

**Town of Sennett Special Board Meeting via Zoom
April 16, 2020**

Minutes of the Town Board meeting held on Thursday April 16, 2020 at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Roll Call of members: Thomas Gray, Supervisor - here
Edward Rizzo, Councilman - here
James Jeffers, Councilman - here
Richard Gagliardi, Councilman - here
Jerrold Eades , Councilman - absent

Also present Kristopher LaPointe, Highway Superintendent
 Attorney Richard Andino - via phone connection

The meeting is opened with the pledge to the flag.

Minutes of the February meeting are approved on a motion made by Councilman Rizzo, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi, 4 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent, carried.

Old Business: Highway Superintendent LaPointe updates the board on the work that was done in the boiler. Mason & Grant did everything that they said they would do and then some. They were very efficient; they did a great job. It was the repair that was done – one pump and the housing; one pump and a valve; and two bleeders on the top. He had his work cut out for him; he did a great job. He would use them again, if needed. Supervisor Gray updates the board on the Park Grant. He asked Sean Rosney about the request to use the additional \$4900 for the waterline was in Ways and Means. With the current health care crisis, I assume that this is not a priority for them to approve. Do we have the option for getting reimbursed for the 68,000 plus that we already have spent on this grant and skip that, or do you think something will be decided on soon?

He received the following information from Sean Rosney: I have not received any updates on the scope change approval. Additionally as the file has not completed the DASNY reviews as of yet we are unable to provide reimbursement of any costs at this time. In order to receive reimbursement the file needs to complete all of the DASNY reviews, receive final approval, and the grantee has to receive a fully executed Grant Disbursement Agreement. The GDA is the contract that enables the grantee to requisition the funds for reimbursement. Currently the file is still undergoing the DASNY reviews as the project has changed from what was originally applied. Because it still under review no action yet.

Supervisor Gray updates the board about the Deputy Town Clerk position: there has been two applications, but due to the pandemic we have not had anyone come in for an interview.

Update on the Water District 1&3 project: Supervisor Gray gives the board copies of a letter from Paul Chatfield regarding this for their review.

Attorney Andino updates the board on the easement that they are working on. They are waiting for more information. Plus there are other easements that will be needed.

New Business: The Town Insurance Policy renewal is discussed. AS was previously discussed it increased 2.3%, 2% was for the new equipment, .3% was for the rest of the policy. A motion is made for the approval of the renewal is made by Councilman Jeffers, seconded by Councilman Rizzo. Roll Call vote: Councilman Eades absent, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Jeffers yes, Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

Civil Service titles update: Supervisor Gray states that he received a letter from Civil Service in January requesting the word "temporary" be removed from a Highway worker position - Bill Feocco and a constable position - Chris Czolowski. Councilman Jeffers has questions/concerns on this. Can they be made/called part-time positions? No. He just does not want to be creating new positions. What are the other highway employees considered as? They are classified as MEO's. The two positions will still be used as a part-time, called in only when needed. The Civil Service wants to do away with all temporary positions. There is discussion on this. A motion is made by Councilman Rizzo to remove the word temporary from the Highway worker position and the Court Constable position with the condition that it does not affect the full time status of other positions, Supervisor Gray states that he will verify this, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. Roll Call vote: Councilman Eades absent, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Jeffers yes, Supervisor Gray yes, carried, with reservations.

Emergency Lighting: CEO Tom Passarello walked around the building and discovered that some of the emergency lighting is not operational. Kris LaPointe responds that they are tested yearly and between last year's inspection and this year some of them do not work. He will replace them.

Newsletter: Due to the pandemic a lot of things are up in the air - swim lessons, dumpster days, etc. Maybe next month we can possibly generate a four-page black and white newsletter with information - we will decide at a later date.

Direct Energy contract renewal: the contract will save the town approximately \$320.00± per year. A motion to approve this renewal is made by Councilman Gagliardi, seconded by Councilman Rizzo. . Roll Call vote: Councilman Eades absent, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Jeffers yes, Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

Councilman Jeffers questions where we stand on the contract with the I.B.T. Union? Councilman Rizzo responds that because of Councilman Eades hospitalization, and the pandemic everything is on hold. There was a meeting about a month and a half ago, but then everything happened, so we are on hold. Councilman Rizzo tells the board that they have permission to meet with the union rep in the future, after the pandemic restrictions are eased and Councilman Eades is in good health. There is discussion on the future meetings – if they have representation then the town should also have representation. Councilman Jeffers also states that the town needs to start thinking about the water contract with the Village of Weedsport. Supervisor Gray will call the Mayor. Councilman Jeffers has questions on the contributions to the retirement system. Now that we are working from home, different hours, etc. How is that being handled now? Attorney Andino responds that he has not heard anything specific as to the contributions to the retirement system in regard to the change in the times that people are actually on site, because they are receiving their same pay. Councilman Jeffers dose not want anyone to find out five years down the road that there may be a problem. Attorney Andino does not think there is any change, but he will check into the concern and get back to the board, There is more discussion on this, with more information to come at a later date. Councilman Jeffers questions if Attorney Andino found anything out about insurance coverage for employees when they are at home, not on site? No he has not as of yet. What about liability if someone got in an accident when they were not on site, could someone sue the town, because they were being paid? Attorney Andino did not think so because the employee would be driving their own vehicle, going to the store, or just running errands. He will research this too.

Supervisor Gray state that the board has the reports from Highway, Water & Sewer, Codes, Town Clerk, and the Bookkeeper. Also, there is a quote for a new dump truck for the Water Department. Supervisor Gray explains some of the items on the spreadsheet that the bookkeeper prepared amounts in various accounts, CDs and Money Market Accounts, percentage of budgets used for the first quarter, etc. Also he reminded the board that if they have any questions on the budget amounts to please call or email the Bookkeeper. The quote for the dump truck for the W&S Department is also discussed. The board will wait until the next meeting to decide. Councilman Jeffers asks how much is everyone in agreement to takeout of reserves this year to balance the budget? The board fells that that is something that they will need to sit done with the

Bookkeeper to discuss. When are we going to do this? We need to plan this now, not later when we have already spent down the reserves. Next years funding will most likely be less than this year so the surplus/reserves will not be built up. There is much more discussion on this. The board needs to do this now, not keep putting it off. Councilman Gagliardi questions if towns are eligible for any of the special funding/grants/loans that has been set up for help during the pandemic. Attorney Andino says no but there is lobbying going on now to try to get this stimulus money to government agencies. The original amount that was given out for governmental agencies was only for larger populated cites. There is a website given to the board for more information: nycom.org. Supervisor Gray will set up a workshop meeting with the Bookkeeper after we receive our check from the county.

Highway Superintendent LaPointe informs the board that County Highway Department is not hiring summer help this year so they have asked the Sennett Highway Department to mow nine miles of road (the same roads that the town plows), twice, at a payment of \$250.00 per mile. The board asks Kris about CHIPS funding. Right now the jobs are on hold. One job was on Buter Drive and one on Calemad Drive. They could both wait until next year if need be. More discussion at the workshop.

The abstract in the amount of \$153,152.57 is approved for payment on a motion made by Councilman Rizzo, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. . Roll Call vote: Councilman Eades absent, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Jeffers no, Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

The meeting is adjourned.