

The Seneca Falls Town Board held three Public Hearings and a Meeting on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street.

Present were Supervisor Michael Ferrara; Councilpersons Frank Sinicropi, Steven Churchill, Dawn Dyson and Kaitlyn Laskoski. Also present were Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town; James Peterson, Highway Superintendent; Peter Porcelli; Zoning Officer; Stuart Peenstra, Police Chief; Deborah VonWald, Assessor; Mary Jones, Interim Recreation Director; Joseph Tullo, Chief WWTP Operator and Town Engineer Peter Baker.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law – Zoning Law Change – Solar Energy Systems: At 6:00 P.M. a motion was made to open the Public Hearing relative to a local law amending Chapter 300 of Town Code by adding Solar Energy Systems by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any comments from the Town Board or public regarding the local law. Since there were no 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.

Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law – Zoning Law Change – Battery Storage Systems: At 6:02 P.M., a motion was made to open the Public Hearing relative to a local law amending Chapter 300 of Town Code by adding Battery Energy Storage Systems by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any comments from the Town Board or public regarding the local law. Since there were no comments, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara stated a lot of work has gone into these laws through the joint committee of Zoning and Planning. This put restrictions on any projects that are going to happen.

Public Hearing – Proposed Joint Consolidation Agreement: At 6:05 P.M., a motion was made to open the Public Hearing relative to the proposed Consolidation Agreement which would consolidate the existing Townwide Sewer District, Bridgeport Sewer District and West Seneca Falls Sewer District into the Townwide Sewer District by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there were any comments from the Town Board or public regarding the Consolidation Agreement. Since there were no comments, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Supervisor Ferrara opened the regular monthly Meeting at 6:07 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken and all were present; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Ferrara gave the following update as to some of the things that are happening in Seneca Falls:

- We are in the process of replacing some shut-off valves on State Street which will help to isolate watermain breaks more efficiently. One of the goals this Summer is to replace valves that are 100 years old and don't work, so that it will avoid having to shut the whole system down if there is a watermain break.
- The next thing the Zoning and Planning Committee will be working on is adding requirements for anaerobic digesters. They will also be looking at some language in our laws that will have an impact on political signs that are throughout the Town.
- Cayuga Nation purchased 126 E. Bayard Street from Cayuga Nation of Oklahoma. Cayuga Nation of Oklahoma had rented out the property to a faction of the Cayuga Nation; since then, the property was sold to the Halftown faction. The Cayuga Nation has now opened up 100% as a gas station and convenience store with sale of cannabis, cigarettes, etc. A zoning violation has been issued to them, the same as was issued to the previous Cayuga Nation faction. If they don't respond to that, a second violation notice will be issued, and if there is no response to that, it will be in front of Town Court.
- There is also an issue at 2133 Lower Lake Road, a similar situation as 126 E. Bayard Street. Violation notices have been sent out to them. Also, a storage shed was put on the property without a zoning permit; if no response, it will be in front of Town Court.
- Chief Peenstra has reached out to the New York State cannabis Office to explain our situation with the Native Americans in our Community as far as selling cannabis. They did respond and said they will get back to us at some point.
- The Landfill Committee held a Meeting with SMI Officials, and they presented to them five things they would like to have some movement on, one being odor control modifications. Other things were

independent odor reporting, reducing traffic in downtown Seneca Falls and Waterloo, a plan to reduce organic waste from their customers, and suggestions to the Town in developing a green movement as we move forward in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

- Advertisements and job descriptions have gone out for the Town Manager's position. Letters and resumes are due back to the Town Supervisor by March 14<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ferrara appointed a committee who will be involved in interviews and selection to bring to the Town Board. The Committee consists of Mr. Ferrara, Assessor Deborah VonWald, Chief WWTP Operator Joseph Tullo, Town Board Member Frank Sinicropi, Community Representative Gerald Macaluso and Senior Account Clerk Sarah Wright. They will get back to the Board with a recommendation in April or May.
- RFPs have gone out to solicit engineering firms for the Water Meter Replacement project which is a requirement by the Environmental Facilities Corporation which is the provider of the 1.285 million Grant.
- Transitioning is continuing in the Water, Sewer and Finance Office in preparation of Mrs. Warfel's upcoming retirement.
- The block building on the corner of South Street and Bridge Street has been insulated and the overhead door replaced. They are waiting for the heater to be put in, and hopefully, it will be painted this Spring. It will be a functional building for the repair and maintenance for departments in the winter.
- Mr. Ferrara said a couple of months ago, he came to the Board and said we were over budget on the Women's Statute. They did some work, and with the help of Greg Zellers, they found out some things were mis-allocated. It will not cost the taxpayers any money, and there is a small balance in the account.
- The building portion of the DRI has been introduced to Town Residents in the Sackett District and the Fall Street footprint; deadline for applications has been extended to March 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ferrara explained that this is \$600,000 of the DRI that is just geared for building improvements from property owners that are not part of any project in the DRI.
- Along with the DRI, there will be a resolution authorizing the Town Supervisor to sign contracts with the State. There are three projects in the DRI that comes under the Town's umbrella – the Visitor's Center, Community Center and the streetscape work behind Fall Street on the north side of the Canal. There is a 5-year window from the signing of the contracts to the completion of the projects. The next steps will be putting out RFPs for the administration of the Grant, and bidding out for engineering and planning for the projects.
- The new menu for calling the Town Offices is in place. It is only for the Town Offices and has nothing to do with the Police Department.
- The Huntington building is finally coming to some movement; Home Leasing plans to close in April. They have completed their plans and are going out to bid. They are very optimistic about shovel in the ground in May.

