

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Public Hearing and regular monthly Meeting on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street, Seneca Falls.

Present were Supervisor Michael Ferrara; Councilpersons Dawn Dyson, Frank Sinicropl and Steven Churchill. Also present were Patrick Morrell, Attorney for the Town; Peter Soscia, Town Manager; Peter Porcelli, Zoning Officer; Jeremy Wendt, Interim Highway Superintendent; Joseph Tullo, Chief WWTP Operator; Timothy Snyder, Interim Police Chief; Mary Jones, Interim Recreation Director and Lesen Gleason, Town Engineer.

Public Hearing -- Proposed Local Law -- Lot Line Adjustment: A motion was made to open the Public Hearing relative to a proposed local law, Lot Line Adjustment, by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropl. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Morrell stated the current Subdivision Code requires subdivision review for any change of lot lines creating new lots, even where there is a situation where two neighbors want to straighten a lot line or trade some land. When reviewing our codes, we saw an opportunity to simplify things where you have a lot line moving, but not creating any new lots -- simply adding land to one side or both. Mr. Morrell said the local law takes the form of an amendment to the existing Subdivision Law.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there was anyone from the public who would like to speak on this proposed local law. Since there were no comments from the public, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropl. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Supervisor Ferrara opened the regular monthly Meeting at 6:10 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken, and Councilwoman Laskoski was absent from the Meeting; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Recognition of Richard Laude: Mr. Ferrara presented Mr. Laude with a plaque. He read the Proclamation which honors Richard Laude on his 90th Birthday and mentioned many of his accomplishments. Mr. Laude enjoyed helping people and giving back to the Community. He volunteered his time to many organizations, such as Special Olympics New York, United Way and Bridgeport Fire District.

Mr. Laude told all present to remember everyone and do what you can. It may be small, but it will help. He said it's important to help your friends and neighbors. Little things mean a lot.

Recognition of Laverne Laffler: Mr. Ferrara recognized Laverne Laffler who passed away about five weeks ago. He said Mr. Laffler was a lifelong employee of the Village of Seneca Falls, and was a friendly and humble man who always wore a smile. Mr. Ferrara said -- we carry his smile in our hearts.

Recognition of Former Police Chief Stuart Peenstra: Mr. Ferrara presented former Police Chief Stuart Peenstra with a plaque, honoring him for 25 years of dedicated public service with great honor and recognition. He read the plaque which states his tireless work ethics and professionalism set the tone for the rest of the Department.

Former Chief Peenstra thanked everybody in the Community. He loved every minute of working here, and took a lot of pride in the Community and the people, and a lot of pride in his Officers that helped him out. He thanked all the Officers who supported him throughout his career, and the rest of the Community that welcomed him in as one of their own.

Water Drainage Issue: Mr. Ferrara referred to the rain devastation many people felt last week, and said it's not an easy fix. Our infrastructure is 100 years old, and we have a lot of compromised situations. There are probably 60%-70% of illegal storm sewer hookups. Mr. Ferrara said there is a plan. An equalization tank will help the situation, but will not alleviate it. Mr. Ferrara said the Board will work with engineers, Water/Sewer Department, Highway Department to continue working on the problem.

Assessment: Mr. Ferrara stated he knows some people are upset with their new assessment. The reveal is to:

bring the Town of Seneca Falls, residences and businesses, up to 100% valuation. There is a process in play where you can grieve your assessment. Mr. Ferrara said he has had conversation with the School District because that's the first entity that will be issuing tax bills that this will affect. The tax rate would have been \$33.00 per \$1,000; they are projecting the rate will be \$26.78 per \$1,000. Mr. Ferrara added the whole idea of the reval is for everyone to pay their fair share.

Menzo Case – Women's Walk of Fame Project: Menzo Case, President and CEO of Generations Bank, stated they are introducing the Seneca Falls Women's Hall of Fame sponsored by Generations Bank and the Women's Right to Run 19K. The first installment for the Walk is ten bronze cast placques. The first placque of Lucretia Mott will be placed in their Bell Park area, and the others will be placed throughout the downtown area. Mr. Case said they will be holding a groundbreaking event outside their headquarters with the installment of Lucretia Mott on May 12th from 4-6 P.M. They will also showcase the remaining placques of those that will be honored and placed outside those businesses that help them select the individuals. Mr. Case said their hope is that this will be the first installment and many more to follow in years to come. Mrs. Dyson asked how a donation can be made. Mr. Case replied donations can be made on the Women's Right to Run 5k website.

