

Minutes of the Town of Sennett Town Board on August 20, 2020 at the Town of Sennett Office Building.

Present: Supervisor Tom Gray

Rick Gagliardi

Ed Rizzo

James Jeffers is absent, listening via Zoom

Rich Andino, Attorney

Kris LaPointe, Highway Superintendent

Gray opens the meeting at 7:02 with the Pledge. He begins with Public be Heard, none. Gray asks if the board received the July minutes, they did. Ed motions to approve the minutes, Rick seconds, approved.

First, the board will hear from Kevin Woyton of Syracuse Business Systems about a new phone system. Our current bill is \$726 for internet, phone, and tv. Kris says the tv is used but not needed, they can use internet. \$110 is the proposed monthly phone bill and \$120 for internet. With taxes, it would be approximately \$125 for each totaling \$250 for the month instead of over \$700 we're currently paying. The system can include headsets to be taken home so phones can be answered remotely. Gagliardi asks how much it would cost to put this system in- \$3,318. Gray is considering putting in the sip trunk now and the phones next year. Ed motions, Tom seconds. Rick-yes, Ed-yes, Tom-yes; motion carried. Kevin will send over information to start the process. He will take care of the conversations with our current providers but suggests we call Verizon to cancel service or they may continue billing.

Gray sent out his monthly email for an update on the Park Grant. He asked to skip putting the waterline in under the road, if he doesn't hear back soon, he will call the Senator's office and ask to be reimbursed for the \$6,800 with no waterline.

Rich Andino brings up the Panna easement, he says the title is done but they need signatures and to get it filed. He doesn't think it will be too difficult with the property owners.

The Weedsport water issue: at their last meeting they approved a 20%/year increase for 5 years. Any issues or meter problems must be paid for by the Town of Sennett. Gray makes a motion to accept the contract. Jeffers comments over Zoom that he believes he was not invited to the Weedsport meeting and wanted to be included. He says he does not like the 5-year plan because it could be passed to another board. He believes we are at risk for increased costs we can't afford. Andino tells Jeffers the Town of Sennett can pass costs to the village if they increase it-that is a provision in the contract.

The board must decide if they are going to contribute to the Owasco Lake Watershed. Gray wants to contribute. He believes that since we have 800 water customers, a \$4 line can be added to each to contribute to the cost. It will cost the Town \$2,500 a year. Ed and Rick want to table the issue for now.

New business: NYS archives revised retention disposition schedule for local governments for how long they must hold onto records before destroying them. Every local government is required to adopt the schedule by January 1, 2021 or they will be prohibited from destroying records. Gray will send Andino the file and Andino's resolution to the board.

Budget: Proposals are in, they are submitting in 1-2 weeks. In September, board budgets meetings will begin. Our first quarter was higher than usual but we can reduce.

If taxes stay the way they are, Kris would like the Highway Department to receive some of their money back. Gray says that Cherri has helped with the budget and vouchers. He would like to restore the extra money to her that's above her salary. \$1,700 for overtime hours was removed during the audit. She has worked overtime and deserves compensation. Pennie is on workman's comp. After 8 days they get reimbursed 70% of her salary. Jeffers asks if we are out of money in payroll. Gray doesn't think so. Jeffers questions why Cherri can't be paid additional out of payroll. She is paid salary so receives the same amount regardless of hours. But she is now doing some of the Town Clerk's jobs as well. Jeffers thinks we should have time cards for people to ensure they are working the hours they are paid for. Gray says we are following the handbook. Kris and Tom keep the hours of their employees and will review the budget for next year. Rick asks if Cherri signs off on her own time card. Yes. Jeffers thinks she needs to have a boss sign off on overtime. He wants to ensure we aren't losing money to bookkeepers who don't work the hours they are paid for. It will be looked at during budget time. Andino asks where the \$1,700 was appropriated from. Gray says the money was taken out of the budget and he is proposing we restore it this year and look at the budget in September and October to make adjustments. Have a line item for Supervisor/Bookkeeper. Ed seconds. Rick-yes, Tom-yes, Ed-yes. Rick says someone should still need to approve hours.

Property tax- Andino tells the board that instituting property tax would require passing local law about exceeding tax gap. He wants to introduce this during a public hearing to pass a local law. If we don't exceed the tax gap, we can rescind the law.

Scat van- Received contract, we pay \$1,000 every year to Cayuga County transportation. Gray wants to know if the board thinks he should sign the contract to continue this. The board says yes.

Reports- Kris brings up the dumpster days and wants to know if we should continue. A lot of citizens have requested it. He thinks it should be regulated to one or two trips because some people abuse it and residency may need to be confirmed. They will put something in the paper and maybe on the website to advertise. Ed thinks the dumpster days were taken out of the budget; they will have to check. Kris also wants to clarify that the new Goodyear tires bought for the dump truck last month were state bid. Gray makes a motion to return money to the budget if it was removed, approximately \$4,000- not to exceed \$5,000. Ed seconds. Rick-yes, Tom-yes, Ed-yes.

Zoning and codes enforcers have made the comment that the ZBA board is not working with them. Gray says he knows and has talked to Andino about it.

Other reports are in the mail. Gray motions to pay all bills. Board approves.

Ed motions to go into executive session. Board agrees. Executive session closes the meeting at 8:37.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Driscoll