#### Petitioners:

Jean Gilroy – Landfill Odors: Jean Gilroy, 1872 Gravel Road, said she is very happy to hear that Mr. Ferrara set up a meeting with SMI. On February 8<sup>th</sup>, she reported odor which was horrendous. It came into her house, and it was on the backs of her dogs when they came into the house. She called the Landfill and they came and sat in her driveway, never getting out of the truck or opening a window, and drove away five minutes later. Mrs. Gilroy stated the next day, she emailed Mr. Ferrara, the Town Board and the DEC, and Mr. Ferrara emailed her and said he would look into it. She received an email which said based on the wind direction, SMI could be the odor source. Mrs. Gilroy stated her report, which she doesn't get for 30 days, said no landfill odor.

Mrs. Gilroy referred to an article in the paper which referred to the Landfill's Valley Infill expansion. They have been in touch with Kathy Hocol's Office concerning the Landfill. They sent a Petition to her requesting that she direct the DEC to deny Seneca Meadows Permit application for the Valley Infill expansion. Mrs. Gilroy said they had 1,000 people sign the petition. She wanted to draw this to the attention of the Town Board that this is going on. She urged the Board to not pursue extending the Landfill beyond 2025.

Resignation of Beverly Warfel: Mr. Ferrara stated last month the Board approved, with regret, the retirement resignation of the Principal Account Clerk Beverly Warfel. He mentioned that there was no transition from one Supervisor to the next when he came on as Supervisor. He said the good news is the Town of Seneca Falls has some wonderful people who are very knowledgeable, including the Town Clerk and the Principal Account Clerk who has been here for 21+ years. He mentioned Sara Wright in the Water Department and all those people who helped him in the transition in his first few months. Hopefully, with a Town Manager, we won't have to worry about that anymore.

Mr. Ferrara presented Mrs. Warfel with a plaque in grateful appreciation for her 21 years of dedication and commitment to the Town of Seneca Falls.

At 6:30 P.M., the Board recessed for ten minutes.  
The Board reconvened the regular Meeting at 6:40 P.M.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Special/Informational Meeting of January 24, 2022 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the Public Hearing and Meeting of February 1, 2022 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Communications:

A motion was made to receive and file Communications numbered 1 to 4 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves. Communications numbered 1 to 4 are as follows:

1. Minutes of the Heritage Preservation Commission Meeting of January 25, 2022.
2. Minutes of the Town Planning Board Meeting of January 26, 2022.
3. Minutes of the Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting of January 27, 2022.
4. Monthly Report of all monies received and disbursed during the month of December 2021 from Town Supervisor.

Old Business:

Sale of Surplus Property (115 Fall Street): Mr. Morrell said he has had communications with the Buyer's Attorney, mostly having to do with getting them in talks with the Owner of the rest of the Condominium building. Transfer documents are together and with the Buyer's Attorney. Mr. Morrell said hopefully, this can be finalized by the next Meeting.

Mr. Ferrara stated we are getting close to closing out 60 State Street which is part of the DRI. Mr. Morrell stated the title work is being done and the abstract and survey is being prepared; once that is done, they will get the papers over to the Buyer's Attorney, and hopefully, that can be closed out as well.

New Business:

Approval of Special Events: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to approve the following Special Events as they are a benefit to the Community:

- Seneca Museum of Waterways & Industry Music in the Park Series in Peoples Park – 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM
- Right to Run 19K, Inc., 5K race starting on Bridge Street Bridge on Saturday, July 16, 2022 – 4:00 AM – 12:00 PM.
- It's a Wonderful Life Committee, Antonio Varacalli Celebration on Water Street Bridge, Saturday, April 23, 2022 – 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- SF Parks & Recreation Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday, April 16, 2022 – Kiwanis – 10 AM; SF Parks & Recreation – 10:15 AM to 10:45 AM.
- VFW Post 1323 Kids Easter Egg Hunt in Peoples Park on April 16, 2022 – 11:00-12:00
- Seneca County House of Concern Canal Crawl from Waterloo Locks to SF Community Center – August 6, 2022 – 7:00 AM – 6:00 PM.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 naves.

