

Sennett Town Board Meeting Minutes October 8, 2019

Minutes for the Town of Sennett Town Board meeting held on Tuesday, October 8, 2019 at the Town of Sennett Office Building at 7:00 PM.

Members Present:

Peter Adams, Supervisor
Jerrold Eades, Councilman
Edward Rizzo, Councilman
Richard Gagliardi, Councilman
James Jeffers, Councilman
Kristopher LaPointe, Highway Superintendent
Richard Andino, Town Attorney

The meeting is opened with the Pledge. Adams asks the board if everyone received the minutes from the last meeting. Jeffers motions to accept the minutes, Peter abstains as he did not yet read the minutes, 4 ayes, 0 nays, carried.

Supervisor Adams begins with old business.

- 1) Water Tank Easement-initial discussions with landowner
- 2) Letter to be sent by Water & Sewer to Weedsport +2%
- 3) Tentative Budget submitted
- 4) Water Contracts, rates & Actual Usage to be sent to Labella by Water & Sewer, along with Vulnerability Assessment
- 5) CPA firm to send Letter of Certification on project audit & "engagement letter" & ETF info to be sent to Labella

Comments: The Town is still working on the Water Tank Easement; they have to set up a meeting with Mr. Panna after more information and updates from the engineer. Districts 1 & 3 final design is unfinished then they need a review from the health department. Working on 3 more items to the CPA firm to then go to Labella. They're expecting bids in late January, early February when contractors are looking for work.

Then Supervisor Adams moves on to new business:

- 1) Sennett Seniors-Overview by Kathy Gray
- 2) Date to be set for Public Hearing on Budget
- 3) Health Care costs have gone up +5%/ Consortium
- 4) Letter CLNB entered into board minutes

Sennett Seniors: Kathy Gray gives the board a detailed overview of the Sennett Seniors program. Kathy says membership in the group has grown from 70 people to around 150 people in the 8.5 years she has been involved. There are no dues for Town of Sennett residents, \$15/ year for each non-Sennett member. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month, except for February and March as travel is often more difficult in weather conditions. They celebrate members birthdays, have 50/50 raffles and door prizes and largely serves as a socialization event for citizens. They hold a variety of programs each year-- Coming up in October they will have a silent auction, November-Office for the Aging ad Scat Van Speakers, and December they will have their annual Christmas party, held at Lasca's this year. They go on local trips and occasional bus trips—offered to members first and then others. They often give donations to Sennett/Brutus food pantries, collect hygiene products for the needy and participate in Christmas tree decorating at the Ward O'Hara museum. Sennett Seniors and the town are represented every 2 months at the Senior Council. The group consists of chairs/presidents of all Cayuga County clubs (approx. 9 or 10) and the OFA (Office for the Aging). The Town of Sennett's contributions to the Sennett Seniors supports all of these efforts and ensures seniors have things to do and socialization, according to Judy Peltz who also speaks on behalf of the club. Prices are going up for lunch and they are having to crunch money. Judy would also like to address the rumors of the club "doing too much for non-Sennett residents." The out of town residents pays dues each year and for their lunch each month. In the club's eyes, the only thing these members receive from the Town's contributions are a small Christmas gift--\$5 or under. Supervisor Adams thanks Kathy and Judy for the presentation and commitment to the town and Sennett Seniors.

Supervisor Adams moves on to discuss the Board of Election's addition of early elections, the closest to Sennett is in Auburn. The City charges each Town so we will need to budget more for elections this year. Sennett's 2 primary elections will be held in April and June from 6AM - 9PM.

Next is the discussion of Cayuga County Shared Services. Pennie will post the documents online. The goal is to consolidate resources and save money for towns in Cayuga County. Some of the examples provided by Supervisor Adams are shared equipment and operators, shared salt sheds, tax-saving fuel purchases from the county highway department, joint-purchase of an asphalt roller, shared meter-reading devices and meters, shared appraisal, assessor, and exemption services, plowing fees, multiple county bidding and purchasing, and a shared emergency services center. Shared Services hope to save \$227,000.00. The documents can be viewed on the Cayuga County website.

The date for the Public hearing for the budget will be Tuesday, October 29 at 6 p.m. The town will put notice out next week for the meeting. The budget will be

revised based on the public's input and the final budget will need to be adopted by November 20th.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield has increased health care costs by 5% for a single plan and each family plan. Surplus in the budget will be used to push back into premium charges or to lower or keep costs stable.

