

SENECA FALLS TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

- A. The Seneca Falls Town Board held a regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at the Seneca Falls Town Office, 130 Ovid Street Seneca Falls.
Supervisor Schmitter called the regular meeting to order at 6:02 pm.
- B. A roll call was taken of board members the following members of the board were present:

TOWN OFFICER	Present	Absent
Supervisor Frank Schmitter	X	
Councilman Frank Sinicropi	X	
Councilman Jackson Puylara	X	
Councilwoman Dawn Dyson	X	
Councilwoman Kaitlyn Laskoski	X	

Also present were:

Town Manager Peter Soscia	X	
Town Attorney Patrick Morell	X	
Director of Parks & Recreation Missy Jones	X	
Town Assessor Deborah VonWald	X	
Zoning Officer Peter Porcelli	X	
Highway Superintendent Jeremy Wendt		X
Police Chief Timothy Snyder	X	
Chief of Water & Sewer Joesph Tullo	X	

- C. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.
- D. Regular Meeting
- Presentations/Petitioners/Privilege of the Floor
 - 11 people spoke in support of denying SMI the permit to operate. Those 11 people were: Mark Pitifer, Maria Fowler, Heather Bonetti, Valerie Sandlas, Steve Churchill, Kirsten Shemell, Linda Cordaro, Diane DePasqual – Haggerty, Abby Buddington, Filomena Cimino, and Jean Gilroy
 - Jessica Lambert – had concerns regarding the flooding on Miller Street and what was going to be done about it. Her home keeps flooding.
 - Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Councilwoman Dyson and seconded by Councilman Puylara to approve the meeting minutes from August 6, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Communications – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to accept communications i.-vi. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Special Events – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to approve the Seneca Falls Library EVENT pending review by department heads. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - Report of Committees & Projects – Supervisor Schmitter spoke about the flooding and the projects that are still ongoing within the town. Supervisor Schmitter introduced the creation of a new department, the Department of Public Works.
 - Old Business:
 - SMI Permit – A motion was made by Councilman Puylara to table the topic until the December 2024 meeting to review the comments made at the meeting and to review the comments received by email. Motion seconded by Councilwoman Dyson. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - New Business
 - Resolution -Town Supervisor -Town of Seneca Falls to perform storm water drainage improvements in area previously designated at the second ward of the Village of Seneca Falls – DA-2024-14 – A motion was made by Councilman Sinicropi and seconded by Councilman Puylara to approve the

following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the Town of Seneca Falls (hereinafter “local government”) is a municipality in the Finger Lakes Region of New York State; and

WHEREAS, recent weather events have demonstrated that the existing infrastructure to manage storm water runoff is both insufficient and in a state of disrepair; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonably expected that these previously anomalous weather events will occur with regularity for the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the result of the Town’s failure to update and maintain the storm water management system in the area named above has resulted in significant property damage to homes and businesses in that area; and

WHEREAS, local government has an obligation to remediate this situation and the means to said end.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED the Town of Seneca Falls appropriate a sum of \$200,000.00 from the unencumbered fund balance of the DA fund to begin said remediation efforts using a combination of local government resources and third-party contractors. All in favor. Motion carried.

- ii. Resolution – Police Department – New Patrol Vehicle – PD-2024-12 – A motion was made by Councilman Sinicropi and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the Seneca Falls Police Department received a \$101,658.00 Law Enforcement Technology grant from New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to purchase technology equipment; and
WHEREAS, it is extremely important to the Seneca Falls Police Department and the community in which it serves to be equipped with up-to-date technology to document and collect evidence; and
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Seneca Falls Town Board authorize Chief Snyder to purchase six new Patrol PC Computers and printers for the police departments marked patrol vehicles using the Law enforcement Technology grant funds at a cost of \$44,147.00. All in favor. Motion carried.
- iii. Resolution – Finance Office – Replace a Part-Time Employee for the Finance Office – FO-2024-01 – A motion was made by Councilman Sinicropi and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS** Frank Blaskowitz is leaving to attend to family matters; he was an asset to the town and will be missed. His departure will leave a vacant position of a part-time Sr. Account Clerk available.
WHEREAS Suzi Tribble meets the qualification to fill this part-time position and has applied for the promotion.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Seneca Falls Town Board approve the promotion of Suzi Tribble to the part-time Sr. Account Clerk position (Grade 9) for the finance department. The starting wage of \$28.00 an hour, the same rate as our current Sr. Account Clerk. To be effective as of September 2, 2024. All in favor. Motion carried.
- iv. Resolution – Finance Office – Purchase a Computer – TS-2024-34 – A motion was made by Councilman Sinicropi and seconded by Councilman Puylara to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS** the computer that is being used by both the accountant and our part-time position needs to be replaced. Integrated stated that if it goes down again it will not be able be fixed and we should look to replace it as soon as possible.
WHEREAS A quote was requested from Integrated for a replacement computer. Attached is PO from Integrated for the computer.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Seneca Falls Town Board authorizes the purchase of a new computer from Integrated Systems at the cost of 1,497.50. This is a budgeted item from A1220.200 equipment.
- v. Resolution – Town Clerk – Pay for Repairs needed at Seneca Museum of Waterways & Visitor Center – TC-2024-30 - A motion to table the following resolution was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and

seconded by Councilwoman Dyson: **WHEREAS**, the Seneca Museum of Waterway and Industry along with the visitor's center is in need of repairs; and

