The Seneca Falls Town Board held a regular meeting on Monday October 19, 2026, at the Seneca Falls Town Office, 130 Ovid Street Seneca Falls NY 13148.
Supervisor Schmitter called the workshop to order at 5:30 pm.
The pledge was recited.
While roll call was not called, the clerk took attendance. The following were present: Wendy Crane, Gabby Cosentino, Jackson Puylara, Dawn Dyson, Frank Schmitter.

A00-1110 - Town Court

- **100 & 101- Town Justice 1 & 2 -** The board began with the Town Justice line, which was amended to $34,657 from a figure of about $35,680. Several members preferred to keep the line at $33,453 with no raise. One member favored a raise. Because the justices are elected officials, the board agreed to vote on the line, and a show of hands favored holding it at $33,453.
- **103 & 104 – Clerks -** Riley, who prepared the figures, stated that the full-time Court Clerk line was $55,411. This was based on an hourly rate of $26.64 from the 2027 union matrix, which includes a 3.6 percent increase, multiplied by 40 hours and 52 weeks. The unsigned contract was being treated as the guide. Members confirmed that overtime could increase the amount, but the base could not fall below it without grievance. +
- **105 – Part Time Clerk -** The part-time clerk line was set at $21,549, based on an hourly rate of $20.72 for 20 hours per week.
- **106 – Longevity -** Was left unchanged, as the board noted it could not change it. It is $300 for each five years of service, so a clerk with over 10 years receives $600.

Operating Lines

- **107 - Special security-** A member proposed lowering this line to $5,000. The clerk recommended keeping it at $6,000 because spending was close to $5,000 with several months left, and the board agreed. Left at $,000.00.
- **108 – Overtime-** A new overtime line was added. A member explained that a failed phone chain this year required clerks to return in the evening to call jurors.
- **200 - Equipment:** The request was $900. After discussion of the cost of replacing a copier and monitors and cameras already purchased, the board settled on $750.
- **400 - Office supplies-** The board accepted $2,300, a $200 reduction. The clerk noted a $345 envelope purchase and an upcoming year-end paper order.
- **401 – Postage-** The budgeted amount had been $2,500, and the request was $2,600, with $100 added as a buffer. Actual use did not reach $2,500 in three years, and a member asked to bring it to $2,000. Certified mailings now cost over $10 each. $2,000.00 was settled on.
- **403 - Trial expense-** The request to hold $1,000 was reduced to $500. This year's trials ended in a mistrial, and recent actual costs were only a few dollars to about $64. Members debated whether to budget conservatively or keep a cushion, noting that funds can be transferred if needed. Misdemeanor trials are held in town, and felonies go to Seneca County.
- **404 – Interpreter-** The line was kept at $4,000. The state rate rose to $300 per half-day, and interpreters must be state-certified. Staff confirmed that the Axon contract would not provide relief until 2028.
- **405 – Education-** The clerk asked to keep $5,000, and a member proposed a compromise of $4,000 was agreed upon.
- **406 - Maintenance Contracts –** Error in entry of $20,000, reduced to $2,000.00
- **407 - Publications and book-** The line was reduced from $800 to $750.
- **408 – Dues & Fees –** Remained at $750.00

Vote on the Court Budget

A motion to approve the Town Court budget was made, with the board voting by voice. The motion carried.

Return to Town Justice Amendment

Later in the meeting, members discussed raises for elected officials. They noted that non-elected staff were receiving increases while elected officials were not. The board agreed to reconsider the Town Justice line.
A motion to amend the Town Court budget to set the Town Justice line at $34,657, reflecting a 3.6 percent cost of living increase.

Recreation Center Budget

A00-7110 - Parks

- **100 – Summer Help -** Labor figure of $25,934 was confirmed
- **200 – Equipment Trash Receptacles -** Equipment and trash receptacles stayed at $2,000.
- **201 - Academy Square Fountain Repair -** Line prompted debate. A member questioned why a project budgeted for three years had not been completed, and whether funds already granted should appear as a budget cost. Staff said the money must remain on the line to be used, and that a committee may be needed to plan the repairs.

