

# Sennett Town Board End-of-Year Meeting Wednesday, December 30th, 2020 – 7:00 pm

## Roll call:

Board Members: Ed Rizzo  
Mike Adrian  
Tom Gray  
James Jeffers  
Rick Gagliardi

Others in attendance: Kris LaPointe – Highway Superintendent  
Jeremy Bacon  
Ed Magdziak

Agenda: End-of-year meeting with the Sennett Town Board

- I. Pledge of Allegiance –
- II. The public be heard – Opened by motion Adrian? Seconded by Gagliardi? All were in favor. Motion to close Public be heard by Councilman Rizzo and seconded by Councilman Jeffers.
- III. Old Business: (Gray): Traditionally this meeting is held to pay the bills that came in until the end of the year. The first order of business is for the approval of all abstracts that require three or more signatures. Do I have a motion? (Adrian): I'll make a motion. (Jeffers): I'll second. Roll call vote – All councilmembers – “Yes”.
  - a. Approval of all abstracts requiring three or more signatures: – See above.
  - b. Request by Assessor Jeff Lowe for extension of Resolution for Seniors and Individuals with Disabilities Limited Income pursuant to the Governor’s Order through 2021: (Gray): Jeff said we have 37 people that qualify for this. As of yesterday, the Governor did sign this, and Jeff felt we should still pass a resolution to show our support. You want to take a second or two to read over that. It says, “As of COVID-19 State Disaster has resulted in a limited number of hours for the Town of Sennett and has rendered seniors and others with disabilities homebound; whereas many seniors and individuals with disabilities do not have the ability to file their real property tax exemption applications in person due to the safety precautions and the lack of ability to file such applications on line, and whereas Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an executive order 202.83 – which grants local governments the ability to adopt a resolution extending the exemption status of the seniors and the individuals with disabilities entitled to a certain real property tax exemption. Now, therefore it is resolved the Town of Sennett Assessor shall extend the 2020 exemption status to those people receiving the Senior exemption and the people with disabilities with limited income exemption through 2021 without a renewal application except in circumstances elucidated below. Resolved that the Town of Sennett Assessor may require a renewal application if he believes the owner(s) that qualified for the 2020 exception has changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to another owner or died. The resolution was adopted and therefore, was duly put to a vote upon the roll call.” Do I have a motion to accept this? (Jeffers): So, moved. (Gray): Second? (Adrian): Second. Roll call vote: All councilmen voted yes.

(Gray): Okay, we'll get this processed. Do we have anything else? (Jeffers): Next meeting, we need to schedule it. (Gray): Okay, in the next meeting, we will have the pilot. I will send you a copy of it when they finalize it. (Jeffers): I'll ask you again, I don't know remember discussing what the pilot was going to be. Did we finalize that? (Gray): At the last meeting we determined we would collect 50 sewers, not 60, which raised the percentage from 3% to 5% or about \$24,000.00 that would go into the pilot. According to what the school district has agreed to, and the counties have looked at too, have kind of given a nod. I'll have the final nod this week. It will be divided proportionally based on their tax rate. At this point the school taxes are a little higher than the county and also included in there, we will get a portion of that pilot annually when we institute a tax. That's in there for later on. The school was perfectly fine with it. Lisa Green contacted all of the board members – no one had an issue with it. I contacted Tracy Variare (??? spelling), who's the head of the Cayuga Industrial Development Association. She talked to Cornerstone and shared all her thoughts on this with the county. Basically, she said in there – this type of pilot they're doing with the railroads anyways. The way they divide it up coming through. The pilot will be based on 5% of the gross at the end of \$24,000.00. They are going to pay full district fees for prior water. (Jeffers): It's 5%, it's their revenue, minus utilities, plus 5%. (Gray): Along those lines, yes. (Jeffers): This is what I'm trying to get at. Do we have something in writing? I haven't seen anything in writing of what we agreed to. I know we had that conference call. She came here and gave a presentation, but I don't remember...