Mr. Ferrara gave the following updates:

- The Town received from Gov. Hochul's Office approval for a \$5.1 million, zero interest bond to be used to pay for the equalization tank.
- The Town also received a \$1.7 million grant that will go towards the equalization tank. Mr. Ferrara thanked MRB and B&L for all their work on this.
- Next weekend is Earth Day, and the Town will participate in conjunction with Seneca Housing and Seneca Meadows. The Swipe Cycle event will allow Seneca Falls residents to give away usable but unwanted items to others instead of disposing them in the Landfill. Items can be placed curbside on Friday, and can be picked up by anyone on Saturday and Sunday. Unclaimed items will then be picked up by the Highway Department on Monday and disposed at the Landfill.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the regular monthly Meeting of March 4, 2023 by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 naves.

Communications:

Mr. Ferrara stated the Communications contain minutes of various Boards, and asked that Board Members review them.

Old Business:

Sale of Town Property: Nothing to report at this time.

New Business:

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 and Industry – Music in the Park Series.

Seneca Falls American Legion Kirk Casey Post 366 – Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony.

No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 naves.

Board Reports: Mr. Ferrara said the Board received Reports from the Department Heads, and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Churchill referred to the Gravel Road Project and asked if Mr. Ferrara has spoken to Tyre. Mr. Ferrara said he is scheduled to meet with the Tyre Town Supervisor next week.

Proposed Local Law – Lot Line Adjustment: Mr. Morrell referred to the SEQR, Environmental Assessment Form, and said this directs the Board to look at the 18 different areas where there may be possible environmental impacts. Going through them all, there is not one area that has been identified where there would be anything more than a small impact as a result of the Board taking action amending subdivision regulations. The box for no has been checked for all 18 areas after review by the engineers.

Mr. Morrell stated this is a change to the Town's subdivision regulations to make these small lot line adjustments easier for everybody. He said if the Board is satisfied that this action will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts, there is a resolution prepared for this Board to take that action.

Mr. Churchill asked if there was a limit to the size of exchange of parcels. Mr. Morrell replied the limitations are that you are not creating an additional lot, and each lot that is created would be suitable for development. Mr.

Churchill said if a farmer wanted to give up 90% of his farm and keep his house in one corner of the parcel, can he do it simply by this. Mr. Morrell replied as long as what is being split off is going straight to the neighbor and not creating a new lot. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mr. Churchill stated he is leery of it. We have had a process in place for years and it works. He is uncomfortable with it – keeping it small and jumping through hoops is a good thing. Mr. Morrell suggested something such as: if the transfer of land encompasses more than two acres, then it would go through the regular process. Mr. Churchill stated he would be comfortable with that. Mr. Morrell said an amendment can be made on this local law saying this process would be limited to situations where two acres or less are being transferred.

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 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, that the 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 on environmental non-significance.

No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

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") did on April 11, 2023 amend the proposed Town of Seneca Falls Chapter 255 – Subdivision of Land: Administrative Lot Line Adjustments local law (hereinafter referred to as "Action"), prepared by MRB Group, the Town engineering firm; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code to include regulations for administrative lot line adjustments within the Town of Seneca Falls; and

WHEREAS, the aforesaid proposed local law was referred to the Seneca County and Town Planning Boards for review and recommendation; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca County Planning Board at their March 8, 2023 Meeting, made a favorable recommendation for amendment to Chapter 255 – Subdivision of Land Regulations; 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; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria 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 at the April 11, 2023 Town Board Meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board held a Public Hearing on said Action on April 11, 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board hereby adopts the amended local law entitled "Subdivision of Land – Administrative Lot Line Adjustments.

A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson to amend the above resolution by adding "to limit transfer of properties to no more than two acres". No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to adopt the above resolution adopting the local law as amended by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Water Billing Department: Mr. Ferrara asked the public to be patient as far as water billing. There has been a turnover in that Department, and they are working with a new software program. An announcement was made that bills will be paid at Five Star Bank soon. Payments can be made online and drop box will still be here. Mr. Ferrara stated in conjunction with the Court, the Town has secured a grant to be used to install a P A system in the Courtroom/Meeting Room.

