the check to the Town Clerk, along with vouchers for some of the expenses related to the closing. He noted that it will be back on the Town's tax rolls shortly.

Resolution – Comprehensive Plan: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Seneca Falls has expressed a desire to update the Town's Comprehensive Planning document; and

WHEREAS, MRB Group has submitted a proposal for \$29,500 to provide administrative services and technical support for the development of this document.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby accepts the proposal from MRB Group and authorizes the Supervisor to execute the necessary documents to enter into a contract for the sum of \$29,500 for these services.

Mrs. Laskoski stated she doesn't think this is the right time to do this – would it be more appropriate once we do the DRI. She mentioned the Cayuga Nation, and said there are a variety of things going on right now – is now the right time to do it. Mr. Soscia replied he would suggest, exactly for those reasons, that now is the time to do it. He added this is an opportunity to give voice to people and build Community, and hopefully, that's how that project goes. Mrs. Laskoski asked if we have the funds to do this; Mr. Ferrara replied yes, there are funds, but if you want to include it in the 2023 budget as a line item, you can certainly do that as well. He added Mr. Churchill emphasized the importance of the Comprehensive Plan, and he is 100% right since the last one was done with the Village and the Town. Brief discussion followed.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution accepting the proposal of MRB Group to provide administrative services and technical support for development of a Comprehensive Plan was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Mrs. Laskoski with the dissenting vote.

Mr. Ferrara said verse coming back with another resolution for transfer of money, he asked if any of the Board Members would be opposed to add this money as a line item in the 2023 Budget and get the process started in January. Mr. Churchill said do it now – the Board has taken so much money out of Contingency, so what is \$29,500. Mr. Ferrara said they will get it started.

Resolution – TASC Agreement – ACA Reporting: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Federal and State regulations for HRA, COBRA, FMLA, ACA, Medicare Part D and retiree billing impose requirements upon the Town of Seneca Falls with which the Town is required to comply; and

WHEREAS, TASC Corporation, as an agent of the Town's independent insurance agency, has submitted a proposal for \$4,350 to provide such administrative services for the balance of calendar year 2022; and

WHEREAS, TASC Corporation, as an agent of the Town's independent insurance agency, has submitted a proposal for \$8,655 per year to provide such administrative services for calendar years 2023 and 2024.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board authorizes the purchase of these services for calendar year 2022 and the option to purchase these services in 2023 and 2024 if deemed necessary.

Mr. Churchill said he had some questions from retirees in that they have a little fear that their health benefits may change – this has no impact on that. Mr. Soscia replied absolutely not – this is reporting to the Federal Government and filing paperwork.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution relative to the TASC Agreement and ACA Reporting was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

New Business:

Approval of Special Events: There were no Special Events

Resolution – Proposed Local Law – Signage: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski 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 amend the Town Code as it relates to Signs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law No. _____ of the Year 2022 entitled “A Local Law to Amend Section 300-54 of the Seneca Falls Town Code” 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 Local Law be laid upon the desk of each Member of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid proposed Local Law be referred to the Seneca County and Seneca Falls Planning Boards for review and recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a Public Hearing on said proposed Local Law at 6:00 P.M. on October 4, 2022; 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 ten (10) days prior thereto.

Mr. Sinicropi referred to the sentence -Signs should not be located in a public right-of-way, and asked what the right-of-way was. Mr. Logue replied from the centerline of the road and typically the sidewalk. Mr. Sinicropi said he lives down the Lake and on his road, he will be on the right-of-way. Mr. Ferrara said he can put a sign in his yard, but not in the right-of-way.

Mrs. Laskoski referred to flags, and asked if there were any changes in flags – political flags in particular – how are they going to be affected in this. Mr. Morrell replied there is a long list of exemptions. He explained exemptions as it pertains to flags. Brief discussion followed.

Mrs. Laskoski asked what the potential was as far as enforcement when it comes to freedom of speech. Mr. Morrell stated the exemption he talked about is really for that purpose – to ensure that everybody is allowed to say what they wish; we are not restricting people from the ability to do so.