WHEREAS, the needed repairs consist of new vinyl flooring in the boater's amenity lounge, public Wi-Fi throughout the canal front, new paint and systems that automatically flush the toilets.; and

WHEREAS, the cost of those repairs will cost the sum of \$23,178.54 and is not included in this year's budget; and

WHEREAS, if the repairs are completed this year, the Seneca Museum of Waterways has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$9,979 to re-imburse the town towards the cost.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Seneca Falls agrees to pay the initial cost of said repairs in the amount of \$23,178.54 and be re-imbursed by said grant when repairs are completed. All in favor. Motion carried. Resolution tabled for October meeting.

- vi. Resolution – Water Department – CDL Driver Training for Ruairi Orlando and Austin St. John – FG-2024-26 – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, we received two bids for sending Ruairi Orlando and Austin St John to required CDL driver training; and

WHEREAS, 160 Driving Academy in Liverpool, NY was the low bidder for both Ruairi Orlando (CDL B) for \$3,800.00 and Austin St John (CDL A) \$5,145.00; and

WHEREAS, both employees are aware of the Town policy that requires three (3) years of service, or the Town must be reimbursed for said training costs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the town board authorizes sending Ruairi Orlando and Austin St John to the training at 160 Driving Academy in Liverpool, NY for a total cost of \$8,945.00. All in favor. Motion carried.

- vii. Resolution – Water Department – Required Wastewater Operator Training – FG-2024-27 – A motion was made by Councilman Sinicropi and seconded by Councilwoman Laskoski to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, Lewis Archer and Troy Pickard need to attend required wastewater operator training at SUNY Morrisville for Basic Operators; and

WHEREAS, both employees are aware of the Town policy that requires three years of service, or the town must be reimbursed for said training costs. All in favor. Motion carried.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the town board authorizes sending Lewis Archer and Troy Pickard to the Basic Operators Wastewater Training at SUNY Morrisville for a cost not to exceed \$8,000.00.

- viii. Resolution – Town Supervisor – Introducing Proposed Local Law and Providing for Public Hearing Department of Public Works – TS-2024-38 – A motion was made by Councilwoman Dyson and seconded by Councilman Sinicropi to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to establish the Department of Public Works and to assign certain administrative functions and duties to the Director of Public Works. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that proposed Local Law No. 3 of the year 2024 entitled "A local Law to Create the Department of Public works and a Director of Public Works" be and the same is hereby introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls, New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED those copies of the aforesaid proposed local law be laid upon the desks of each member of the Town Board; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid proposed local law be referred to the Seneca County Personnel Department for review and recommendation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town board will hold a public hearing on said proposed Local Law at 6:00 p.m. on October 1, 2024; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk publishes or cause to be published a notice of said public hearing in the official newspaper of the town at least ten (10) days prior thereto. All in favor. Motion carried.

- ix. Resolution – Town Supervisor – Submit an application to Join the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium – TS-2024-35 – A motion was made by Councilman Puylara and seconded by Councilwoman Laskoski to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the TOWN OF SENECA FALLS has performed due diligence for the responsibility it accepts with membership in the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium (GTCMHIC), now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, that the TOWN OF SENECA FALLS Board hereby directs its officers and appointees to take the following Consortium membership applicant steps:

1. Submit as soon as practicable, but no later than August 1st, a board resolution authorizing application for membership along with the GTCMHIC "New Group Member Application" completed which states the GTCMHIC Health Benefit Insurance Plan or Plans the Municipal Corporation's employees and retirees will be participating in upon the effective date of participation in the GTCMHIC.
2. As soon as practicable, but no later than August 1st, submit the Municipal Corporations' two most recent years of State Comptroller AUD reports.
3. As soon as practicable, but no later than August 1st, submit the Municipal Corporation's most recent monthly premium billing statements from all health insurance carriers providing benefits to all active employees and retirees.

Said premium billing statements should include the name of the Municipal Corporation and the month for which the billing is related. In addition, said premium bills must include the number of contracts (employee, employee + spouse, employee + child (children), and family) and the monthly premium rate for each plan of benefit.