Proposed Local Law – Zoning Change – Solar Energy Systems: Shaun Logue of MRB Group thanked the Steering Committee who has been working very diligently in putting together some comprehensive codes to address the moratorium. The Board declared its intent to be Lead Agency at their February 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting, and coordination packets were sent out to Interested Agencies. No objections were received from any of the Interested Agencies pertaining to the Board taking Lead Agency. This was referred to the County who gave a favorable recommendation, not only for Solar, but also for Battery Storage. Mr. Logue said the next step in the SEQR process is completing Parts 2 and 3. Since it's not a specific type of solar project, there are no specific impacts to land, water, flooding, environmental issues, etc.

Mr. Logue referred to Part 2 of the SEQR which he completed, and said all boxes were checked "No or Small Impact" (there is no specific project in front of the Board). He said the next step is for the Board to make a determination of significance, whether it's positive or negative.

Mr. Morrell stated the Board has the SEQR form; Part 2 has 18 pages of questions. He noted this is not your typical SEQR review where you have a project; this is a legislative action where the Board is trying to put regulations throughout the Town. He added the purpose of the Law is to reduce any negative impacts, any environmental impacts, any community character impacts and any other impacts that may be associated with a solar project (the same sort of analysis applies to Battery Storage which will be discussed later). Mr. Morrell briefly went through the 18 questions and the potential impacts they referred to. He said the purpose of this Law is to reduce impacts of all those areas.

Mr. Sinicropi said if there is a project that comes before the Planning Board or Zoning Board and one of them is lead agency then they have to go over the whole thing for every project. Mr. Morrell said yes – this is not an approval for a particular project, but any project that would need any kind of approval from either of the Boards. This Local Law differentiates between a small project as opposed to the large fields being referred to as a solar farm. Discussion followed.

Mr. Churchill said he is struggling with understanding the purpose of SEQR for the Local Law. He can see it on a project by project basis, but he doesn't understand why the Board has to do a SEQR for this. Mr. Morrell responded this is what the State requires – it's required by State Law. Further discussion followed relative to the SEQR process.

Resolution – Determination of Environmental Significance: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution relative to Solar Energy Systems:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as "Town Board") has determined the above referenced Action to be a Type 1 Action pursuant to Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed and accepted the completed Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3 on the Action prepared by the MRB Group; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed the public comment period provided for under the SEQR Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has designated itself as lead agency under the SEQR Regulations for making the determination of significance upon said Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7 (c) (1) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls that said Action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts based on the review of the Full Environmental Assessment Form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby make a Determination of Non-Significance on said Action, and the Town Supervisor is hereby directed to issue the Negative Declaration as evidence of the Town Board determination of environmental non-significance.

No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Resolution to Adopt Solar Energy Local Law: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code to include regulations for Solar Energy projects; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid proposed local law was referred to the Seneca County and Town Planning Boards for review and recommendation and each Board recommended approval of this local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed and accepted the completed Full Environmental Assessment Forms Part 1, 2 and 3 on the Action prepared by MRB Group, D.P.C., and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7 © (1) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Full Environmental Assessment Forms Parts 1, 2 and 3; and

WHEREAS, that the Town Board made a Determination of Non-Significance on said Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a public hearing on said Action at 6:00 P.M. on March 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, THAT THE Town Board hereby adopts the local law entitled "Article XIV: Solar Energy Systems".

Mr. Churchill said he will be opposing this based on what he proposed since the beginning – we should be working on the Comprehensive Plan before putting any of these codes in place.

Motion carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Proposed Local Law – Zoning Change – Battery Storage Systems: Mr. Ferrara stated the Board will be doing the exact same thing as the Local Law for Solar Systems.

Resolution – Determination of Environmental Significance: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as "Town Board") has determined the above referenced Action to be a Type 1 Action pursuant to Part 617.7 of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed and accepted the completed full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3 on the Action prepared by the MRB Group; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has completed the public comment period provided for under the SEQR Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has designated itself as lead agency under the SEQR Regulations for making the determination of significance upon said Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7 © (1) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls that said Action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts based on the review of the Full Environmental Assessment Form; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby make a Determination of Non-Significance on said Action, and the Town Supervisor is hereby directed to issue the Negative Declaration as evidence of the Town Board determination of environmental non-significance.