Mr. Churchill stated this was born out of the desire to try to address some of the profanity on signs – this is not going to solve the problem. He said we are just making things more restrictive when we don't have a problem to start with. Mr. Porcelli stated we do have an issue with political signs and profanity. He mentioned that a lot of people call or email him and file a complaint. Mr. Churchill asked what can you do about it. Mr. Porcelli replied nothing - that's the point of restricting the number of signs. Further discussion followed.

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the above resolutions to schedule a Public Hearing for proposed Local Law regarding signage was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SEQR Resolution – Lead Agency Intent (Signs): A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as “Town Board”) has reviewed the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part 1 prepared by MRB Grtoup (hereinafter referred to as” Town Engineer”) on the above referenced Town of Seneca Falls “Local Law Amending Chapter 300 of the Town of Seneca Falls Town Code – Article VI – Section 300-54 Signs” (hereinafter referred to as “Action”); and

WHEREAS, the Town determines that said Action is subject to review by other Interested agencies under the SEQR Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determines that it is the most appropriate agency to ensure the coordination of this Action and will provide written notifications to interested agencies, for the purpose of conducting a coordinated review and making the determination of significance thereon under the SEQR Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has prepared and submitted the standard Town Project SEQR Lead Agency Coordination Letter, and a list of interested agencies; and

WHEREAS, there are no identified Involved Agencies for this Project, only Interested Agencies which include the following: Seneca County Planning Board, Town of Seneca Falls Planning Board, Town of Tyre Town Board, Town of Waterloo Town Board, Town of Fayette Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby classify the proposed Action as a Type 1 Action as is further defined under Part 617.5 of the SEQR Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby declare its intent to be designated as the Lead Agency for the Action and directs the Town Supervisor to sign and date the full EAF Part 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer is directed to provide notice hereof to the above listed interested agencies, seeking a response in writing on or before noon on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution - Proposed Local Law – Short Term Rentals: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls believes it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code to address Short Term Rentals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law No. _____ of the year 2022 entitled “A Local Law to Amend Chapter 300 of the Seneca Falls Town Code to add Section 300-45A Short Term Rentals” 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 be laid upon the desks of each Member of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid proposed local law be referred to the Seneca County and Seneca Falls Planning Boards for review and recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board hold a Public Hearing on said proposed local law at 6:00 P.M. on October 4, 2022; 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 ten (10) days prior thereto.

Mr. Sinicropi mentioned that the Board hasn't set fees yet. Mr. Morrell stated at each Reorganizational Meeting in January, the Board has a list of fees for a lot of different things – this would be one of those.

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the above resolution to schedule a Public Hearing for proposed local law for Short Term Rentals was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SEQR Resolution – Lead Agency Intent (Short Term Rentals): A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as “Town Board”) has reviewed the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) Full Environmental Assessment Form (“EAF”)

Part 1 prepared by MRB Group (hereinafter referred to as “Town Engineer”) on the above referenced Town of Seneca Falls “Local Law Amending Chapter 300 of the Town of Seneca Falls Town Code – Article 5 – Section 300-45, Short Term Rentals” local law is being introduced to the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as “Action”); and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determines that said Action is subject to review by other interested agencies under SEQR regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determines that it is the most appropriate agency to ensure the coordination of this Action and will provide written notifications to interested agencies for the purpose of conducting a coordinated review and making the determination of significance thereon under SEQR regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has prepared and submitted the standard Town Project SEQR Lead Agency Coordination letter, a list of Interested Agencies; and

WHEREAS, there are no identified Involved Agencies for this Project, only Interested Agencies which include the following: Seneca County Planning Board, Town of Seneca Falls Planning Board, Town of Tyre Town Board, Town of Waterloo Town Board, Town of Fayette Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby classify the proposed Action as a Type 1 Action and is further defined under Part 617.5 of the SEQR regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby declare its intent to be designated as the lead agency for the Action and directs the Town Supervisor to sign and date the Full EAF Part1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer is directed to provide notice hereof to the above listed interested agencies, seeking a response in writing on or before noon on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Proposed Local Law – Anaerobic Digester Facilities: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski 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 amend the Town Code to address Anaerobic Digester Facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that proposed Local Law No. _____ of the year 2022 entitled “A Local Law to Amend Chapter 300 of the Seneca Falls Town Code to add Article XVI – Anaerobic Digester Facilities” be and the same is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls, NY; and