Supervisor Adams reads a transparency letter he is submitting into the minutes (letter is attached to these minutes). Adams previously declared a conflict of interest before the board on June 11, 2019. Adams joined the board for the Cayuga Lake National Bank. Being that the Town's CD's are with CLNB, Adams will abstain from any votes concerning banking with CLNB. The board members were all present when Adams declared the conflict of interest and the members did not see a conflict of interest. Adams asks for a motion to submit his letter into the minutes, Eades motions, Jeffers seconds, all ayes.

Department Reports:

Highway Superintendent Kris LaPointe details some of the work the highway department has been doing including mowing, prep for plowing, landscaping, etc. LaPointe discusses the plowing agreement with Cayuga County which requires 5% each year for 3 years. LaPointe also mentions to the board that he would love to attend the Fall Highway Conference as he has never been if the Town could make that happen for him.

Water and Sewer: Monthly water samples were taken, working on the Franklin St. pump station, water service for the new gun range, replaced meters, identify reasons for high costs of some water users in town and tried to help lower their costs.

Planning board: Chairman Bacon discusses some of the recent approvals by the board including additions to Repair Plus—additional bays on the South end of the building. Bacon also raised a question for the board regarding a current project before Planning, the new Storage Squad facility on the corner of Healy and Grant Ave. Roads. They are making a left-turn-only exit mandatory onto Healy Rd. to direct traffic around to County House Rd. to avoid dangerous traffic coming onto Grant Ave. Bacon asks if the town would be able to help those efforts by possibly making a section of Healy Rd. one way or at the very least putting any additional signage up.

Judge Timian reports \$4,570.50 for September. Judge Riley reports \$4,148 for September. The Town Clerk reports \$5,684.77 for September.

Attorney Andino gives information about coming to a resolution for 5G wireless centers. Town would have an aesthetic and character standards for the centers. They are close to completing the draft to introduce at a future meeting.

Questions and comments can be directed to Rich Andino. They are trying to make a uniform legislation for all municipalities to adopt. Nothing from Assessors office.

Councilman Jeffers motions to open up a public hearing for comments, seconded by Supervisor Adams. No comments from public. Councilman Jeffers motions to close public hearing, Councilman Eades seconds, closed. Executive Session is not needed.

Councilman Jeffers motions for the Town's bills to be paid with appropriate signatures, seconded by Supervisor Adams.

Councilman Jeffers makes a motion to adjourn the meeting with the next meeting to be held on October 29, 2019 @ 6 p.m. Supervisor Adams seconds, 5 ayes, 0 nays. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heather Driscoll, Alternate Secretary

Transparency Letter submitted into Town Board minutes by Supervisor Peter Adams

To Town Board:

RE: Transparency letter to be entered into the Town Board minutes

Date: 10/8/2019

This letter serves as full transparency for a discussion I had with the Town Board at a June 11th, 2019 meeting where I declared to the entire Town Board members, Mr Eades, Mr. Rizzo, Mr Gagliardi, Mr. Jeffers, a possible conflict of interest. This item was discussed and each Town Board member felt there was no conflict of interest and that the CD's were to remain to place at a rate of 3.1% interest income for the residents Reserve Funds for 13 month period expected to earned \$28,000 of interest income on the Towns Reserve Funds with Cayuga Lake National Bank.

Background discussed with Town Board:

I showed the Board a letter from the President of Cayuga Lake National Bank, Mary May, where she invited me to join the Bank Board over a lunch we had in December 2018.

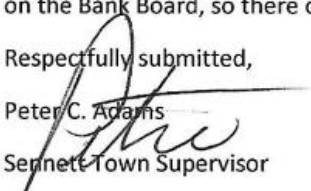
We shop our CD's quarterly for the best rates, and in March/ April 2019 we found a 13 month CD rate from CLNB for 3.1%. We looked at 3-4 other Banks rates and spread sheeted these for review. CLNB had the highest CD rate of 3.1% with no strings attached to it. We placed some of our Reserve funds into these CLNB CD's. We expect to make approximately \$28,000 in interest income for the Taxpayers on their reserve funds with the 3.1% rate. This is part of our strategy to increase our interest income on reserves when we are seeing the County lower our sales tax revenues. In the past this had not been shopped on a quarterly basis to find the best CD rates and to ladder our CD's quarterly.

In June 2019 at a Town Board meeting, before I formally took a seat on the CLNB Board July 1st 2019, I declared a conflict of interest to the entire Town Board members who were all present. CLNB would allow us to move the money we had placed with them in CD's to another Bank with no penalty if the Town Board felt we were conflicted. The Town Board discussed it and did not feel there was any conflict of interest and the CD's should remain with the CLNB at the high CD rate of 3.1% until maturity in 2020.

I have agreed to abstain on all matters involving the CLNB and the Town going forward, so long as I am on the Bank Board, so there can be no conflict of interest issues arising.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter C. Adams


Sennett Town Supervisor