Mr. Logue noted this is very similar to the Solar Energy System ordinance and it follows in tandem with the Solar Code. It went through the same process with the lead agency coordination, County referral who made a favorable recommendation, and Mr. Morrell went through the SEQR Part 2 in regard to the 18 items.

Mr. Morrell referred to Battery Storage and said he doesn't believe we have any in our Town yet. They typically follow the solar farm situation. These project entail – they look like tractor trailers on the property, but in them, they are loaded with sophisticated batteries. Mr. Morrell said the Code is geared towards setbacks, spacing, and keeping them somewhat isolated, as well as insuring that they have emergency plans in place.

Mr. Ferrara said without this local law, if a company came proposing a battery storage facility, it would go before the Planning Board and Zoning Board who would not have any guidelines as to whether to approve or not approve the project. Mr. Ferrara stated this provides a tool for those Boards to make an educated decision.

Mr. Morrell mentioned that the Committee put a lot of time and hard work into this local law., but it is also based on the Statewide Program that is in place for this type of activity.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution making a Determination of Non-Significance for the proposed Battery Storage System local law was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Resolution to Adopt Battery Energy Storage System Local Law: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code to include regulations for Battery Energy Storage projects; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid proposed local law was referred to the Seneca County and Town Planning Boards for review and recommendation and each Board recommended adoption of this local law; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board reviewed and accepted the completed Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3 on the Action prepared by MRB Group, D.P.C.; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7 © (1) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Full Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1, 2 and 3; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board made a Determination of Non-Significance on said Action; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a public hearing on said Action at 6:00 P.M. on March 1, 2022.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the local law entitled "Article XV: Battery Energy Storage Systems".

Mr. Churchill stated he opposes this because he believes the Board should be putting together a comprehensive plan that would provide these Code changes.

Mr. Ferrara noted that he sent an email to the Board about eight weeks ago asking what their feelings were about a comprehensive plan and how they wanted to move forward. He won't say how many responses he got. After brief discussion, Mr. Churchill said this Board needs to discuss that, but not now because here is a question on the table. Mr. Sinicropi said it can be discussed under New Business.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the above resolution adopting the Battery Energy Storage Systems Local Law was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Resolution – Joint Consolidation Agreement: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the attached Joint Consolidation Agreement, consolidating the existing Bridgeport Sewer District and West Seneca Falls Sewer District into the Townwide Sewer District. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Mr. Churchill said maintenance of a sewer district should be paid by the district, not the entire Town. He said not one nickel of his taxes should be going towards any sewer district because he doesn't have sewer. Brief discussion followed.

Fill Vacancy on Board of Assessment Review: A motion was made to appoint Wendy Crane as a Member of the Board of Assessment Review to fill an unexpired term, said term expiring September 30, 2025, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Appoint Alternate Zoning Board of Appeals Member: A motion was made to appoint Christopher Knapp as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, said term to expire December 31, 2022, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Amend Budget Modifications Approved 02/01/2022: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, after approval of payment of bills during the February Meeting, there were expenditure lines in the Budget which were overspent; and

WHEREAS, expenditures must be in balance to submit the Annual Update Document to the State.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board approves amending the Budget Modifications approved at the February Meeting to include those line items overspent in accordance with the amended version of the Budget modifications submitted to the Town Clerk by the Finance Office.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Encumber Funds from 2021 Budget into 2022 Budget: A motion was made by Kaitlyn Laskoski and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Water and Sewer Departments have been setting aside funds by encumbering from year to year to pay for some of the required equipment and projects which are costly in nature; and

WHEREAS, it seems fitting by the Town Board to continue this process to enable a leveling off of expenditures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following encumbrances and budgeted amounts be carried from the 2021 budget year to the 2022 budget year:

F8330.202 – PH Adjustment - \$189,651.11

F8330.212 – Vac Truck - \$ 18,000.00

F8340.212 – Vac Truck - \$ 50,000.00

G8120.206 – Vac Truck - \$180,000.00

G8120.210 – Water St. Pump Station - \$100,000.00

G8130.212 – Vac Truck - \$ 20,000.00

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount remaining previously set aside for items now completed be encumbered into the 2022 budget year for the vac truck. These items being the Auburn Road Tower Backup Generator (F8340.202) in the amount of \$28,144.97, to be encumbered into line F8330.212, and the Auburn Road Pump Station (G8120.209) in the amount of \$61,106.06 to be encumbered into line G8120.206. This will allow moving forward, should the Board choose to, with the purchase of the Vac Truck as the total amount encumbered from previous years with the amount budgeted for 2022 for its purchase which is \$467,251.03.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SFPD Resolution – Authorize Police Chief to Attend 2022 Training Conference: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been requested by the Police Chief to attend the 2022 International Chiefs of Police Conference held on October 15-18 in Dallas, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety Committee feels that it will benefit the Town for the Chief to attend this premier