- **400- Electricity -** Raised to about $15,000, since members noted that spending was already nearly $11,000.
- **401 - Gasoline –** Left alone, remained at $8,000.00
- **403 – Supplies –** Increased to $1,200.00
- **404 – Flags -** Line was left in place at $400.00
- **405 – Plants & Landscape -** Increased to $5,000, partly for tree trimming, and a member noted that tree work may also fall under the highway budget.
- **406 ,407 ,408 - The People's Park, Veteran's Park and Elizabeth Cady Stanton Park maintenance lines -** were zeroed and their funds moved to the supplies line 403.
- **410 - Miscellaneous Contractual-** stayed at $800.
- **413 - Canal Fest 4th of July -** fireworks rose from $7,000 to $7,500 and the town's cost for the inflatable was $3,000, for a total of $10,500. A member suggested a fundraiser, possibly modeled on the car raffle run by the sports organization. Amount allowed for budget line $10,500.00

A motion to approve the community center budget was put to a voice vote. All members voted aye, and none opposed. The motion carried.

CR0-7020 – Parks and Recreation Administration

- **100 - Recreation Director -** Staff explained that the budgeted salary had not been updated in prior years and should be corrected to reflect actual current pay plus 3.6 percent, $88,099.58.
- **101 - Assistant Recreation Director:** Staff requested an additional $2,500 for this position, offset by reducing the pool director line (CR2), so there would be no net increase. The pool director is leaving, and the assistant will take a hands-on role at the pool and lead compliance work after this year's chemical spill. The base figure was cited as about $71,219.12 total.
- **102 - Senior Clerk:** On the county's recommendation, a clerk position was reclassified as senior clerk at grade 6, estimated at about $53,608 if the clerk passes the civil service test. Members asked what distinguished the title, and staff cited supervisory duties, solo office coverage and higher-level financial work.
- **103 - Longevity –** Left at $900.00
- **200 - Equipment –** Reduced to $8,000.00
- **400 - Office Supplies –** Left at $1,500.00
- **401 - Gas & Electric –** Increased to $60,000.00
- **405 – Postage –** Remained at $100.00
- **406 - Publicity –** Reduced to $1,000.00
- **408 - Certifications –** reduced to $9,000.00
- **409 - Staff Uniforms –** Left at $750.00

CR0-7140 – Playground & Recreation Centers

- **100 - Building Maintainer-** The groundskeeper position was reclassified as building maintainer, estimated at about $61,000. Some members were concerned about a jump of roughly $10,000, but staff said no appropriate intermediate title exists. They said the employee is needed to open the building at 6 AM, and the board accepted the reclassification. $61,068.80
- **101 - Recreation Aides-** The line was budgeted at about $68,000, based on roughly 3,000 hours at the entry rate of $22.62. This was a large increase over prior years, driven by the rate rising from about $16. After discussion of operating hours, the board accepted $68,000.
- **103 - Cleaning staff-** Staff requested more cleaning help, citing 10,000 to 12,000 visitors, 14 toilets and 2 showers, and that the facility is the only public restroom in the village. A full-time cleaner would cost about $47,000 in salary and about $97,000 with benefits. The board agreed to fund two part-time cleaners at about $23,528 each, or about $47,057 combined. Members noted that part-time staff must stay under the Affordable Care Act threshold of 130 hours per month. Board approved creation of two part-time positions $23,528.69 each or $22.62 hourly.
- **104 - Overtime –** Left at $2,463.09.
- **105 - Recreation Leader-** Discussion to add a job title of Recreation Leader was had remove the title preschool instructor. It was decided to add the pay at a higher grade until it was determined by Civil Service what the grade would be which determines the pay. $24,596 was accepted.
- **106 - Concession Staff –** Reduced to $3,000.00
- **204 - Truck Maintenance –** Increased to $4,000.00
- **205 - Community Center Interior –** Left at $5,000.00
- **206 - Seal Parking Lot –** Was left at $32,000.00
- **404 - Building Maintenance Service –** Left at $20,000.00
- **405 - Building & Maintenance Supplies –** Left at $20,000.00
- **406 - Program Supplies –** Left at $20,000.00
- **416 - New Programs –** reduced to $2,000.00