(Gray): We haven't agreed to anything until we agree to the pilot. (Jeffers): We have to have what's in writing what we're going to agree to in the pilot. And we're going to go over those as a board and hammer them down. Am I wrong? (Adrian): I was under the impression that the numbers were 50% and the 24k. (Jeffers): But that's the thing. She described how the formula was. It's not going to be 24 grand every time. It goes on that formula and she said in that e-mail, they expect a 3% in utilities and only a 2% increase in revenue, so our payment goes down instantly right there. And so, if we go on that formula for 30 years, what's it going to be? How far behind are we going to be? (Gray): They also in there, they can raise the rent and everything to make up the difference. As I say, once I get the pilot, it's all explained, the lawyers have gone over it, look it over and when they come in here next week, we can ask those questions. (Jeffers): You just said we're going to vote on it next week. (Gray): Yes, but you'll have it in your hands to look at it before we vote. (Jeffers): I'd like it in my hands long before that, so I can be able to ask some questions. So what numbers are in there? Those numbers in there are the revenue minus the utilities plus 5% for a 30-year pilot? (Gray): Yes. (Jeffers): And what's the break-up percentage wise? (Gray): 5 percent. (Jeffers): No, no...per each entity. (Gray): We don't know that yet. Jeff has to figure that out, he will figure that out on Tuesday, and we'll have those numbers for our meeting. (Jeffers): Well, when are we having that meeting? (Gray): We need to decide that right now. I would suggest next Wednesday for our organizational meeting – that would also meet the deadline for the pilot. (Jeffers): So, we're not going to have the numbers until Tuesday and you're expecting us to do a vote on Wednesday. (Gray): Yes. (Jeffers): Okay. Have you gone over the numbers for what could be in increases? (Gray): She talked and said it could be as much as 2% per year. The pilot money could go up to 2% per year. I think the bottom base is 24 something right now. But I'm happy to give you...she'll answer all your questions - (interruption by Jeffers) - (Jeffers): When you say the bottom base, you don't think we'll end up getting less than that? (Gray): I don't think so. (Jeffers): The utilities increase, but they don't increase their rent, how do we not go backwards? (Gray): Because they said they would be increasing their...to cover it. They could. (Adrian): They're not going to lose money on it. (Jeffers): They're not going to lose money on what? (Adrian): If that \$24,000.00 is based on a percentage of their profit, is that correct? (Gray): Yes. (Jeffers): It's their profit plus five percent, yes.

(Adrian): So, they're not doing that to lose money. (Jeffers): I understand that but they're not going – no places increase their rent every year. They're rent controlled for senior stuff; they're not going...if their utility goes up 1%. (Adrian): Well, we'll see what they present. (Jeffers): When are they presenting? (Gray): They are going to be here next week. (Adrian): But we're going to get the paperwork prior to that. (Gray): I should have it here by tomorrow, but they have a couple of things they're trying to iron out. She's available to talk to anybody at any-time. (Rizzo): See if you can get Jeff to do this figure beforehand and get it out to us. If we're not comfortable, Jim, we'll just ask our questions and delay the vote, that's all. (Jeffers): Well, I just don't like the fact that I got told tonight that we're voting on it next week. Sounds to me like it's already a done deal. (Gray): We were going to vote on it tonight. (Jeffers): That's news to me. We just had the presentation last time. (Gray): Well, it all has to be done by the 13<sup>th</sup> to meet the grant. They are going to be here next week. I'm going to give her your phone number, you can call her... (Jeffers): I've asked the questions. I've got the answers that I have, but again, I have nothing in writing that says this is the exact thing that we're going with. And so, I don't like the fact that I might get it next Wednesday at 6:00 pm and then at 6:10, I'm going to be expected to vote on it. (Gray): I will make sure you will have it by the weekend, hopefully by tomorrow. And if there's any minor changes, it's in the language with the lawyers as far as implementation.