training conference covering a diverse agenda of contemporary topics.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board allow the Police Chief to attend this conference. Total cost to attend this training to include hotel, flight, conference and meals and incidental expenses shall not exceed \$2,800. Monies to attend this conference were budgeted for in the 2022 training and travel expense line. THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Chief receive his meals and incidental expenses based on the US General Services Administration (GSA) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) prior to the start of the conference. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SFPD Resolution – Reclassification of Police Clerk Positions: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been determined by Chief Peenstra that the current Civil Service classifications for the Police Clerk is "Database Clerk"; and  
WHEREAS, the Police Chief and Seneca County Personnel Department agree that the current job duties of a Police Clerk better reflect the Civil Service title of "Clerk"; and  
WHEREAS, the new Clerk classification does not change anything, including the rate of pay, but rather places the two Clerks into a classification that best suits their roles within the Police Department.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board accept reclassifying both Police Clerk Civil Service titles from "Database Clerk" to "Clerk".  
No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

SFPD Resolution – Create Temporary Clerk Position: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Lasdoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Clerk Linda Wolcott has submitted a letter to Chief Peenstra stating her intended retirement date is July 9, 2022; and  
WHEREAS, Chief Peenstra intends to backfill this anticipated vacant Clerk position during the April 5, 2022 regularly scheduled Board Meeting; and  
WHEREAS, the Seneca County Personnel Department indicated that a temporary Clerk position would need to be approved by the Town Board to properly backfill and train a new Clerk before Clerk Wolcott retires; and  
WHEREAS, the new Clerk would begin their permanent status in the original Clerk position once Clerk Wolcott officially retires and the temporary Civil Service Clerk position would expire.  
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board approves backfilling the future Police Clerk position and creates a temporary Clerk position with the Town Police Department for training purposes to not exceed July 9, 2022.  
No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Approve Property Re-Evaluation Project: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls has not completed a property evaluation since 2016; and  
WHEREAS, the current equalization rate for the Town of Seneca Falls is 77%, down from 85% in 2021 as reported by the Office of Real Property Tax Services; and  
WHEREAS, the Town desires to contract with the Consultant to render professional services for the Project upon the terms and for the consideration stated in the Professional Services Agreement; and  
WHEREAS, the Consultant represents that it is properly qualified and authorized to render such services; and  
WHEREAS, the parties desire to set forth herein the terms and conditions under which the said professional services will be furnished; and  
WHEREAS, the cost of the Project will not exceed \$200,000; and  
WHEREAS, the Town Board, at the January 4, 2022 regular Board Meeting allocated \$200,000 to the Project.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Professional Services Agreement with the Consultant.

Mr. Churchill stated he will be voting against this as he doesn't think it's the right time to do a reval, given the current market. Inflation is extremely high, and it could increase taxes for a lot of folks so he will be voting no.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution approving the Property Re-evaluation Project was carried 4 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

Resolution Authorizing Town Supervisor to Solicit RFPs for Administration & Design for DRI Projects: 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 a Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant (DRI) in November of 2019; and  
WHEREAS, monies from the Grant can be used for the administration of said grants; and  
WHEREAS, best practice in other communities was to have the same professional firm do the administration of

the Grant as well as the engineering design; and

WHEREAS, these projects are fully funded at 100% through the DRI Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls authorizes the Town Supervisor to solicit RFPs for administration of and engineering design of the DRI public works projects.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution Authorizing Town Supervisor Sign Documents – Improvements to Heritage & Information Center: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls has applied for and been awarded New York State Grant C1001890 in the amount of \$533,082.00 to improve the Heritage and Information Center; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received Grant contract documents from the NYS Department of State for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Supervisor Michael J. Ferrara is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the Town of Seneca Falls for this purpose.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution Authorizing Town Supervisor Sign Documents - Enhance Community Recreation: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls has applied for and been awarded New York State Grant C1001888 in the amount of \$324,000.00 to enhance Community Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received Grant contract documents from the NYS Department of State for this purpose.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Town Supervisor Michael J. Ferrara is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents on behalf of the Town of Seneca Falls for this purpose.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution Amending COVID-19 Board Policy Adopted October 11, 2021: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Town Board adopted a COVID-19 testing policy on October 11, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the policy required all Town Employees that are not fully vaccinated to be tested each week for COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls continues to strongly recommend that all Town Employees become fully vaccinated; and

