

Minutes of the Town of Sennett Town Board Meeting Held on Thursday, August 17, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Sennett Town Office Building.

Members Present: Thomas Blair, Supervisor (Appearing Remotely)
Richard Gagliardi, Councilman
Michael Wellauer, Councilman
Edward Rizzo, Councilman
Robert Edmunds, Councilman

Also Present: Kristopher LaPointe, Highway Superintendent
Kristopher LaPointe, Water & Sewer Superintendent
Cheri Major, Bookkeeper
Harold Gilfus, Code Enforcement Officer
Rich Andino (Atty)
Residents: John Ryan, Cheri Blim, Gordon Bowen, Jerry Sankey, Cathy Sankey, Richard Phillips, Ed Magdziak, Aileen McNabb Coleman, MaryBeth Rizzeri, James Jeffers

Remotely: Tom Gray

Absent: Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting is called to Order at 6:30 p.m. by Councilman Rizzo.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE - The meeting is opened with the pledge to the flag by Councilman Rizzo.

ROLL CALL - Councilman Rizzo opens the meeting with a Roll Call, Councilman Gagliardi, Councilman Wellauer, Councilman Rizzo, Councilman Edmunds, and Supervisor Blair are present.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - Meeting Minutes for July 20, 2023 are reviewed and approved by the Board, motion made by Councilman Edmunds and seconded by Councilman Wellauer; 5 Ayes 0 Absent 0 Nays. Carried.

PUBLIC HEARING - No Scheduled Public Hearing.

SCHEDULED SPEAKERS

MRB - No one was in attendance from MRB. Water & Sewer Superintendent gave an update on WD #1, Morsch is making good progress and working on Depot Rd. Councilman Edmunds read the report of MRB.

Kari Terwilliger - Kari was not in attendance. Councilman Edmunds advised the next Ad Hoc meeting will be held on August 22, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

PUBLIC BE HEARD – Motion is made by Councilman Wellauer to open the Public Be Heard Period, seconded by Councilman Edmunds. All in favor. 5 ayes 0 nays 0 absent, carried.

INSERT ADDL INFO FROM RESIDENTS

Cheri Blim – Ms. Blim advises the Board she is concerned about the heavy traffic and speeding drivers, deep ditches, lack of guardrails, accidents at Depot Road & Route 5, a needed culvert (there has been no success with requests made to the County). This is a County Road. Another issue is flooding waters. What is the status of the current water project and when the full project will be completed. Superintendent LaPointe provides an update.

MaryBeth Rizzeri – Ms. Rizzeri advises the Board that she is concerned with drainage on Depot Road. There is flooding on Depot Road and it is getting worse. Councilman Wellauer advises Ms. Rizzeri to contact Cayuga County.

John Ryan – Mr. Ryan advises the Board that he is concerned with flooding as well, especially the ditch area and that the culvert needs to be fixed so that it works.

With no further public comments, a motion to close is made by Councilman Edmunds and seconded by Councilman Wellauer. All in favor. 5 yes 0 nays 0 absent, carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

- a. **Attorney** – Attorney Andino presents Local Law C-2023, A Local Law Providing a Tax Exemption on Real Property Owned by Members of Volunteer Fire Companies and Volunteer Ambulance Services in the Town of Sennett.

INTRODUCTION OF LOCAL LAW C-2023, A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING A TAX EXEMPTION ON REAL PROPERTY OWNED BY MEMBERS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE COMPANIES AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICES IN THE TOWN OF SENNETT

**TOWN OF SENNETT
TOWN BOARD RESOLUTION**

August 17, 2023

LOCAL LAW NO. C-2023

(“A Local Law Providing for a Tax Exemption on Real Property Owned by Members of Volunteer Fire Companies and Volunteer Ambulance Services in the Town of Sennett”)

Councilor Edmunds introduced proposed Local Law No. C-2023, titled “A Local Law Providing for a Tax Exemption on Real Property Owned by Members of Volunteer Fire Companies and Volunteer Ambulance Services in the Town of Sennett Law,” and made the following motion, which was seconded by Councilor Gagliardi:

WHEREAS, no other agency has the legal authority or jurisdiction to approve or directly undertake the enactment of a local law in the Town of Sennett, such that there are no other involved agencies within the meaning of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) with respect to the proposed enactment of said Local Law, with the result that the Town Board shall act as lead agency in this matter; and

WHEREAS, the adoption to said Local Law is an unlisted action for purposes of environmental review under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has determined that a short environmental assessment form (EAF) shall be required in connection with this matter; and

WHEREAS, the said EAF has been prepared and has been reviewed by the Town Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has considered the adoption of said Local Law, has considered the criteria contained in 6 N.Y.C.R.R. Part 617.7 and has compared the impacts which may be reasonably expected to result from the adoption of said Local Law against said criteria.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that the enactment of proposed Local Law No. C-2023 is an unlisted action, there are no other involved agencies and this Board shall act as lead agency in this matter for purposes of SEQR review; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, the Town Board has determined this action shall have no significant adverse impact on the environment; that, accordingly, an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall not be required; and that this resolution shall constitute a negative declaration under SEQR; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Town Board shall conduct a public hearing as to the enactment of proposed Local Law No. C-2023 at the Town Hall located at 6931 Cherry Street Road, Auburn, New York 13021 on September 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, at which time all persons interested in the subject shall be heard; and it is further

RESOLVED AND DETERMINED, that notice of said public hearing shall be provided at least five (5) days prior to the date of said public hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the Town of Sennett and to any affected municipalities described above.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote and upon roll call, the vote was as follows:

Robert Edmunds	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Rick Gagliardi	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Edward Rizzo	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Michael Wellauer	Councilor	Voted	Yes
Thomas Blair	Supervisor	Voted	Yes

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

DATED: August 17, 2023

Councilman Edmunds makes a motion to accept the introductory Resolution of Local Law C-2023, A Local Law Providing a Tax Exemption on Real Property Owned by Members of Volunteer Fire Companies and Volunteer Ambulance Services in the Town of Sennett, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. No discussion. All in favor. 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent Motion Carried. Public hearing will be held on September 21, 2023.