(Gray): Okay, anything else? (Adrian): Yes, at the last meeting there was a conversation and some confusion as to the change in insurance that I thought I covered when I explained it, as far as the co-pay and the premiums going away. I'm pretty sure I mentioned that when I explained exactly how that was going to work, so if we need to make a motion, I'd like to make that motion now – that we remove that 8%. (Gagliardi): It's no longer 8%, it's 6 now. (Adrian): Okay, that we remove that co-pay from the premium. (Gray): The final paperwork was sent in today. They should be receiving their debit cards – families will have a debit card with up to \$10,000.00 on it and individuals will have a debit card with up to \$5,000.00 on it. Cheri will get reports constantly as far as what's being withdrawn and various things like that. We set up a bank account at Lyons, so that she can transfer money into there, and they can draw from that account. That's the only purpose for that account. I did that yesterday and we finished all of the paperwork today and sent it. They have it. They are supposed to be receiving their insurance cards at any moment. You haven't gotten yours yet. I've got a thing in; I'll call the guy tomorrow. Because it's going to take three weeks to get the debit cards, they've given an explanation and I'll be giving that to the employees tomorrow for what they do for those first three weeks until the debit card comes, and we'll move on from there. Cheri is all set with it. (Adrian): I make a motion to remove the co-pay on the premium on the upcoming year's insurance. (Rizzo): I'll second. (Gray): Discussion? (Jeffers): So, when this happens, now we won't be anymore bill for...they're going to take care of it all by themselves? (Gray): The only time I think we're going to get a bill for a co-pay, is if the union members – and we haven't settled the union contract, is if they reach their ten thousand dollar or five-thousand-dollar limit. (Jeffers): So up until then, everything is taken care of by them, through them with their card. (Gray): Right. Isn't that the way it worked two years ago? We're going with the same group I think we had two years ago – Lifetime Benefit Solutions. I spent a lot of time talking to them the last couple of days, so we're ready to roll. Anymore discussion? (Gagliardi): I think we should keep it in for the receiving employees, \$301.00 on the single plan and \$783.00 for the family – change in plans, plus they don't have to pay any co-pays anymore, deductible, nothing. So, 8% is nothing in this day and age. (Gray): Anymore discussion? Voice vote: Adrian – yes. Gagliardi – no. Jeffers – no. Rizzo – yes. Gray – yes. (Jeffers): So, do we have to go back and unvote that law that we had for doing that? Let's do it. The increase. We passed a resolution to have it increased every year, and so if we just took care of it for this year. Are we going to have to do it every year? (Gray): I'll get a qualifying answer on that. We voted to take care of it for 2021. Anything else? (Gagliardi): What happens in 2022? (Gray): We'll determine that in the Fall. (Jeffers): Are we going to discuss contracts? (Gray): We'll do that in executive session when we're done. Let's go back, anything else.

Anything from the public? (Jeffers): We need to set up a meeting. (Gray): I'd like to set the meeting up for next Wednesday – we can do it at either 6:00 pm or 7:00 pm. I had to do it tonight because I don't have a clerk until next Monday and I had to type out the paperwork today. The only thing I left out was the date – for it to get to the paper tomorrow. (Jeffers): Have you gotten in touch with the boards and asked their input on...? (Gray): I just have to do the ZBA. (Jeffers): Who they have in mind? (Gray): Yes. Jeremy is the ZBA. (Jeffers): Are they meeting? (Gray): No. (Jeffers): At the last meeting, I asked if you guys could meet as boards to discuss amongst yourselves who you would like to come up with choices of who was appointed so we got people on the boards that the boards could work with as a group, not as who people want on boards. Don't you think the board should be as a group? Decide and come up with some names that they can work with as a board? *(From what this transcriber can hear, it sounds as Mr. Magsziak feels this is a conflict of interest and is not comfortable making a suggestion or recommendation to the Town Board)* (Jeffers): As a Zoning Board Group to meet and say, 'Hey – we have a position opened – who do we as a group think we would like to have in our group and then bring it to the board and say this is who we recommend you nominate and approve. (Magdziak): This would be the first time this has happened in the Town of Sennett. (Jeffers): I don't know. First time – I've asked for it every year. I don't feel it's right for the town board as a membership, to be the one's appointing people who they might not be a good mix to where they're working. Ed, I'm not saying there was a problem. I didn't mean it that way. It was just that I...my feeling is that it just seems like the history of this – the board, the elected town board seats people on those ZBA boards that they think are good and may not be a good fit from time to time – with other people. And so that's why I was just suggesting that the board's ZBA and Planning come together as a group. Or like the fire departments and the villages getting together and electing their official and the village board having to approve them or not approve them. (Gray): Once the person is appointed, that is their final say on that. (Gagliardi): Is there any recommendations out there? (Gray): I talked to Jeremy the other day. We ironed out the Planning Board. Jeremy, unless there is opposition, will be chairman again next year. There's a lot on the table and there should be changing. Glen Fletcher came in and filled the position. That was fine with them. Glen is more than happy. The alternate is a one-year term and that was Mike Case. Do you have any other alternates? (Bacon): Just Mike Case. Just one alternate. (Gray): Would you check and see if he's interested and continue with it? (Bacon): Yes. (Gray): I know he filled in at one of your meetings. The most recent one. (Gray): The other board is the Board of Assessment Review, which is a five-year term, and they meet once a year. Russ Harkins filled in the last year of somebody's term and I'm going to check with him again to see if he's interested in the five-year term. He was fine with it. What's the name of your friend Ed? Rizzo: (???) (Gray): Anything else? I'd like to make a motion that we go into executive session to discuss contract. (Rizzo): I'll second. All were in favor.

Executive session: Motion by Gray, seconded by Rizzo. Meeting ended at 7:24 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by AnnMarie Clarke.

1/27/21