

The Seneca Falls Town Board held a Public Hearing and regular monthly Meeting on Wednesday, July 5, 2023 in the Town Hall Meeting Room, 130 Ovid Street, Seneca Falls.

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

Supervisor Ferrara called the Meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. A roll call of Board Members was taken, and Councilpersons Laskoski and Churchill were absent from the Meeting; the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Mr. Ferrara gave the following updates:

- Mr. Ferrara thanked employees, especially Mrs. Jones and Parks & Recreation employees, for making CanalFest another successful Event.
- He thanked the Highway Department, Water and Sewer Departments and Police Department for helping with the manhole project. With the collaboration of those departments, we were able to save about \$60,000 in traffic control.
- They are continuing to work on drainage issues, trying to identify those issues throughout the community.
- There is a Special Board Meeting on July 11th; a Public Hearing will be held as the Town is applying for a WIIA Grant for Water/Sewer upgrades that have been identified as serious problems and have to be addressed. Things will be contingent upon the Town getting the grant.
- Mr. Ferrara referred to the article in the Finger Lakes Times today which is based on a letter from Office of the State Comptroller in February, and said there is nothing for anybody to be alarmed with. He and Mr. Soscia have been working with the Auditors since October 2022. Mr. Ferrara said everything coming out in the audit report was under a different administration. The report of the Auditors is in draft form and was shared with Board Members; he and Mr. Soscia will respond to it, after which they will come out with a final report. Mr. Ferrara said those issues that were supposed to be implemented in 2019 will be implemented this year.

Public Hearing – Submission of Community Development Block Grant Application: A motion was made to open the Public Hearing at 6:05 P.M. by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Ferrara stated we are looking to secure the grant to bring water and sewer to Town owned property behind Kids Territory. We have a Developer and a tentative sale on the property which is contingent on a couple of different things. This will bring more housing to Seneca Falls. Mr. Ferrara stated this CDBG grant will hopefully provide some funding to bring water and sewer down from Bayard Street, down Courtland Avenue to the development area so that this piece of property can be developed.

Mr. Ferrara asked if there was anyone from the public who wished to speak relative to this project.

Since there were no comments from the public, a motion was made to close the Public Hearing by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Petitioners:

Kyle Black from Seneca Meadows presented a check for the first quarter of 2023 as per Host Community Agreement.

Letter from William Lutz: Mr. Ferrara read the following letter from William Lutz:

It has been reported in the local press and verified by the NYS Department of Health that "from years 2016 to 2020 – lung cancer cases in Seneca County alone were 31 percent above the State average and 34 percent above the national average, according to the National Cancer Institute". The article titled "Seneca Meadows, NY's largest landfill, sits in a disadvantaged area with high lung cancer Rates: Is that a Problem?" points out that the State's largest landfill just so happens to be located directly in the center of what the DOH considers an area with high lung cancer rates.

In light of this shocking information, and without drawing any conclusions or pointing fingers, would it not be prudent for the Town Board to place a moratorium halting any further approvals or agreements regarding any projects with potential adverse environmental impacts in the town, until our States representatives can figure out what is going on? Waterloo Container has always remained at the forefront of protecting our environment, and after reading this article we are even more concerned for the health and safety of our employees and the citizens of Seneca Falls. An attached copy of that article has been provided for the Board to read as well.

We would like these comments submitted into the record and urge the Town Board to keep the health, safety and wellbeing of its residents in the forefront of any decision making going forward.

Mr. Ferrara stated he is well aware of the studies, and has asked the people who published the study – have they done any research on any other landfills in NYS or any other communities, and they answer was no. He also told them that he is sure the Department of Environmental Conservation and the EPA will consider this study if and when it's time to provide SMI with an operating permit.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the regular monthly Meeting of June 6, 2023 by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Communications:

Mr. Ferrara said there are seven Communications, one of which is a Notice of Claim. Mr. Morrell stated a Notice of Claim has been submitted for a lady who fell on a sidewalk downtown. He added it has been provided to the Town's Insurance Company who will be providing defense for the Town.

Old Business:

Sale of Town Property: Nothing to report.

New Business:

Approval of Special Events: There were none this month.

Convention Days: Mr. Ferrara read a letter from Joyce Marble, President of Convention Days, Inc., requesting release of budgeted contribution of \$500 for Convention Days which will be used to publish the Event Statewide.

A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to contribute the budgeted amount of \$500.00 to Convention Days, Inc. as it is a benefit to the Community. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution- Appoint Timothy Snyder as Chief of Police: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Timothy Snyder was appointed as Interim Chief of Police on September 14, 2022, effective January 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the appointment to Chief was contingent upon Lieutenant Snyder passing the Civil Service exam administered in March; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Snyder scored in the top three (3).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls permanently appoints Timothy Snyder as Chief of Police effective immediately, with an annual salary of \$103,557.63.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Chief Snyder stated he looks forward to serving the Community. He has been in the Department for 23 years and has learned a lot during those years.

Resignation of Police Clerk Charlotte Miculka: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to regretfully accept the resignation of Charlotte Miculka from the position of Police Clerk with the Seneca Falls Police Department effective June 30, 2023.

Chief Snyder would like to thank Charlotte for her dedication, compassion and professionalism to the Department, Citizens and those that visited Seneca Falls. Chief Snyder and the Seneca Falls Police Department Members wish nothing but the best for Charlotte in her future endeavors in the United States Army.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Appointment of Police Clerk to Vacant Position: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, effective June 30, 2023, Police Clerk Charlotte E. Miculka submitted her resignation to return to active duty with the United States Army; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Police Department has been actively recruiting, interviewing and conducting background investigations for a vacant Police Clerk position.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon completion of the Clerk hiring process, it is the recommendation of the Police Chief, Public Safety Committee and Personnel Committee to backfill this position with Sheryl L. Spano; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town Board accept backfilling the vacant full time Police Clerk position with Sheryl L. Spano at the rate of \$19.50 an hour.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Resignation of Police Officer Tuffo: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to regretfully accept the resignation of Christopher Tuffo from the position of Police Officer with the Seneca Falls Police Department effective June 30, 2023.