FURTHER RESOLVED, if the Consortium Board accepts this TOWN OF SENECA FALLS application, the TOWN OF SENECA FALLS will comply with the following action steps:

1. By October 1st, notify the GTCMHIC of the name and contact information for the person within your organization for benefit administration; and who will attend a new member orientation.
2. Sign the Municipal Cooperative Agreement of the GTCMHIC upon notification that the GTCMHIC Board of Directors has approved the Municipal Corporation's application to become a Participant in the GTCMHIC by October 15th.
3. Confirm by October 15th, the names of all employees, retirees, and dependents to be covered in which Consortium's Health Insurance Plans. (Note: a list of those enrolled will be sent to the Municipal Corporation by the Medical Claims Administrator by no later than November 15th for verification purposes). All in favor. Motion carried.

- x. Resolution – Town Supervisor – SEQR Determination of Environmental Significance Local Law #2 of 2024. A local Law to Add Chapter 124 and Amend Chapter 300 of the Seneca Falls Town Code – TS-2024-36 – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilman Puylara to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the Seneca Falls Town Board (hereinafter referred to as "Town Board") has determined the above-referenced action to be an Unlisted Action pursuant to Part 617 of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Regulations; and **WHEREAS**, the Town Board has reviewed and accepted the completed Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1 and 2 on the action prepared by the MRB Group; and **WHEREAS**, the Town Board has designated itself as lead agency under the SEQR Regulations for making the determination of significance upon said action; and **WHEREAS**, the Town Board has given consideration to the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Section 617.7(c) (1) of the SEQR Regulations and the information contained in Short Environmental Assessment Form Parts 1 and 2.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby designates itself as lead agency under the SEQR Regulations for making the determination of significance upon said action; and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that said action **WILL NOT** result in any significant adverse environmental impacts based on the review of the Short Environmental Assessment Form; and
BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that the Town Board does hereby make a determination of Non-Significance on said action, and the Town Supervisor is hereby directed issue the Negative Declaration as evidence of the Town Board determination. All in favor. Motion carried.

- xi. Resolution – Town Supervisor – To adopt Local Law #2 of 2024 Chapter 124. Property Maintenance – TS-2024-37 – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilman Sinicropi to approve the following resolution: **WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls believes that it would be advantageous to the Town to amend the Town Code as it relates Property Maintenance; and **WHEREAS**, that the aforesaid proposed local law was referred to the Seneca County and Town Planning Boards for review and recommendation; and **WHEREAS**, that Seneca County Planning Board at their July 11, 2024, Board Meeting made a favorable recommendation for adoption of the proposed local law and the Town’s Planning Board also recommended adoption; and **WHEREAS**, that the Town Board made a determination of Non-Significance on said Action at the September 3, 2024, Town Board meeting; and **WHEREAS**, the Town Board held a public hearing on said Action on August 6, 2024; and **WHEREAS**, after due deliberation, and consideration of the comments submitted by Town residents and other interested parties, the Town Board of the Town of Seneca Falls finds it in the best interest of the Town to adopt said local law.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby adopts the Local Law #2 of 2024 entitled *A Local Law to Add Chapter 124 and Amend Chapter 300 of the Seneca Falls Town Code* and be it further **RESOLVED**, that the Town Clerk is directed to enter said Local Law in the minutes of this meeting and in the Local Laws of the Town of Seneca Falls, and to give due notice of the adoption of said Local Law to the Secretary of State of New York. All in favor. Motion carried.

- xii. Resolution – Water Department – Water Leak and Pool Credits – F-2024-07 – A motion was made by Councilwoman Dyson and seconded by Councilman Sinicropi to approve the following resolution: The total amount of credits for Pool Fills and leak credits for August 2024: 5 accounts totaling \$1333.97 Comprised of the following credit amounts:

Pool Fills: \$299.09

Leak

Account	Name	Pool Credit	Leak Credit
K2479	Derrick Oberdorf	\$104.45	
L2696	Kathy Moody	\$67.60	
K2472	Mark Warner	\$14.24	
N3475	Vincent Donowski	\$112.80	
B0110	Waterloo Container		\$1,034.88
Total of Credits		\$1,333.97	

credit: \$1034.88

All in favor. Motion carried.

- h. Executive Session – A motion was made by Councilwoman Dyson and seconded by Councilwoman Laskoski to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing matters related to proposed, pending or current litigation. Entered executive session at 7:27 pm. Exited executive session at 8:18 pm.

- i. Payment of Bills – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilwoman Dyson to pay the bills. All in Favor. Motion Carried.
 - j. Special Motion of the Day – A motion was made by Councilwoman Laskoski and seconded by Councilman Puylara to adjourn. All in favor Motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa G. Brown
Town Clerk