

Minutes of the Sennett Town Board Meeting held on Thursday September 16, 2021, at the Town of Sennett.

Present: Thomas Gray, Supervisor
James Jeffers, Councilman
Richard Gagliardi, Councilman
Michael Adrian, Councilman
Edward Rizzo, Councilman
Richard Andino, Town Attorney
Kris LaPointe, Highway Superintendent
Penelope Dennis, Town Clerk

The meeting is opened by the Supervisor with the pledge to the flag. The Supervisor wants to update some information that was previously sent to the board members. The meetings are still on ZOOM – that has been authorized by the state until the 15th of January 2022. He also felt that for the safety of everyone that masks had to worn by everyone while at the meetings. Some of the Councilman checked on this and it is not the case, If you have been fully vaccinated, you do not need to wear one (unless you choose to) or if you have not been vaccinated then you do need to wear a mask. He does feel that for people to do business in the town they need to wear masks. A motion is made by Councilman Jeffers, seconded by Councilman Rizzo, to open the Public to be Heard Segment, 5 ayes. 0 nays, carried. Joanne Field, 31 Highland Street Ext. has a concern. Supervisor Gray wants a full disclosure – both parties are direct neighbors of his. Joanne Field explains to the board that it all started when her neighbor started to put up a fence, she has no problems with this neighbor. When she saw what was being installed she went out a gave a copy of the Zoning Law to Connor Fence (the installers of the fence). She reads from the Zoning Law Section 706 – front and side yard setbacks for corner lots shall be 35 feet. They were going to stop. So, she called Tom Passarello, and explained the situation to him. He stated that he could not come down there right then, and that they could apply for a variance if needed. That's not how variances work. They put the fence up. It is twenty-five feet from the center of the road. Her concern is if she tries to back into or out of her driveway with a camper or a trailer she cannot see, she has been trying to get the fence pushed back ten feet. She also said that she wrote a letter to the town attorney, and she got a response that she did not agree with, He referenced Section 703, which she said had nothing to do with her concerns. Her concern is with the section on Highland Street Extension. She feels that it should not have been allowed to be put up at its current location – only 25 from the center of the road. Supervisor Gray states that the Town Board has no authority to override a decision of the Codes/Zoning Officers, they can only change the Zoning Law. Attorney Andino states that she can file for an interpretation of the Zoning Law with the ZBA. He explains the procedure. There is further discussion. A motion is made by

Councilman Jeffers to close the Public to be Heard Segment, seconded by Councilman Rizzo, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried.

Old Business: Water District #3 Easements: still waiting for the O'Connell Easement. The Railroad easement is almost finalized, just waiting for the insurance paperwork to be finalized. The Panna easement, because of the cost, we are waiting until the end. Supervisor Gray gives an update on the O'Connell easement – He has talked to Tim O'Connell about that, and they want their attorney to review the easement and they would like the area where the line would go marked out. Engineer Chatfield marked it off again yesterday (It was previously done a year ago). He will follow up with Tim O'Connell by phone tomorrow. Also Paul Chatfield is waiting for information from the Health Department to finalize the application also. Then hopefully the job will go out to bid. Building Maintenance and upkeep: Kris LaPointe reports that he had three companies come to the office building to get quotes on the installation of security cameras. Kris told the company reps that there would not be an answer until next month if they decide to do anything. Each of the board members have copies of the information. All have seven cameras, and different scenarios. If the board members have any questions please let Kris know and he will contact the reps. Park Grant: still waiting for adjustment to put the water line under the road and one because we did not install a bathroom. Once we get the approval for the water line we can get that installed. They did not think it would be too long of a wait due to the fact that the Senate is meeting again. County Nursing Home easement: No update, Attorney Andino states that he is still waiting for a boundary description of the easement area. Dumpster Days: Kris LaPointe reports that they will be held on October 2nd and 3rd. Mattress are discussed again. It is determined that they will not be accepted, as was advertised. Cannabis Sales: Supervisor Gray states that the town only has to act if they wish to opt out of the selling of Cannabis. He felt that the board had basically decided that when the board had the presentation several months ago, that it would be allowed in zoning districts where sales are allowed. Attorney Andino reminds the board that they would need to pass a local law subject to permissive referendum, by December 31, 2021, if they intended to opt out of the sales. Supervisor Gray makes a motion to allow the sale of cannabis in the approved zoning districts, seconded by Councilman Adrian. Roll call vote: Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Adrian yes, Councilman Jeffers no, and Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