WHEREAS, any Employee who exhibits two (2) or more of the normal COVID-19 symptoms (fever, cough, runny nose, loss of taste, loss of smell) will be required to take a COVID-19 test and provide the results to their immediate Supervisor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls will no longer require unvaccinated Employees to take COVID-19 test on a weekly basis.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution Authorizing Town Supervisor to Solicit RFPs for Engineering Services – Waer Meter Replacement Project: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Steve Churchill to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls was awarded \$1,285,000 Grant from the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to replace water meters throughout the Town; and

WHEREAS, the EFC requires that a professional engineer review the Project and stamp the Project's materials and work specifications.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls authorizes the Town Supervisor to solicit for engineering firms for the water meter replacement Project.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Sinicropi commented that this is Federal money and the Town has to hire an engineer for this, even though there isn't any engineering. He added we have to do this because it is required.

W/S Resolution – Replace Two Control Panels in WWTP: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board understands the need to replace two unsafe control panels at the Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, BDP Industries in Greenwich, NY is the sole source builder of these particular panels.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the purchase and installation of these panels from BDP Industries of Greenwich, NY for \$23,100.00.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Purchase Leak Detector: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:



WHEREAS, the Town Water/Wastewater Department needs an acoustic leak detector to help better locate watermain leaks; and

WHEREAS, the Water/Sewer department has received three bids with Core & Main being the low bidder at \$4,050.00.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the purchase of this leak detector from Core & Main in Binghamton for \$4,050.00.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Transfer Funds from Reserve Fund for Drainage Projects: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board set up a reserve fund for Drainage Projects totaling \$1,000,000 on January 4, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Town has received a bid of \$10,211.00 from RES located at 1899 Route 414, Waterloo, NY to clear woody vegetation that is cut and laying on the ground, cut woody biomass to be chipped on site and clean up to 2.1 acres of land on 414; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls authorized various drainage reviews to be completed by Barton & Loguidice in 2021, specifically Route 414 area, Garden Street Extension and Miller, Oak, Chestnut, Chapel, State, Porter and Maple Streets.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that \$32,000 should be transferred from the Reserve Fund to budget line A8140.204 for these services.

Mr. Churchill referred to the RES Quote and asked about the \$10,211.00 to clean up 2.1 acres on Route 414. Mr. Baker said this has to do with the drainage study on Route 414 and Balsley Road. There is a lot of cross lot drainage swells that goes through there. There are drainage pathways from the west side of Route 414 by the Hampton Inn; parallel to 414, the south right-of-way, there are areas that are completely plugged. Mr. Baker said this is something they recommend to be done – something to help water flow through there. Mr. Churchill asked if this is all private property; Mr. Baker replied it's all private property. Mr. Churchill said the Town can't compel the owners to clean it up; Mr. Ferrara replied that's right. Mr. Churchill stated we are going to spend \$10,211.00 to clean up private property – is this something we typically do – where does it end? Mr. Ferrara said these people, particularly Lutheran Church and those areas were completely under water. He is not saying it's 100% fix – it would help with the situation. After further discussion, Mr. Churchill said he cannot support this – it's a slippery slope. Mr. Ferrara remarked that this is a serious issue we have in this Town.

Mr. Churchill stated if we are going to spend money to do this, he would rather spend money to plow the sidewalks so people don't have to walk down Route 5 & 20; this is a serious problem. Mr. Ferrara stated in their monthly Meeting, he, Mr. Sinicropi and Mr. Peterson had this discussion with Mr. Morrell; it's certainly an ongoing problem. They are working on a game plan to get this accomplished next winter. Discussion followed.

Further discussion followed relative to the drainage issues on Route 414 and Balsley Road. Mr. Ferrara stated if the Board is opposed to doing this, this just approves moving the money out of Reserves to that line item – it doesn't necessarily say the money will be spent. The money has to be moved out of the Reserves for engineering. He added as far as the work done on the private property, we will hold off on that until we can have a conversation with the County or the State or the private landowners.

Mr. Churchill made a motion to amend the above resolution by crossing out "Whereas" #2 and #3 so that the resolution reads:

WHEREAS, the Town Board set up a Reserve Fund for "Drainage Projects" totaling \$1,000,000 on January 4, 2022.