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law be laid upon the desks of each Member of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the aforesaid proposed local law be referred to the Seneca County and Seneca Falls Planning Boards for review and recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board will hold a public hearing on said proposed Local Law at 6:00 P.M. on October 4, 2022; 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 ten (10) days prior thereto.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SEQR Resolution – Lead Agency Intent (Anaerobic Digester Facilities): A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as “Town Board”) has reviewed the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”) Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) Part 1 prepared by MRB Group (hereinafter referred to as “Town Engineer”) on the above referenced Town of Seneca Falls “A Local Law Amending Chapter 300 of the Town of Seneca Falls Town Code- Article XVI – Anaerobic Digester Facilities” local law is being introduced to the Town Board (hereinafter referred to as “Action”); and WHEREAS, the Town Board determines that said Action is subject to review by other interested agencies under SEQR regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determines that it is the most appropriate agency to ensure the coordination of this Action and will provide written notifications to interested agencies for the purpose of conducting a coordinated review and making the determination of significance thereon under SEQR Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer has prepared and submitted the standard Town Project SEQR Lead Agency Coordination letter to a list of Interested Agencies; and

WHEREAS, there are no identified Involved Agencies for this Project, only Interested Agencies which include the following: Seneca County Planning Board, Town of Seneca Falls Planning Board, Town of Tyre Town Board, Town of Waterloo Town Board, Town of Fayette Town Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby classify the proposed Action as a Type 1 action as is further defined under Part 617.5 of SEQR regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby declare its intent to be designated as lead agency for the Action and directs the Town Supervisor to sign and date the Full EAF Part 1; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Engineer be directed to provide notice hereof to the above listed interested agencies, seeking a response in writing on or before noon on Tuesday, October 4, 2022.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any questions relative to reports of Department Heads. Mr. Sinicropi referred to the Water Treatment Plant and said we are not closing the water plant – the water is good, everything is good; people shouldn’t be panicking – everything is good.

Mr. Churchill said he thought we went to UV a few years back, and now the recommendation is to go to chlorine. Mr. Tullo noted they are using both. Ms. Haracz said they are recommending chlorine. Brief discussion followed.

Resolution – Water Treatment Plant Improvements: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the attached “Order After Public Hearing Authorizing Increase and Improvement of Facilities of the Town of Seneca Falls Water Treatment Plant Under Town Law Section 202-B”.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SEQR Resolution – Water Treatment Plant Improvements: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls (Town) is proposing the Town of Seneca Falls Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project (Project) located in the Town of Fayette, Seneca County, New York; and

WHEREAS, many components of the Town’s Water Treatment Plant are aging and in need of upgrades to extend their useful design life, and a significant portion of the Town’s water intake pipe in Cayuga Lake is clogged with mussels and debris; and

WHEREAS, the Project involves the replacement and rehabilitation of existing components of the Town’s Water Treatment Plant, and cleaning of the existing intake pipe; and

WHEREAS, the Project is classified as a “Type II Action” as defined by the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) in 6 NYCRR Part 617.5; and

WHEREAS, the Project qualifies as a Type II Action under 6 NYCRR Part 617.5©(2): “rehabilitation or reconstruction of a structure or facility, in kind, on the same site, including upgrading buildings to meet building or fire codes, unless such action meets or exceeds any of the thresholds in Section 617.4 of this part; and

WHEREAS, the Project does not meet or exceed any of the thresholds established in Section 617.4; and

WHEREAS, actions defined in Section 617.5© are not subject to environmental review under SEQR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the proposed Project qualifies as a Type II action under SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that no further review under SEQRA is required for the Project.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Bond Resolution – Water Treatment Plant Improvements: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded

by Dawn Dyson to adopt the attached “Bond Resolution Authorizing the Construction of Improvements to the Seneca Falls Water Treatment Plant at an Estimated Maximum Cost of \$24,190,900, Appropriating said Amount therefore, and Authorizing the Issuance of up to \$24,190,900 of Bond Anticipation Notes and Serial Bonds of the Town to pay the Cost of the Project”.