New Business: Stimulus Money: Supervisor Gray states that he and the bookkeeper have been attending information meeting on the use of the funds. The town just received an additional fourteen to fifteen hundred dollars because some towns opted out of the funds. This is in addition to the \$173,000.00 we have already received. This can only be used for items paid for after March 21, 2021. Supervisor Gray discusses the different items that could

possibly be considered for these funds. Basically water, sewer, broadband, and improvements in life. There are comments on this. We have until 2024 to spend these funds. He would like to take some time to determine the needs, etc. Possibly to jot down some ideas at the upcoming Budget Workshops. There will be more discussions at future meetings. Budget Review Meetings: The bookkeeper has been working on the budgets, he feels that there should be two meetings, one for the General Funds and one for the Water and Highway Funds. It is thought to have one for the General and Highway Funds and one for the Water and Sewer Funds, as they have done in the past. The meetings will be on Tuesday September 28th and on Tuesday October 5th, both meetings will start at 6:00 PM. Appointment of Water and Wastewater Superintendent: Supervisor Gray states the Ron Schalck has taken a job in Waterloo. Supervisor makes a motion to appoint Kristopher A. LaPointe as the Water and Wastewater Superintendent, and to start the search for a second person to help out, seconded by Councilman Adrian. Discussion: Councilman Jeffers thinks it is best to go into Executive Session. After some discussion a motion is made by Councilman Jeffers to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel leading to the appointment of a Water and Wastewater Superintendent, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried. A motion is made by Councilman Jeffers to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Adrian, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried. Supervisor Gray wants to change his previous motion to state that he wishes to appoint Kristopher A. LaPointe as interim Water and Wastewater Superintendent for the remainder of this year, (it is a yearly appointment) with a \$2000.00 stipend, seconded by Councilman Jeffers. Roll call vote: Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Adrian yes, Councilman Jeffers yes, and Supervisor Gray yes, carried. Monday we will start to look for a second worker. Cloud Backup: Supervisor Gray states that when he was talking to the reps about the camera system it was discussed that with all the data, etc. they recommended that the town go to a cloud backup system. The cost is \$495.00 per year. Supervisor Gray states that there's money in the budget to cover the cost (and it will be added to next year's budget). A motion is made by Supervisor Gray that the Town convert to a cloud backup, seconded by Councilman Adrian. Roll call vote: Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Adrian yes, Councilman Jeffers no, and Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

Department Reports: The Board has copies of all reports. Highway Superintendent Kris L. LaPointe reports that the International truck is back from the repair shop, he just got the bill today, he is going over it as it had extensive work done on it, but it will increase the value when we go to sell it. The CHIPS money has all been received, including last years, an extra \$135,00.00. He has spent all that except for \$35,000.00, which if you do not use they take back, but it can be used on equipment purchases. He would like to use it on a new loader, which with the trade in value, should make it doable. He has some one

coming to look at the loader so he will know more after that. John Deere used to have a program where they would charge you by the hours used and replace the machine every two years, but they do not do that anymore. Also they mow nine miles of the roads for the county and the payment from that should cover the cost of replacing that mower. They replace it every five years. Also, they have finished all their paving and chipping, except for one road, which will be done in October, then on to next year. Interim Water and Wastewater Superintendent Kris A LaPointe states that the board has his report. He is new to this. They will advertise for his old position after discussion on Monday. That will be good especially if there is a water break. The Highway Department is also available to assist whenever they are needed,

A motion is made by Councilman Adrian to pay the abstract in the amount of \$112,747.20 (vouchers with three signatures), seconded by Councilman Rizzo. Roll call vote: Councilman Gagliardi yes, Councilman Rizzo yes, Councilman Adrian yes, Councilman Jeffers yes, and Supervisor Gray yes, carried.

The Public to be Heard Segment is reopened on a motion made by Councilman Jeffers, seconded by Councilman Rizzo, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried. Hearing nothing the Public to be Heard Segment is closed on a motion made by Supervisor Gray, seconded by Councilman Jeffers, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried.

The meeting is adjourned on a motion made by Supervisor Gray, seconded by Councilman Jeffers, 5 ayes, 0 nays, carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Penelope Dennis, Town Clerk
Town of Sennett