

Minutes of the Town of Sennett Special Year End Town Board Meeting Held on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM at the Sennett Town Office Building.

Members Present: Thomas Blair, Supervisor
James Vivenzio, Councilman
Michael Wellauer, Councilman
Edward Rizzo, Councilman
Kristopher LaPointe, Councilman

Also Present: Cheri Major, Bookkeeper
Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

Call To Order

The meeting was called to order for the Year End Town Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 6:00 PM in Sennett, NY. The Supervisor noted there was a very short agenda for the year-end meeting, focused primarily on budget adjustments.

Year End Business

Cheri addressed the board regarding budget adjustment authority. She requested the same authority as in previous years to make budget adjustments under \$5,000 without requiring board approval for each adjustment. She explained that this was not for personal compensation but to provide flexibility in closing out the budget year, noting that December entries weren't completed yet.

The Board discussed this request, which is made annually. The Supervisor clarified that any adjustments would need to be closed out to zero and that Cheri would provide a detailed summary of all adjustments to the board at either the January or February meeting.

Motion by Supervisor Blair to grant Cheri the authority to make budget adjustments of up to \$5,000 per line item, conditioned upon providing the board a summary of all budget adjustments at the January or February meeting. Seconded by Mr. Vivenzio. Motion Passed with unanimous approval from Mr. LaPointe, Mr. Rizzo, Mr. Wellauer, Mr. Vivenzio, and Supervisor Blair.

The supervisor reminded everyone that the organizational meeting would be held on January 2nd at noon. He noted that the new highway superintendent would be pre-sworn in at 11:00 or noon tomorrow, so that when the clock strikes midnight, he would already have authority. This would be ratified, and the oath would be officially signed during the January 2nd organizational meeting. This arrangement would prevent the new superintendent from having to come in at 8 AM on New Year's Day after what could be a long night of plowing.

The supervisor mentioned that Mr. La Sagna had called to say he would not be attending tonight's meeting.

The supervisor then discussed board appointments, noting that there were several open positions: one planning board seat, two planning board alternates, two ZBA alternates, and Board of Assessment Review positions. He mentioned two candidates for Planning Board: Don Forward as a member and Adam Wiedor as an alternate.

The supervisor stated he would provide more details about these candidates at the January 2nd meeting and confirmed that anyone currently serving who was up for reappointment had expressed interest in continuing, including Bob Edmunds who would serve another term as chairperson.

He reported receiving notice that the county planning board would no longer have staff members from the planning department at meetings due to budget cuts, which had prompted criticism from mayors and supervisors throughout the county.

The supervisor confirmed that original contracts with the Teamsters for 2026 had been signed and returned. He mentioned he was still waiting to hear from Chad Platten about the Weedsport water contract renewal.

The board reviewed a potential letter of support to the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority for a grant application. The supervisor explained that without quick action, the authority would lose grant funding. The project would potentially connect 26-27 EDUs (Equivalent Dwelling Units) at no cost to Sennett, as the authority would pay for attorneys, engineers, SEQR, and all other expenses.

Motion by Mr. LaPointe to send the letter of support to the Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority. Seconded by Mr. Wellauer. Motion Passed unanimously.

The supervisor mentioned he would email the list of appointments, offices, and committees the following day in preparation for the January 2nd meeting. He also noted they would need to renew the 2026 fee schedule and asked if any board members wanted to change their liaison positions.

The board discussed the park bathroom renovation project. Mr. LaPointe mentioned that Brian had been in contact with three contractors (renovation, electrical, and HVAC) but couldn't reach the plumber. The supervisor indicated he hadn't received updates from Brian and suggested scheduling him for a report to the board.

The discussion revealed that the general contractor's bid was \$83,000 lower than the next bidder, explaining they don't hire subcontractors. The supervisor expressed concern about proceeding without more information and without discussing how to fund the approximately \$500,000 project. He noted that \$280,000 remained from dedicated park funds, and the rest would likely need to come from sales tax revenue.

The supervisor and Cheri planned to meet to analyze exactly how much sales tax revenue was needed to run the town, estimating around \$1.4 million would be required, with the rest potentially available for capital projects. The board agreed to continue this discussion at either the January 2nd or January 15th meeting, depending on when Brian could provide a complete report.

Councilman LaPointe raised concerns about upcoming ambulance service expenses, questioning whether the town could afford both the bathroom project and ambulance service. The supervisor clarified that the ambulance district would be funded through a separate line and not from the general fund, though he acknowledged it would still impact taxpayers.

The supervisor also mentioned that they would recalibrate with engineers regarding a water project that didn't receive grant funding. He noted they would work with the City of Auburn to secure a letter of support for a redundant water source connection with Skaneateles, requiring permission from the City of Syracuse. He emphasized that persistent grant applications are often necessary, noting it took three attempts for a recent water and sewer project to be funded.

Payment Of Year End Bills

Motion by Mr. Rizzo to pay the year-end bills with three or more signatures. Seconded by Mr. LaPointe. Motion Passed via roll call vote with unanimous approval from Mr. Vivenzio, Mr. Wellauer, Mr. Rizzo, and Mr. LaPointe and Supervisor Blair.

The supervisor confirmed that Kate would be handling the swearing-in of Hayden on December 31st.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Wellauer to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. LaPointe. Motion Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

Town of Sennett