RESOLVED, that \$32,000 be transferred from the Reserve Fund to Budget line item A8140.204 for engineering services. Mr. Ferrara seconded the amendment to the resolution. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Green Innovation Grant Program: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls has been awarded the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) Water Meter Replacement Grant, the Town has retained MRB Group to assist with grant administration support to fulfill grant requirements of authorizing a representative to execute the grant, authorize local match funds, and designate a local Minority Business Officer; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls will replace outdated and failing water meters throughout its entire water distribution system with 4,013 smart meters (Advanced Metering Infrastructure cloud-based technology) that greatly improves accuracy and quickly detects abnormal water usage; and

WHEREAS, the project will conserve 18M gallons/year, allow for higher quality service, save resources in water distribution and treatment, and reduce impact to area waterbodies. The project will result in savings of

18,396kwh of energy use and 384 Town labor hours annually; and

WHEREAS, the GIGP has a local match minimum of 25% of GIGP eligible project costs for the water efficiency grant; and

WHEREAS, the NYS EFC requires a Minority Business Officer for all grant awards.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Supervisor is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation and any and all other contracts, documents, and instruments necessary to bring about the project and to fulfill the Town of Seneca Falls obligation under the Grant Agreement. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Seneca Falls authorizes and appropriates a minimum 25% local match as required by the Green Innovation Grant Program for the Town of Seneca Falls Watermeter Replacement Program. Under the GIGP program, this local match must be at least 25% of the GIGP eligible project costs of \$1,285,000. The source of the local match and any amount in excess of the required match shall be from the General Fund. The maximum local match shall not exceed \$428,334 based upon a total maximum project cost of \$1,713,334. The Town Supervisor may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the Seneca Falls Town Board.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Seneca Falls designates the Town Supervisor as the Minority Business Officer (MBO) for the GIGP project purposes. The Town Supervisor will serve as the primary point of contact and MWBE, SDVOB, DBE and EEO program liaison along with all other MBO requirements of the grant process.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Community Center Resolution – Gym Roof Repairs: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Community Center has for a long period of time had roofing issues; and

WHEREAS, the water has caused some superficial damage and continues to leak, and before the damage gets severe; and

WHEREAS, only Upstate Roofing and R.E. Kelley have responded to requests for quotes; and

WHEREAS, there is money for repairs in Account code CR7140.210.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board authorizes the use of funds from Account CR7140.210 in the amount of \$57,860 and hire Upstate Roofing and R.E. Kelley to perform the needed repairs as an emergency to prevent further damage to the Community Center Building.

Mr. Churchill said we are hiring both of these contractors? Mr. Ferrara replied correct – one deals with roof repair and one deals with flashing and window repairs.

The above motion made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the above resolution authorizing Gym roof repairs was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution Establishing Annual Founders Day: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, on March 24, 1804 Seneca was established by an act of the New York State Legislature as one of fifty-six counties in the State, and was taken last from the County of Cayuga; and

WHEREAS, the fifty-second session of the New York State Legislature began and was held at the City of Albany on the sixth day of January, 1829; and

WHEREAS, on March 26, 1829, the People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, passed an act to divide the Town of Junius in the County of Seneca into four towns; and

WHEREAS, the four towns erected from Junius were named Tyre, Waterloo, Junius, and the remaining part of the said Town of Junius, being the southern part, was erected into a separate town by the name of Seneca Falls; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature ordered the first town meeting to be held at the house of Joseph Failing in said town on the first Tuesday of April next; and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor of Seneca Falls was Gary V. Sackett in 1829 and having served one year; and

WHEREAS, today, the Town of Seneca Falls is governed by a Town Board comprised of five Council Members; and

WHEREAS, in the year two thousand twenty-two, the Town of Seneca Falls in the County of Seneca, New York, will mark its one hundred forty third anniversary since its organization.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, I, Michael J. Ferrara, Town Supervisor of the Town of Seneca Falls, do hereby recognize with great pleasure and pride on behalf of the Seneca Falls Town Board, proclaim March 26<sup>th</sup> as "Seneca Falls Founder Day", to be observed on the third Saturday of June annually.

Mr. Ferrara stated this is something to establish a Founders Day; it's part of our history. He added hopefully, down the road we can have a large celebration for our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It's on the books, and future Town Boards can recognize Founders Day on a regular basis.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the above resolution establishing Founders Day was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Encumber Funds from 2021 Budget to 2022 Budget: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution: WHEREAS, the Water and Sewer Departments budgeted in 2021 for projects not yet completed; and WHEREAS, it is fitting for the Town Board to carry the remaining cost of the project into the 2022 budget year. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the following amounts be encumbered from the 2021 Budget into the 2022 Budget year:

F8330.202 - PH Adjustment – Encumber \$189,651.11

G8120.210 – Water St. Pump Station – Encumber \$100,000.00

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Place Funds in Reserves for Purchase of Vac Truck: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Kaitlyn Laskoski to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Water and Sewer Departments budgeted in 2021 for the purchase of a Vac Truck as replacement to the current vehicle; and

WHEREAS, there still remains insufficient funds for the said purchase.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the funds budgeted in the 2021 Budget for the Vac Truck in both the Water and Sewer Funds be placed in reserve for equipment designated for the purchase of a Vac Truck. This will require the establishment in the Water Fund a reserve for equipment of \$68,000, and placing \$200,000 in the Sewer equipment reserve.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the amount remaining previously set aside for items now completed from the 2021 Budget, ie. the \$28,144.97 remaining in the Auburn Road Tower Backup Generator line F8340.202 and the \$61,106.06 remaining in the Auburn Road Pump Station line G8120.206 also be placed in the appropriate equipment reserve for the purchase of the Vac Truck.