CR0-7141 - Playground

- **100 - Summer Play Staff –** Left at $65,630.60
- **400 - Summer Play Program –** Left at $5,000.00

CR0-7310 Recreation Programs

- **Adult Programs –** Left at $19,700.00

CR2-7110 - Parks

- **100 - Park Manager –** reduced by $2,500.00 and moved to Assistant Rec Director Pay line. New line total $4,000.00
- **101 - Assistant Park Manager –** Left at $3,500.00
- **102 - Park Clerk –** Reduced to $7,000.00
- **103 - Grounds Crew –** Reduced to zero.
- **202 - Equipment Garage Mower –** Reduced to $1,000.00
- **204 - Seal Parking Lot –** Left at $8,000.00
- **400 - Buildings & Grounds –** Increased to $50,000.00
- **401 - Office –** Left at $200.00
- **402 - Safety –** Left at $500.00
- **404 - Custodial –** Reduced to $700.00
- **408 - Heating, AC & Power –** Left at $25,000.00
- **412 - Emergency Repairs –** Left at $2,500.00
- **418 - Education –** Left at $1,000.00
- **434 - Uniforms –** Reduced to $750.00

CR2-7180 - Pool

- **100 - Lifeguards –** Reduced to $45,000.00
- **200 - Pool Equipment –** Left at $1,000.00
- **201 - Lifeguard Equipment –** Left at $500.00
- **402 – Pool Instruction –** Left at $100.00
- **404 – Pool Furniture –** Left at $1,000.00

Highway Department

Highway Lines

Superintendent Jeremy Wendt presented the highway lines.

A00-3310 – Traffic Control

- **400 - Stop Light Electricity –** Increased to $3,300.00
- **401 - Stop Light Equipment Maintenance & Repair –** Left at $300.00
- **402 - Road/Street Signs –** Left at $6,000.00
- **403 - Road/Street Sidewalk Striping –** Left at $6,000.00
- **406 - Mulch –** reduced to zero
- **407 - Flags/Banners –** Increased to $1,500.00

A00-5010 – Highway & Street Administration

- **100 - Superintendent salary-** A 3.6 percent cost of living adjustment brought the superintendent's salary to $70,512, and the board agreed.
- **101 - Longevity –** Left at $600.00
- **102 - Deputy Highway Superintendent -** $3,120 per year, was confirmed.
- **200 – Equipment-** Equipment was set at $500 for tools.
- **400 - Office/Computer supplies** were set at $1,000 for a printer and scanner.
- **401 - Postage** went to $0
- **403 - Internet, Cable, Phone, Wireless –** Increased to $480.00
- **405 - Education –** Left at $300.00
- **406 - Dues and Fees-** stayed at $500.

A00-5132 - Garage

- **200 - Building & Maintenance Equipment -** Superintendent Wendt said the doors are failing. Left at $10,000.00
- **400 - Gas and Electric-** The line was set at $15,000 after discussion of current spending.
- **402 - Custodial Supplies-** set at $500.00
- **403 - Building & Grounds Maintenance-** Left at $16,000.00

A00-5182 – Street Lighting

- **200 - Equipment –** Reduced to $200.00
- **400 - Electricity –** Increased to $220,000.00 based on current spending
- **401 - Electrician -** Superintendent Wendt requested $8,000 and said his employees cannot do certified electrical work. Members discussed raising it and agreed upon $12,000.00
- **402 - Ornamental Lighting –** Left at $5,000.00
- **404 - Christmas Lighting-** The board discussed $10,000 for downtown lighting, including LED lights and replacement parts. $8,000.00 was agreed upon.

A00-5410 - Sidewalks

- **401 – Sidewalk-** Sidewalk repair was left at $25,500, and members noted that Bayard Street near the Three Ladies has deteriorated sidewalks.

A00-8560-400 – Tree Cutting

- **400 - Tree removal-** Tree removal was kept at $30,000. A day and a half of work on the bank near the Three Ladies would cost about $3,000.

DA0-1330-200 – Culverts

- **200 - Culverts -** Superintendent Wendt said his department lacks staff for culvert work and will review jobs individually. No budget was set.

DA0-5110 – Maintenance of Roads

- **101 - Longevity –** Remained at $1,200.00
- **103 - MEO (Light) –** Remained at $59,612.80
- **104 - MEO (Heavy) –** Remained at $144,430.37
- **110 - Laborers –** Remained at $19,393.92
- **120 - Overtime -** Overtime was reduced from $40,000 to $30,000.
- **210 - Shop Tools –** Remained at $1,000.00
- **400 - Drug & Alcohol Testing –** Remained at $1,000.00
- **401 - Safety Training –** Remained at $500.00
- **402 - Work Clothing/Boots –** Remained at $2,000.00
- **403 - Stone and soil:** Stone and soil was left at $0 pending review of which department should budget it.
- **405 - Culvert Pipe –** Set to zero.
- **408 - Street Plan –** Remained at $612,500.00

DA0-5120-400 - Bridge Repair

- **400 - Bridge Repair –** Remained at $75,000.00

DA0-5130 - Machinery

- **200 - Equipment -** Superintendent Wendt said a sweeper had risen from about $280,000 two years ago to about $480,000 and could be financed over two to ten years. Amount allocated remained at $61,500.00.
- **400 - Inspections/Registrations –** Remained at $600.00
- **401 - Tools & Supplies –** Remained at $2,000.00
- **402 - Vehicle Maintenance –** Remained at $25,000.00
- **405 - Fuel:** Fuel was reduced to $35,000 after a member recalled transferring funds for fuel this year.
- **406 - Oil/Liquids & Filters –** Remained at $5,000.00
- **407 - Air & Gas Torches –** Remained at $800.00
- **408 - Tires & Repairs –** Remained at $6,000.00
- **409 - Radio Repairs –** Remained at $100.00
- **410 - Miscellaneous Vehicle Parts –** Remained at $12,000.00

DA0-5142 – Snow Removal

- **400 - Plow Parts –** Remained at $7,000.00
- **401 - Salt -** Remained at $90,000. A new salt blend of fire rock and regular salt was being tried to save costs.

A00-8810 - Cemetery

- **100 - Personal services -** was set at $56,926 to fund three seasonal employees instead of two.
- **101 - Sextan –** set at $1,500.00
- **200 - Equipment -** The board approved $31,500 for three new mowers, after Superintendent Wendt described fires and mechanical failures with current equipment and said he chose the second-lowest of six estimates.
- **400 - Fuel –** Remained at $2,000.00
- **401 - Equipment Maintenance –** Reduced to $3,000.00
- **403 - Buildings & Grounds –** Remained at $1,000.00
- **407 - Cemetery Commission –** Remained at $40,000.00

At 8:10 pm Supervisor Schmitter departed.

Public Comment and Adjournment

A resident and former mayor spoke at the end of the meeting. He recommended that the board examine the cost of the Town Court, which he estimated at about $250,000 against roughly $50,000 in revenue, with about two-thirds of fine revenue going to the state. He suggested considering a return to the county or state. He also recommended reviewing the future of Vince's Park and its pool. He noted that the workshop belongs to the community, and said he was concerned that two departments, the DPW and the highway department, were duplicating services.

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Puylara and seconded by Councilwoman Crane and the meeting was adjourned.