Appoint BAR Member: A motion was made to appoint Sheryl Spano to fill an unexpired term on the Board of Assessment Review, said term to expire September 30, 2024, by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Resignation of Wastewater/Water Plant Trainee: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, Mason Hawker has resigned as Wastewater/Water Plant Trainee effective March 29, 2023.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls accepts the resignation of Mason Hawker and thanks him for his five (5) years of service.
No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Appoint Senior Account Clerk – Waer/Sewer Department: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Steve Churchill to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, there has been an open position in the Water/Sewer Department since the last resignation; and
WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee and the Town Manager conducted interviews with four (4) potential candidates, and re-interviewed two (2) of the candidates.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls approves Thomas Dyson as a Senior Account Clerk at an hourly rate of \$25.00. This appointment is Provisional, effective March 27, 2023. Permanent appointment will depend on Civil Service requirements including the Senior Account Clerk exam.
No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays and 1 abstention; Councilwoman Dyson abstained from voting.

Resolution – Provide Matching Funds – Local Waterfront Revitalization Program: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls received a \$58,875.00 Environmental Protection Fund, CFA #118577 Grant Fund; and
WHEREAS, the Town matching portion of the Grant is 25% or \$14,719.00. The total grant will be used to hire a consultant to develop a plan for the waterfront areas that encompass the Downtown Revitalization footprint; and
WHEREAS, the funds will be transferred from A1990.400 to a Capital Reserve Fund to be established for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls approves the transfer of \$14,719.00 from the line item A1990.400.

Mr. Ferrara stated there will be a committee formed once this is approved to start planning and working with a consultant. This will be used to work with a consultant to enhance all of the waterfront areas in Seneca Falls. Once there is a plan and vision, then we can go after more grant money to pay for it.

The above motion made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to provide matching funds for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program was carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Appoint W/S Plant Operator Trainee: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Steve Churchill to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Water/Sewer Department has an opening due to one of the department's employee resignation; and
WHEREAS, the Civil Service list was ordered and reviewed; and
WHEREAS, there are three (3) names on the list, and Lewis Archer was the only Town resident and is the most qualified.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls approves the appointment of Lewis Archer at the hourly rate of \$23.50 as a Water/Sewer Plant Operator trainee effective April 12, 2023.
No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Advertise for Laborer Position: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, due to a recent promotion, the Water/Sewer Department needs to fill the open laborer position; and
WHEREAS, the Town will advertise for the open position.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls approves advertising for the laborer position for the Water/Sewer Department.
No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara asked Mr. Tullo if this makes the Department full; Mr. Tullo replied yes.

Resolution – Water Bill Adjustments for Abnormal Water Usage: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:
WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls operates a municipal water and sewer utility; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Seneca Falls are the primary users of this utility; and
WHEREAS, the residents of Seneca Falls provides the funds necessary to operate this utility; and
WHEREAS, there are circumstances that are difficult to identify and beyond the control of residents that cause abnormally high readings that create additional expenses for the residents experiencing these issues; and
WHEREAS, the Town can, with limited effort and expense, remedy these items; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board has established a Sub-Committee that is charged with oversight of the water and sewer utility; and
WHEREAS, Section 285-52 of the Town Code provides for the ability of the Town Board to grant credits to a resident's water and sewer account under certain circumstances.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Water and Sewer Sub-Committee for the Seneca Falls Town Board be granted the authority to approve credits of less than \$500 for clients of the water and sewer utility that have abnormal usage that are not identified as water leaks.

Mr. Soscia stated the Sub-Committee is composed of two Board Members who review the Water and Sewer funds. Mr. Ferrara said any discrepancy of a water bill would go to this Committee of two Board Members, Mr. Sosica and Senior Account Clerk Dyson. Mr. Churchill said he was confused – he thought the new water project was supposed to remedy this. Mr. Soscia replied it could, but it is a year out. Discussion followed.

Mr. Morrell stated the Town Code provides that the Town Board can grant credits on water and sewer accounts. This resolution just delegates to the committee the ability to do that when it's under \$500.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution regarding water bill adjustments for abnormal water usage was carried 3 ayes, 1 nay; Councilman Churchill with the dissenting vote.