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Accept SFPD Annual Report for 2021: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to accept the 2021 SF Police Department Annual Report. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara said the Report is very well put together and very informative. He congratulated the Chief and his Department for this project and all the work that they do. Chief Peenstra thanked Sgt. Gentile for all his assistance in putting the IT portion of the report together.

Resolution – Waive Residency Requirement for Court Clerk: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls adopted an Employee Handbook to set policies and procedures for its employees; and

WHEREAS, the Employee Handbook contains a requirement that Court Clerks be residents of the Town of Seneca Falls; and

WHEREAS, the Court has identified an applicant that is suitable to fill the vacant position of part-time Court Clerk except that this applicant is not a resident of the Town of Seneca Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls hereby waives the residency requirement for Court Clerks contained in the Town's Employee Handbook for the purpose of hiring Lisa Hochadel to the part-time Court Clerk's position.

Mr. Churchill asked if this is for all Court Clerks going forward. Mr. Morrell replied it's specifically for this person. He mentioned that this was done once before for Eileen Schmidt. He added this is a requirement of the Town's Handbook – it is not a State Law or anything like that – it's just because it's in the Handbook.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Michael Ferrara to adopt the above resolution waiving the residency requirement for Court Clerk was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Planning Board Request for Engineer to Review Seneca Energy Project: A motion was made to approve the Planning Board's request to have Town Engineer Barton & Loguidice review the Seneca Energy Project by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Frank Sinicropi.

Mr. Morrell stated the applicant is resubmitting the State Environmental Quality Review paperwork as there were some contingencies noted at the first Planning Board Meeting, so there cannot be any further action until that is resubmitted, which has not happened at this point. Mr. Morrell said the Project is fairly technological and beyond the capabilities of the Board and himself.

Mr. Churchill asked if Mr. Baker had any conflicts of interest with Seneca Meadows; Mr. Baker replied no. He added they will look at the scope, create a proposal and send it to the Town Board; there will be an escrow account from Seneca Energy who will pay for the services.

The above motion made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to approve the Planning Board's request to have the Town Engineer review the Seneca Energy Project was carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Any Other New Business:

Comprehensive Plan Update: Mr. Sinicropi referred to what Mr. Churchill said about the Comprehensive Plan. He suggested to see what a Plan would cost and put it into the budget for 2023 and start working on it. Mr. Ferrara said he asked if Mr. Churchill wanted him to go out and try to get an idea of what a consultant would charge to facilitate a comprehensive plan; then we can do an RFP and move forward with that. He added it should be done – it should be updated. After discussion, Mr. Ferrara said he will get some ballpark ideas and bring it back to the Board in April.

Mr. Ferrara referred to the new lighting upgrades and said it's almost all done - they are waiting on a few areas. He said the Town is saving a little over \$5,000 a month on our Street Lighting bill. He added the metal pole lights will not get changed over.

Mrs. Laskoski referred to the Comprehensive Plan and said – didn't the SF Development Corporation recently do a Comprehensive Plan? Mr. Morrell responded yes, but those are two different things. This one is for land use and planning purposes, and the SFDC is for an economic development plan which is also important, but two different things.

Mr. Ferrara noted the Board received reports from Department Heads; he asked if there were any questions. Mr. Sinicropi stated if anybody wants to see what the problems are at the Rec Center, stop down and take a look at the notebook that Mrs. Jones has which has all the information and pictures

Water/Sewer Credits:

A motion was made to approve the Water/Sewer credits in the amount of \$3,445.20 as per Memo dated March 1, 2022 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Michael Ferrara. No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

Payment of Bills:

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

|  |  |
|--|--|
| General Fund - \$619,515.96 (Abstract #3)      | Recreation Fund - \$24,435.67 (Abstract #3)  |
| Miscellaneous Fund - \$27,065.51 (Abstract #3) | Vince's Park Fund - \$1,805.07 (Abstract #3) |
| Highway Fund - \$38,217.01 (Abstract #3)       | Sewer Fund - \$88,475.96 (Abstract #3)       |
| Water Fund - \$78,645.67 (Abstract #3)         |  |

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 8:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

  
NICALETTA J. GREER  
Town Clerk