Mr. Churchill stated for the record, there is no obligation or commitment on the part of the Town to move forward with any of this. Mr. Ferrara said that’s correct.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above Bond Resolution relative to the Water Treatment Plant Improvements was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resignation of Court Clerk Lisa Hochadel: Mr. Ferrara stated Lisa Hochadel tendered her resignation as Court Clerk to the Town Justice for the Town of Seneca Falls Court, effective August 12, 2022.

A motion was made to accept Lisa Hochadel’s resignation as Town of Seneca Falls Court Clerk effective August 12, 2022 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara wished Ms. Hochadel the best of luck on behalf of the Town Board. Mr. Sinicropi asked what they were going to do with that position. Mr. Soscia said he spoke with the Judges, and it will be discussed when the Board does the Budget.

Resignation of Police Officer Jason DeChick: Mr. Ferrara stated Police Officer Jason DeChick has accepted a position of County Police Officer with the Ontario County Office of Sheriff, effective August 21, 2022.

A motion was made to accept the resignation of Police Officer Jason DeChick with regret, effective August 21, 2022 by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara thanked Officer DeChick for his years of service to the Town and wished him the best of luck.

Resolution – Appoint Interim Highway Superintendent: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Highway Superintendent retired on August 25, 2022, creating the vacancy; and
WHEREAS, the interim appointment will commence on September 7, 2022 and will conclude on December 31, 2023, a period of time that completes the former Highway Superintendent’s 4-year elected term; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Wendt will serve at the will of the Seneca Falls Town Board and may be terminated as the Interim Highway Superintendent by the said Board; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Wendt’s immediate supervisor will be the Town Manager; and
WHEREAS, the possible termination as the Interim Highway Superintendent would not necessarily result in the termination of Mr. Wendt from his Civil Service appointment; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Wendt will be paid a stipend of \$12,000, prorated for 2022 and the full amount for 2023, in addition to his hourly rate for 2022 and 2023 including overtime pay.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls, effective September 6, 2022, appoints Jeremy Wendt to the position of Interim Highway Superintendent for the Town of Seneca Falls for a \$12,000 yearly stipend.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara stated Mr. Wendt comes with the recommendation of Mr. Peterson. Mr. Ferrara has met with him, and is confident that he will pick it up. There are some vacancies in the Department that they are working on.

Approve Budgeted Contribution – It’s A Wonderful Life Museum: A motion was made to approve the release of the funds appropriated in the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$7,000 to the It’s a Wonderful Life Museum by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Update Vehicle Use Policy: A motion was made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of Seneca Falls has expressed a desire to update the Town of Seneca Falls Employee Handbook to modify the Vehicle Usage policy; and

WHEREAS, Paragraph 2 of the current policy reads as follows;

“Town vehicles must be assigned to specific Town officials and employees for specific purposes and tasks. Except for the Superintendent of Highways, said vehicles may not be used for any unauthorized purpose nor to

conduct personal, private or non-town related business. The Superintendent of Highways is permitted unrestricted usage of the assigned vehicle, however, all non-related travel shall be tracked and reported for IRS purposes”.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby accepts the proposal to change Section 507, Paragraph 2 of the Employee Handbook to read as follows:

“Town vehicles must be assigned to specific Town officials and employees for specific purposes and tasks. Unless specified as a term of employment, said vehicles may not be used for any unauthorized purpose nor to conduct personal, private or non-related Town business”.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Create Capital Reserve Fund for DRI Projects: A motion was made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town is slated to receive funds from the State for the DRI Projects; and

WHEREAS, the Town has allocated the DRI funds to projects, and bills are starting to come in.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board does hereby authorize the creation of a DRI Capital fund, and authorizes the modification to transfer \$10,000 from the Contingency Fund A1990.400 to the Capital Project Fund expenditures H4-8997.200 to cover the initial cost.

Mr. Ferrara stated this relates to the three public projects – SF Community Center, Visitors Center and the north side of the Canal. The Board appointed MRB as Administrator of the Grant, and Miss Wright is working with the Auditors to set up the reserve fund. Mr. Sinicropi asked when will the money be forthcoming; Mr. Ferrara replied after Phase I of construction, money starts coming in. Discussion followed relative to amount of money in the Contingency Fund.