SFPD Resolution – Employment Start Date to Establish Retirement Eligibility for Police Officer: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Village of Seneca Falls operated a municipal Police Force; and
WHEREAS, the Village of Seneca Falls was dissolved and Members of the Village Police Force became members of the newly created Seneca Falls Police Department; and
WHEREAS, the official start date of Village Employees will impact the benefits employees are eligible for when retiring; and
WHEREAS, there are conflicting records regarding the start date for Sgt. Inv. Petrocci in the records that were transferred over from the Village of Seneca Falls; and
WHEREAS, Officer Petrocci's start date with the Village of Seneca Falls Police Department is noted in the NYS Retirement System as June 26, 1998.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the official start date of record for Officer Petrocci's retirement from the Town of Seneca Falls Police Department is June 26, 1998.

Mr. Churchill said it doesn't say what the discrepancy is. Mr. Soscia said the start date wasn't recorded. Mr. Morrell mentioned that the Board is adopting the date that is recorded with the NYS Retirement System to be consistent with the State.

The above motion made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the above resolution establishing start date for retirement eligibility was carried 4 ayes, 0 naves.

Resolution – Acknowledge Court Audit Completed and Reviewed: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the State of New York Unified Court System requires the Town to complete an audit for the Town Court under Section 2019-a; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board of Seneca Falls employed the Bonadio Group to complete the audit of the Town Court; and
WHEREAS, the Town Board was provided the audit for their review on or about March 29, 2023.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of Seneca Falls has approved and reviewed the 2022 audit of the Town Court.

No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 naves.

Resolution – Repair Town of Seneca Falls Archway: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls Archway located at the top of Water Street Hill is greatly deteriorated; and
WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Archway on Water Street is deteriorated and needs repairs; and
WHEREAS, the Community Center has budgeted in 2023 for necessary repairs under account A7110.201 for the

fee of \$7,584.10.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Seneca Falls Town Board approves the repair of the Seneca Falls Archway by Ryan Restorations to be completed as soon as possible.

No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Authorize Town Supervisor to Sign Agreement with SF Community Little League: A motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to enter into an Agreement with Seneca Falls Community Little League, term beginning April 7, 2023 and ending September 30, 2027. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

SFPD Resolution – Attendance at NYS Child Safety Seat Conference: A motion was made by Steve Churchill and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, it has been requested by Investigator Chris Denny and Officer Logan Burgdorf to attend the 2023 NYS Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference on May 2-4, 2023 in Lake Placid, NY; and
WHEREAS, NYS Child Passenger Safety Technical Conference will allow Inv. Denny and Officer Burgdorf to be certified to install Child Safety Seats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board pay Inv. Denny a total cost of \$210.50 and Officer Burgdorf a total cost of \$210.50 to be paid from line item A3120.492, Travel Expense, for meals and incidental expenses; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Inv. Denny and Officer Burgdorf receive 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.

Resolution – Authorize Contract for Body Cameras: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, new Axon Body Camera technology has resulted in the new Axon Body Camera 3 to be more advanced and effective than the Department's current Axon Body Camera 1; and
WHEREAS, it is extremely important to the Seneca Falls Police Department and the community in which it serves to be equipped with the latest Body Cameras.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, it has been determined upon re-evaluation and review by the Police Chief and the Public Safety Committee to enter into a new Axon Body Camera contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc.;
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Police Department enter into a new contract with Axon Enterprises, Inc. in the amount of \$35,999.99 for the year 2023 and \$10,136.51 for the following four years.
The 2023 payment will be paid using the \$36,000.00 DCJS Body Worn Camera Grant awarded to the Police Department February 3, 2023.

Axon Body Camera payments have been a budgeted line item since 2017 through the Police Department's Maintenance Agreement line item A3120.413.

Payment of Bills:

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

General Fund - \$234,965.13 (Abstract #4)	Recreation Fund - \$24,063.20 (Abstract #4)
Miscellaneous Fund - \$69,592.43 (Abstract #4)	Vince's Park Fund - \$1,275.18 (Abstract #4)
Highway Fund - \$47,810.07 (Abstract #4)	Sewer Fund - \$110,385.58 (Abstract #4)
Water Fund - \$41,977.12 (Abstract #4)	

No questions. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays.

At 7:40 P.M. a motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter that could impact upon the fair market value of real property under Public Officers Law Section 105H, and to discuss the employment history of a particular employee under Public Officer Law Section 105F. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the regular Meeting at 8:25 P.M. by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Steve Churchill and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 4 ayes, 0 nays.
Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk