

Minutes of the Town of Sennett Town Board Meeting Held on Thursday, December 21, 2023, at 6:30 PM at the Sennett Town Office Building.

Members Present: Thomas Blair, Supervisor  
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  
Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

Residents-Bruce Babilot, Ed Magdziak, Kathleen & Tim Major, R. Cruz

Remotely: Rich Andino (Atty), Emilio Moran (MRB), Jim Vivenzio, Tom Gray

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting is called to Order at 6:30 pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - The meeting is opened with the pledge to the flag and a prayer by Supervisor Blair. A moment of silence is held for the passing our Planning Board Chairman Patrick Leamy.

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

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES** - Meeting Minutes for November 16, 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(S)** - N/A

**SCHEDULED SPEAKERS**

- MRB Group (WD #s 1 & 3 project status/sewer rate study) - Emilio Moran went over their monthly report. The water project came in under budget. Supplies for the district in the project can use the remaining funds.

**PUBLIC BE HEARD** - Motion is made by Councilman Edmunds to open the Public Be Heard Period, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi. All in favor. 5 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent, carried. 6:44 p.m.

Supervisor Blair thanks Councilman Gagliardi and Councilman Edmunds for their service to the Town in various positions.

A motion to close Public Be Heard is made by Councilman Edmunds and seconded by Councilman Wellauer at 6:46 p.m. All in favor. 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent, carried.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- a. **Attorney** - Attorney Andino advises he is still conducting research on Sennett Meadows, the local laws were filed with the Dept. of State and he is working with the County on the proposed Solar Law. Councilman Gagliardi advises that he is trying to obtain 911 records pertaining to Sennett Meadows.
- b. **Bookkeeper** - Bookkeeper Major advises adjustments are needed and requests from the Board permission to budget adjustments. A discussion is held. Motion is made by Supervisor Blair, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi to authorize permission for budget adjustments up to \$7,000 between funds without approval of each adjustment made. No discussion.

Roll call vote:

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

Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

The 2020 audit has been filed with the State and awaiting approval.

- c. **Planning Board** - Supervisor Blair advises he has spoken with Jeana Leamy who expressed an interest in becoming a Planning Board alternate. Mike Szozda is not available to become the chairman. A discussion is held. Supervisor Blair offers Bob Edmunds to fill the remaining term of Pat Leamy that ends 12/31/2024 and serve as the chairman for 2024. Bob accepts. Motion is made by Councilman Wellauer, seconded by Councilman Rizzo to appoint Bob Edmunds to be a Member and the Interim Planning Board Chairman effective January 1, 2024, for the remainder of Pat Leamy’s terming ending 12/31/2024. All in favor. 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain Carried.
- d. **Codes/Fire Marshal** - Harold Gilfus advises his report was in the Board’s packet. Issued 4 permits, 6 inquiries, 10 certs of compliance, 29 site visits, 4 fire safety inspections. He has been following up on previously issued permits.
- e. **Zoning Enforcement Officer** - Supervisor Blair advises he spoke with Mr. VeVone who has been working on a dog boarding business and taking other calls on various matters.
- f. **Assessor** - Councilman Rizzo advises he has no assessor report.
- g. **Fire Dept.** -Supervisor Blair advises the Fire Department’s report is in the packets. 44 alarms for the month of November, 449 year to date, 201 responders for the month. Supervisor Blair also advises he has been working with the Fire Department regarding ambulance services.

- h. Highway Dept.** - Highway Superintendent Kristopher L. LaPointe advises his report was in the Board's packet.

**Additional Salt Barn Damage**

He advised the Board what while Marshall Exteriors was performing repair work to the salt barn, more damage was located in structural bolts. A discussion is held.

Motion is made by Councilman Edmunds, seconded by Councilman Wellauer to authorize the amount of \$2,100 to effectuate the additional structural repairs to the salt barn that were discovered during repairs by Marshall Exteriors. No further discussion.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent	

**Sell truck on Auctions International**

Mr. LaPointe advised that the 2019 F550 sold on Auctions International for \$45,800, less administrative costs.

Motion is made by Councilman Wellauer, seconded by Councilman Rizzo to authorize the sale of the 2019 Ford F-550 truck at Auctions International for \$45,800, less administrative costs from auction company. No further discussion.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent	

**Deem 2017 Chevy 2500 plow truck as surplus % put on Auctions International**

Discussion was held regarding selling the 2017 Chevy 2500 truck on Auctions International.

Motion is made by Councilman Edmunds, seconded by Councilman Rizzo to authorize the sale of the 2017 Chevy 2500 truck with plow at Auctions International to the highest bidder. No further discussion.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent	

Sold 1,000 gal fuel tank for \$300 at auction.

Culvert matter – Mr. Norris, a resident on Calemad has provided photos regarding drainage issues and is asking for deeper culverts. That is not possible. The current culvert cannot be lowered and is working as designed before development was there. The swale is on private property and there is no drainage district. It was an approved site plan provided by an engineer. The County was doing road culvert work in the area over the summer, not the Town. All the ponds are the homeowners responsibility.

New employee in highway department will be starting December 26<sup>th</sup>.

Kris has worked for the Town for 28.5 years, 14 as Highway Superintendent. Supervisor Blair advises this is Mr. LaPointe’s last meeting as Highway Superintendent and thanks Kris for all his efforts and going above and beyond.

- i. Water Dept.** - Water Superintendent Kristopher L. LaPointe advises his report was in the Board’s meeting packet for their review. Copper and lead survey samples have been done and all is well, these are done every three years. New meter head installations will start early in the new year. They are stocking up on supplies for the water project with the extra contingency money from the project. Supervisor Blair advises Kris, Mike, Kris and Bill have helped put new furniture together for the Vet/Historian office and the Clerk’s office. Kris is also helping as a wingman on busy plow days. Thank you to the water and highway for all their extra efforts.
- j. Town Clerk** - Town Clerk Salisbury advised that the November 2023 monthly report was in the Board’s meeting packet for their review. Fees of \$1,0008 received and \$374.59 were disbursed to the Supervisor and \$627.41 to NYS DEC for Decals and \$6.00 to NYS Animal Population Control.
- k. Dog Control Officer** – Councilman Edmunds advises he has been working with Carl Collier who has agreed to continue services for the Town for 2024 at the rate of \$700 per month/\$8,400/year and Councilman Edmunds recommends to continue to have FLDPA as our animal control officers.  
Motion is made by Supervisor Blair, seconded by Councilman Wellauer to give a notice of award for Mr. Collier FLDPA and award the 2024 contract to FLDPA in the amount of \$8,400.00/year (\$700/per month), \$15/boarding, \$65/euthanize, pending review and approval of the contract.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried	5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

## **I. Committees**

Seniors - The committee does not meet again until April.

Veteran Affairs - No meeting in December, next meeting January 27, 2024. The wall mural has been completed and thanks to Tony Clubine for an awesome job. Memorial park renovations will begin in the spring of 2024.

Historians - Mr. Longtin and Mr. Vivenzio will be the historians.

Park Committee - Councilman Rizzo advised the committee recently met and will be discussing fundraising for the park equipment quote of \$55,000 at their next meeting.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Town Records Project Update - awarded grant money to MRB to apply for a \$75,000 grant, add Jim Vivenzio as liaison.
- E-Code 360 - need to follow up
- Veteran Affairs/Historian Office - discussed earlier
- Water & Sewer Rate Studies - tabled until after new meter heads installed
- Salt Barn - discussed earlier
- Town Hall capital needs - vent/duct cleaning - Ed is still trying to locate a company.
- Town branding & marketing project - on hold
- Town Employee Handbook review - waiting to hear back from HROne
- Vehicle and Traffic Safety Signs - Are up and in good working order and the pole mounted ones will be up after the first of the year.
- Out of District Water & Sewer Agreements- Vitale - docs sent to County Clerk for filing
- Local Laws 3, 4 and 5 status - all filed with the Dept. of State

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Possible New Insurance Plan for Town Retirees according to handbook regulations - A discussion is held regarding changing from the current MVP plan to Excellus as it is more cost effective and beneficial for the retiree. Supervisor Blair recommends a year-end meeting and talk with Mr. Chamberlain before that and obtain additional information.
- Civil Service Updates - in progress  
Motion made by Councilman Edmunds to add a building maintenance part-time position to our civil service list, seconded by Councilman Wellauer. All in favor. 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent Carried.
- AED will be discussed in January

Special Year-End meeting will be held on December 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. To be discussed will be the retiree health insurance plan, handbook and HRA funding, budget adjustments, schedule organizational meeting and AED update.

**SUPERVISOR CORRESPONDENCE** - Resolution for Greater Tompkins Insurance regarding regular health insurance for employees.

Motion is made by Councilman Wellauer, seconded by Councilman Gagliardi to authorize Supervisor Blair to sign the Resolution Approving the 2023 Amended Municipal Cooperative Agreement for the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Consortium. No discussion.

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried	5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** - NONE

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

Roll call vote:

Councilman Gagliardi	Yes
Councilman Wellauer	Yes
Councilman Rizzo	Yes
Supervisor Blair	Yes
Councilman Edmunds	Yes
Motion carried	5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent

**MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING** - Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Gagliardi, seconded by Councilman Edmunds. All in favor. 5 Ayes 0 Nays 0 Absent 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting is February 15, 2024

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathleen Salisbury*, Town Clerk  
Town of Sennett