

Minutes of the Sennett Town Board meeting held on Thursday June 18, 2020 via Zoom.us.

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

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 May meetings are approved on a motion made by Councilman Gagliardi, seconded by Councilman Rizzo, 3 ayes, 0 nays, 2 absent, carried.

Facilities accessibility: The Governor has issued an Executive Order on June 6, 2020 extending an earlier Executive Order that virtual meetings will continue until July 6th. After that time we will be following regulations.

Park Grant Update: Supervisor Gray states that he sent his monthly email and got a response that nothing has changed, it is still in committee. Supervisor Gray spoke to former Senator DeFrancisco's aide and she told him that we could have just opted for the funds that had already been spent instead of putting in the change of plans to obtain the full amount of the original grant. Supervisor Gray will continue sending his monthly email to obtain information on the status.

Water Project update: The water tank plans are 99% complete. Approvals have been received from the NYS DOT, the Army Corp of Engineers and the funding agencies. We are still waiting for approvals from the Cayuga County Health Department, the Cayuga County Highway Department, the Railroad and the NYS DEC. Councilman Rizzo asks the Supervisor to ask when they think the project will be ready to go out to bid.

Easement update: Attorney Andino states that they are working on the final title searches needed for the Panna easement.

Weedsport Water Contract update: The Mayor would like to the two boards to meet soon. This will be discussed further, as to a date. Water & Wastewater Superintendent Schalck has asked that the ownership of the meter be discussed, as it is getting old and will need to be replaced at a cost of \$4,00.00±. Supervisor Gray thinks that with the City it is a 50/50 split in the cost of improvements/replacements. This will definitely be discussed at the meetings.

Employee Insurance Contributions: Supervisor Gray asks Councilman Rizzo and Councilman Gagliardi to continue. The percentage amount according to the original plan should have been 9%, (4%, 2%, 2%,1%) at present it is 4%. Councilman Rizzo makes a motion to increase the Employee Contribution amount for all non-union employees to 6% immediately, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. This will not be a retroactive charge. Roll call vote: Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Jeffers absent, Supervisor Gray yes, and councilman Eades excused, carried.

New Business: Workman's Comp Insurance: Supervisor Gray gave each board member a copy of the two proposals that the town has received for their review and contact information if they had any questions. Councilman Gagliardi asks how does the town become eligible for the loyalty award? Supervisor Gray states that he was told that we would become eligible at the end of the year, as long as we renew the policy, it would be reviewed, and it would be between \$750.00 and \$1,000.00. The other difference that Supervisor Gray noticed is the current insurer quoted \$30,094.00 with an anticipated return of approximately 30% ± (not guaranteed, that has been the average lately), which brings it down to \$21,800.00, but he did see a discrepancy in the assessment charge – it shows a fee of \$1533.00 now but if we sign it shows a fee of \$1266.00. He will check on that. He asks Highway Superintendent LaPointe his thoughts. Mr. Lapointe states that all but one town in the county has Comp Alliance insurance (two counting Sennett). They offer safety classes twice a year at no cost at all. Also he has had one claim with the current company, it was minor, and it took six months to settle. They also offer special classes if the need arises, they do not audit the town yearly, and they have an A Plus rating. A motion is made by Councilman Rizzo to change our policy to Comp Alliance effective July 1, 2020, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi, Roll call vote: Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Jeffers absent, Supervisor Gray yes, and Councilman Eades excused, carried. Supervisor Gray tells the board that Comp Alliance will come to present a class at any time that we need one. Payment is discussed, we will wait until the July meeting and we have an actual correct bill to pay.

Any other business to come before the board?

Highway report: Superintendent LaPointe reports that he received a letter from the Governor that the town would receive their CHIPS funding, and in the next paragraph it stated that it would probably be 80% of the original amount (which is better than nothing). Also purchased new tires for Truck #4, it was an expense, but you have to have good tires. The board has heard some good comments on the job that was done on Butera Drive. Has anyone been complaining about their lawns on Wegman Street? Some people are watering their new grass. The water department has said that the water usage is the highest it has ever been. Probably because everyone has been home because of Covid-19,

extra watering and there has been a lot of new pools being installed, plus it has been hot.

The Water & Sewer report was reviewed by the board. The Court Clerk's report was reviewed. The Town Clerk's report is reviewed by the board. The Court amounts are reviewed. The CEO report is available. The Supervisor reports on a new project being done by Tessy Plastics who has bought the end building at the Grant Avenue Plaza and is putting in a testing facility for Covid-19 kits. They are updating the building, sewer, and waterlines, etc. They are trying to complete it in a four-week time frame. There will be no big truck traffic either, supplies are brought in by cars.

Kris LaPointe questions the board on the insurance casts for nonunion employees. He wonders when this was decided. The board states a least a year or a couple of years ago. They wanted it to increase to 10% over a few years. He has looked through the minutes back to October 2018 and did not find anything about 10%. He has a letter from former Superintendent Adams that employees would pay 4% and minutes of January 3rd, 2019 also stating that. He understands that we need to pay, but he says that none of the town employees (non-union) were ever informed of this change. Which you do not need to do, but it would have been nice. He also has another question regarding the insurance the Bronze and Platinum plans. Why did the town change? Isn't it a better plan? The Bronze is cheaper by \$763.00 per person for the family plan, with deductibles, but with a HR account set up. He would like the board to review the plans and check out the differences. He also feels and has heard it from three different people that a former Supervisor's goal was that everyone would pay for their insurance. He also goes on to state the hours that they put in; early morning, late nights, holidays, plowing in snowstorms and extreme weather conditions, etc. so that everyone can get to work or appointments. Skaneateles does not pay anything toward their insurance, and they have the SHA plan where they keep any unused monies to use for future medical expenses. The Town of Niles also does not pay toward their insurance either, He would like more communication between the board and the employees, Supervisor Gray recommends that they speak with the Attorney that is working on the union negotiations because they have information about different insurance policies that may help. He also explained to the former Supervisor that they never needed an Attorney for any previous union negotiations, also confirmed by Councilman Eades. This adds a large expense to the process, and there is no settlement yet. Please notify the employees and ask for their comments. He would also like the board to review the different options in the insurance plans because he feels that there could be a large savings. The Supervisor suggests that the board get the report from the Attorney and sit down with a few of the employees and discuss the different options, Kris feels that the Bronze plan is a better cost-effective insurance plan. There is more

discussion between the board and Kris regarding why the change and the costs. Supervisor Gray states that we cannot make any changes until January, he will get the insurance information from the Consortium, Councilman Rizzo will get the insurance report from the Attorney, Kris apologizes for getting hot, Councilman Rizzo says that it was okay, no need to apologize and he apologizes for the lack of communications. There is more discussion. Supervisor Gray states that let's use the 60 days and get this resolved. Everyone thanks each other for all that they do.

Supervisor Gray makes a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel and contract negotiations seconded by Councilman Rizzo, 3 ayes, 2 absent, 0 nays, carried.

A motion is made by Councilman Rizzo, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi, 3 ayes, 2 absent, 0 nays, carried.

A motion is made by Councilman Gagliardi to pay the abstract in the amount of \$175,530.08, seconded by Councilman Rizzo. Roll call vote: Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Jeffers absent, Supervisor Gray yes, and Councilman Eades excused, carried.

The meeting is adjourned on a motion made by Councilman Rizzo, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi, 3 ayes, 2 absent, 0 nays, carried.