Councilman Rizzo advises that the existing water tank will be removed. A change Order from Morsch Pipeline for Water Project Tank Demolition has been received in the amount of \$59,750.

A motion is made by Councilman Wellauer to authorize the change work order in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00 for the removal of the existing and no longer utilized water tank, contingent upon Town Supervisor's review of actual change work order and approval and authorize Supervisor Blair to sign the change work order.

COMMENT FROM PUBLIC - Resident Jim Jeffers asks the Board if the cost is already covered. Councilman Rizzo advises it is covered and will be taken from the 10% for overruns that was not used. Mr. Jeffers asks why the tank can't just stay where it is. Supervisor Blair advises that part of the original plans for WDs #1&3 was to replace the existing tank. There are environmental and structural concerns due to age, paint is flaking off and our engineers have recommended that if the tank is not being replaced, that it be taken down. The Board has been working on this and received a quote from Morsch Pipeline to deconstruct water tank. This is an opportunity to have it done with support of the state and all funding agencies and they have approved the deconstruction of the tank.

The motion is seconded by Councilman Gagliardi.

With no further discussion, a roll call vote is taken.

Roll Call Vote

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes

Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

- b. Planning Board** – Councilman Rizzo advised, on behalf of Chairman Leamy, that the PB has a subdivision application on County Line Road.
- c. Codes/Fire Marshal** – Code Enforcement Officer Gilfus advised his report was in the Board's packet. Issued 9 permits, 61 year to date through end of July. 13 inquiries. 1 Certificate of Occupancy. He has been following up on previously issued permits. Has done 36 site visit inspections, 2 fire/safety inspections. 1 swimming pool inspection.
- d. Local Emergency Planning Committee** - Ed Magdziak advised he attended the Emergency Planning Committee in early August. They are working on emergency plans for water with the various Towns. Mr. Magdziak advises that there is a

hyperlink with Cayuga County for emergencies. Tier 3 training will be held in September.

- e. **Highway Dept.** - Highway Superintendent Kristopher L. LaPointe advised his report was in the Board's packet. The new truck has arrived. The Highway Department went to the annual safety and workplace classes, Dan Short retired after 30 years of employment. Had to hire a company to take dead trees down in the power lines. NYSEG will only maintain the trees. Supervisor Blair advises he provided the terms and conditions necessary for the contract for the salt barn repairs.
- f. **Water Dept.** - Water Superintendent Kristopher L. LaPointe's report was in the Board's meeting packet for their review. Thirty new water meters were received for Mutton Hill portion of the new project.
- g. **Town Clerk** - Councilman Edmunds read the report of the Town Clerk advising that the July 2023 monthly report was in the Board's meeting packet for their review. Fees of \$1,039.00 received, amounts disbursed were \$995.00 to the Supervisor and \$44.00 to NYS Animal Population Control.
- h. **Dog Control Officer** - Councilman Edmunds is working with Mr. Collier about finding a replacement.
- i. **Committees**
 - *Parks & Rec* - No updates.
 - *Veteran Affairs* - No updates.

OLD BUSINESS

- E-Code 360 codification project status - Supervisor Blair advises the project is moving along.
- Local Law re: Solar Energy Moratorium and Updated Law Introduction- covered earlier
- Veteran Affairs/Historian Office project update - Supervisor Blair advises a tentative date is set for 9-15-23.
- Highway Superintendent local law - tabled to next month
- Water & Sewer Rate studies - No updates
- Animal Control - Covered earlier
- Salt Barn insurance settlement and possible new work - discussed earlier
- Town Hall capital needs - tabled to next month
- Town branding & marketing project - no updates
- Town Employee Handbook review - Councilman Gagliardi advises a rough draft is being prepared.
- Planning and Zoning Board alternates - Supervisor Blair advises a few replacements are still needed
- Vehicle and Traffic Safety Signs status - covered earlier
- Video Conference Meetings Local Law status - completed and filed with DOS
- Cemetery mowing - completed
- Sennett Swims - completed
- Mr. Tauro Water complaint - The Supervisor and Water Superintendent LaPointe will be meeting with Mr. Tauro.

- Out of district Water and Sewer User Agreement - Vitale - still in the process.
- Auburn Associates Assessment Challenge - Attorney Andino advised that a Stipulation of Discontinuance has been filed with the Court and the matter is settled for 2023, subject to reassessment as there was a subdivision.

NEW BUSINESS

- Possible updates to subdivision law re: public water/wells - Supervisor Blair advises there are concerns for the number of lots in a subdivision and limited water and potential issues. Attorney Andino also advises may need certain provisions if there is no public water.

SUPERVISOR CORRESPONDENCE/REPORT - All is good in the Town of Sennett. 😊

EXECUTIVE SESSION (IF NECESSARY) - None

PAYMENT OF MONTHLY BILLS - Vouchers - Motion by Councilman Edmunds to pay the vouchers with three or more signatures.

COMMENT FROM PUBLIC - Resident Jeffers asks about the Highway Department employee's recent retirement and vacancy and will the Board fill more than one opening. When subdivisions are added, more work is added, but no additional staff is added. Highway Superintendent LaPointe advises the Department does have the staff to handle the Town's needs.

The motion is seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. With no further discussion, a roll call vote is taken:

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes

Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING - Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Wellauer, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. All in favor. 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk
Town of Sennett