Chief Snyder would like to thank Officer Tuffo for his dedication, compassion and professionalism to the Department, Citizens and those that visited Seneca Falls. Chief Snyder and the Seneca Falls Police Department Members wish nothing but the best for Chris in his future endeavors.

Mr. Ferrara read Officer Tuffo's letter of resignation which states that he has chosen to pursue his professional career outside of law enforcement.

The above motion made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to regretfully accept the resignation of Christopher Tuffo from the position of Police Officer was carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Resolution – Authorize Town Supervisor to sign Inter-Municipal Agreement – School Resource Officer: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Town of Seneca Falls and the Seneca Falls School District have determined that it is in their best interest to enter into the Agreement to provide for the assignment of an Officer of the Seneca Falls Police Department to serve as School Resource Officer in the School District; and

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Central School District has agreed to contribute 75% of the salary for one (1) SRO. The remaining 25% of the salary will be the responsibility of the Town of Seneca Falls.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of Seneca Falls gives permission to the Town Supervisor to sign the SRO Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Seneca Falls Central School District.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Sale of Surplus Equipment: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Seneca Falls Town Board realizes the need to sell surplus equipment; and

WHEREAS, THE Water and Sewer Department possess surplus equipment.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board authorizes the surplus and sale of the following equipment:

1998 Ferris 61" ProCut Mower

2014 Encore F248 Mower

2021 8' Western Pro Plow (damaged in accident)

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Purchase of Mizer for WTP: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Water Treatment Plant mixes powdered orthophosphate with water to create a solution to aid in corrosion control; and

WHEREAS, the mixer used to make batches of said chemical is 40 years old and failing.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board purchase a replacement mixer from USA Blue Book for \$2,541.48.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

W/S Resolution – Purchase Chemical Feed Pumps for WTP: A motion was made by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Water Treatment Plant feeds orthophosphate for corrosion control; and

WHEREAS, the pumps that feed said chemical are 20 years old and failing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Seneca Falls Town Board authorizes the purchase of two Jesco chemical feed pumps from CPE solutions for \$5,319.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Jesco Manufacturing is located in Rochester, NY, and CPE Solutions is the sole source distributor for Jesco Manufacturing.

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Sinicropi asked what will be done with the old pump. Mr. Tullo replied they are carmelized; they are down to one. Mrs. Dyson asked if this is budgeted; Mr. Tullo replied yes.

Mr. Ferrara noted the Board received reports from Department Heads, MRB and B&L, and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Resignation of Member of Cemetery Commission: A motion was made to accept the resignation of Freda Wilson from the Cemetery Commission, with regret, by Frank Sinicropi and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Appointment to Cemetery Commission to Fill Unexpired Term: A motion was made to appoint Herbert Holden to the Cemetery Commission to fill an unexpired term which will end December 31, 2024 by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Water/Sewer/Pool Credits: A motion was made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to approve the water leaks, billing errors and pool credits for July 2023 in the amount of \$4,129.22.

Mrs. Dyson asked when the new meters were going out. Mr. Soscia replied they have a meeting with the Company on July 10th. Mr. Ferrara noted it's a supply chain problem. Mr. Dyson said didn't they know that before when the order was put in. Mr. Soscia replied options are being explored - they are discussing that. Brief discussion followed.

The above motion made by Dawn Dyson and seconded by Frank Sinicropi to approve the water leaks, billing errors and pool credits was carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Any Other New Business:

Ludovico Sculpture Trail: Mr. Ferrara stated Ludovico Trail is requesting some inkind services from the Town for tree removal and brush work. He mentioned that the Cayuga Nation has offered to provide some services and financial support. He and Mr. Wendt will meet with Liz Rossetti, Chairperson of the Trail, on Monday and walk the Trail to see what exactly they are looking for. Once that is done, he will report back to the Board.

Mr. Sinicropi stated the sewer line should have been put down the Trail, and it would have saved the Town about a million dollars. He said whatever Mr. Ferrara comes back with, he will be voting no. Mrs. Dyson said she also will be voting no. Mr. Ferrara said he understands and respects that - he doesn't know how he will vote. After brief discussion, Mr. Ferrara said he would listen and come back to the Board.

Payment of Bills:

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

General Fund - \$284,826.18 (Abstract #7)

Recreation Fund - \$21,525.61 (Abstract #7)

Miscellaneous Fund - \$32,391.73 (Abstract #7)

Vince's Park Fund - \$8,434.00 (Abstract #7)

Highway Fund - \$90,723.27 (Abstract #7)

Sewer Fund - \$184,839.63 (Abstract #7)

Water Fund - \$48,233.11 (Abstract #7)

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

At 6:36 P.M., a motion was made by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson to go into Executive Session

to discuss the following ongoing litigation pursuant to Public Officers Law 105(d):

Seneca Meadows, Inc. vs. Town of Seneca Falls

RumseyFall LLC vs. Town of Seneca Falls


And to discuss the proposed sale, lease or acquisition of real property and publicity is likely to affect the fair market value of the properties involved, under Public Officers' Law Section 105(h).

No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

A motion was made to reconvene the regular Meeting at 6:55 P.M. by Michael Ferrara and seconded by Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.

Being there was no further business, a motion was made to adjourn the Meeting by Michael Ferrara and Dawn Dyson. No questions. Motion carried 3 ayes, 0 nays.
Meeting adjourned at 6:55 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,


NICALETTA J. GREER
Town Clerk