The above motion made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the above resolution creating a Capital Reserve Fund for DRI Projects was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Resolution – Transfer Funds from Contingency to Cemetery Fund: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, \$22,000 was allocated for the Cemetery Fund for repairs to the Mausoleum in the 2021 Town Budget;

WHEREAS, the repair project did not get completed in 2021 and the funds were returned to the General Fund and not allocated in the 2022 Town Budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls approves the transfer of \$22,000 to the Cemetery Fund to be taken from A1990.400.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Authorize Supervisor to Sign Contract with LaBella (DRI Grant Funds): A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls was awarded three DRI Grants: 1. Heritage Visitors Center 2. Community and Recreation Center 3. North Canalside Enhancements; and

WHEREAS, Request for Proposals were solicited for the design and construction management of the Projects;

WHEREAS, a committee including Greg Zollers, Joelle Murney-Karsten and the Town Supervisor reviewed the RFPs; and

WHEREAS, the committee utilized a rating sheet recommended by the Department of State that scored based on experience, scope timeline, fees, relevant projects, familiarity of State requirements, client references and knowledge of local construction market; and

WHEREAS, the committee’s evaluations were also reviewed and approved by the Department of State; and

WHEREAS, all three projects will be considered as separate projects: \$57,000 for the Heritage Visitors Center, \$46,900 for the Community Center and \$3,450,000 for northside of the Canal.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a contract with LaBella for construction management and design for a total of \$448,900 plus an additional \$100,000 depending on New York State Electric and Gas design costs.

Mr. Churchill stated as a Board, normally it would see who the other folks are who submitted an RFP rather than just LaBella. Mr. Ferrara replied there were three other proposals which he has. Mr. Churchill asked what their proposals were; Mr. Ferrara replied LaBella was the lowest of all of them and has the most experience. Mr. Churchill said since they are the lowest, he doesn’t have a problem, although it’s a lot of money.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the above resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign a contract with LaBella was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Schedule Public Hearing – Application for CDBG Economic Development Grant Funding: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Town of Seneca Falls, Seneca County, supports the submission of a 2022 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) for a CDBG Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP) grant of \$210,000 on behalf of the Town; and

WHEREAS, New York State Office of Community Renewal (NYS OCR) is soliciting applications through the CFA from eligible towns to support the start-up and growth of all businesses with fewer than five employees, particularly those that are owned by or that will create new jobs for low and moderate income (LM) individuals;

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls was recognized as a Downtown Revitalization Initiative community in 2019, and maintains a Federal and State recognized historic central business district, with acres of historic and architectural assets, shopping, services and recreational amenities; and

WHEREAS, if funding is received, it will allow the Town of Seneca Falls to establish a grant program providing financial support and technical assistance for the start-up of growth of small businesses seeking to locate in the area of the central business district, further advancing existing and ongoing revitalization strategies; and

WHEREAS, the funding agency requires a Public Hearing to be held to collect citizen feedback on the community and economic development needs of the Town of Seneca Falls and the proposed program prior to submission of said application.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Public Hearing be held on October 4, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. pursuant to New York State Open Meetings Law and the requirements of NYS OCR concerning the proposed application for CDBG Economic Development Grant funding submitted herewith.

Mr. Ferrara stated this is for grant money to help start a program to revitalize downtown; it's an attempt to fill some of the empty store fronts. Mr. Churchill noted that CDBG grants are also available through the County.

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the above resolution scheduling a Public Hearing for an application for CDBG Grant funding was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Authorize Town Supervisor to Sign Contract for Replacement of Water Meters: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls solicited for bidders to replace all water meters with Radio Transmitter and Installation Labor, including Reading Network and all Software and Training; and

WHEREAS, there was one (1) lone bidder for the Project; and

WHEREAS, the lone bid was reviewed and approved by engineers and grant administrators from MRB Group; and

WHEREAS, the single bid from Core and Main LP was for \$2,200,725.95; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) of \$1,285,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a contract with Core and Main LP for the Water Meter Replacement Project for \$2,200,725.95 with the understanding the scope of the Project may be reduced depending on Town resources.

Mr. Ferrara stated the grant money the Town will receive is \$1,285,000; the Board will have to decide if they want to fund the rest of the project. He would like to budget for this in the 2023 Budget. He mentioned that we can allocate Landfill revenue, and mentioned that we have ARPA money that can be applied to this. Mr. Churchill asked if the Board should decide that – it's not prudent to sign a contract to spend \$2.2 million when we only have \$1.2 million in hand. Mr. Ferrara noted in the contract it states that the scope of the Project may be reduced depending on Town resources. Further discussion followed.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign a contract for replacement of water meters was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

W/S Resolution – Transfer Funds for Watermain Repair Parts and Materials for Services: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board realizes the need for parts in the Watermain repair parts line item F8340.439 and Materials for services line item F8340.440; and

WHEREAS, there is enough in line item F8340.212 (Vac Truck) due to the sale of our old Vac truck to transfer such funds to cover the cost.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Seneca Falls Town Board does hereby authorize the budget modifications / transfer of \$22,000 from F8340.212 to F8340.439 \$14,000, and F8340.440 \$8,000.

After brief discussion, the above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the above resolution transferring funds for watermain repair parts and materials for services was carried 5 ayes,
0 nays.

Parks & Recreation Resolution – Reclassification of Building Maintenance Mechanic Position: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Wyatt Nicholson retired from Town of Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation on August 15, 2022 as a Building Maintenance Mechanic; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation would like to alter its operation to that the position of Building Maintenance Mechanic could be replaced with the position Cleaner/Groundskeeper; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation has filed an application with the Seneca County Civil Service Office to reclassify the position from Building Maintenance Mechanic to Cleaner/Groundskeeper; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Parks and Recreation would like to fill the reclassified vacant position with a Cleaner/Groundskeeper.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board approves the reclassification from Building Maintenance Mechanic to Cleaner/Groundskeeper and approves advertising for the position of Cleaner/Groundskeeper.

Mr. Ferrara stated this is more of a formality with the County Civil Service. The position has to be abolished before they can solicit applications for a Cleaner/Groundskeeper.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution reclassifying the Building Maintenance Mechanic Position was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Water/Sewer Credits: A motion was made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve the Water/Sewer credits totaling \$198.36 as per Memo dated September 6, 2022.

Mrs. Dyson mentioned that there are no leaks, utilities are not running -nothing has changed in the house. She asked why are we giving them a credit of \$198.36. Miss Wright replied she believes they left the water hose on overnight. Brief discussion followed.

The above motion made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve the Water/Sewer credits totaling \$198.36 did not carry as the vote was 2 ayes, 3 nays; Councilwomen Laskoski and Dyson and Councilman Sinicropi with the dissenting votes.

Payment of Bills:

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

General Fund - \$203,440.37 (Abstract #9)

Recreation Fund - \$26,438.04 (Abstract #9)

Miscellaneous Fund - \$30,955.57 (Abstract #9)

Vince's Park Fund - \$8,311.10 (Abstract #9)

Highway Fund - \$23,426.62 (Abstract #9)

Sewer Fund - \$87,709.36 (Abstract #9)

Water Fund - \$212,929.38 (Abstract #9)

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER

Town Clerk

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Special Meeting on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

Present were Supervisor Michael Ferrara; Councilpersons Frank Sinicropi, Dawn Dyson and Kaitlyn Laskoski. Also present was Peter Soscia, Town Manager.

Mr. Ferrara called the Meeting to order at 12:00 Noon. A roll call of Board Members was taken and Councilman Churchill was absent from the Meeting. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

At 12:02 P.M, a motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue per Public Officers Law Section 105F by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the Special Meeting at 12:15 P.M. by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Town's Chief of Police will be retiring on December 31, 2022, creating the vacancy; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board conducted internal interviews for the position; and
WHEREAS, Lt. Snyder will become the Interim Chief of Police on January 1, 2023 for an annual salary of \$94,770, and will be required to successfully complete the Chief of Police Civil Service exam by December 1, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls, effective January 1, 2023, appoints Timothy Snyder to the position of Interim Police Chief.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 1 nay; Councilwoman Laskoski with the dissenting vote.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk

