

Minutes of the Town of Sennett monthly Town Board Meeting held on Thursday, February 19, 2026, at 6:00 PM at the Sennett Town Office Building.

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

Member Excused: Thomas Blair, Supervisor

Also Present: Cheri Major, Bookkeeper
Hayden Hares, Highway Superintendent
Kris LaPointe, Water & Sewer Superintendent
Harold Gilfus, Code Enforcement Officer
Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

Others Present: Residents Ed Magdziak, Jim Jeffers, William Feocco

Call to Order

The Sennett Town Board meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call

Kate conducted roll call with the following attendance: Councilman Vivenzio - Present, Councilman Wellauer - Present, Councilman Rizzo - Present and Councilman LaPointe - Present. The Supervisor was excused.

Approval of Minutes – December 30, 2025, January 2 & 15, 2026

The board reviewed minutes from the December 30th meeting and the January 2nd and 15th meetings.

Councilman LaPointe made a motion to accept the minutes as written for December 30, 2025, January 2nd and 15th of 2026. Councilman Wellauer seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Public Hearing(s) - None

No public hearings were scheduled for this meeting.

Scheduled Speakers

MRB – Engineering items

Councilman Rizzo read the report of Emilio Moran from MRB and provided updates on several ongoing projects:

Water Master Plan: MRB has met with the town to review examples of water master plans and identified the town's goals for creating a new water master plan. MRB provided the town board with a master plan approval proposal for review.

Water Rate Study: The study is ongoing, led by the City of Auburn.

Ambulance District: The town held an initial public information meeting to discuss the formation of the district, which will ultimately go to the vote of Town residents.

Planning Board Services: MRB continues to assist the planning board.

Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant: MRB is assisting the town in closing out the 2025 grant.

Water District 8: The town is reapplying to the NBRC, Earmark Funding and WIA grant cycles for 2026, and pursuing the county infrastructure grant. Councilman Rizzo noted they are trying to get all the same grants from last year, which typically don't come out until fall.

GIS Water Supplies System Mapping: MRB continues data gathering and setup of the GIS systems.

Public Be Heard (3 Minute Time Limit Per Speaker)

Councilman Vivenzio made a motion to open Public Be Heard. Councilman LaPointe seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

Ed Madgziak addressed the board regarding NYSEG costs and the Town of Cincinnatus's proposal for a basic rate increase challenge. He read from an official announcement stating that rising electricity costs have pushed residents, seniors, and small businesses to the breaking point, with high stakes delivery charges continuing to climb without clear justification. Cincinnatus passed a resolution calling for immediate review of utility delivery rates and demanding transparency. The resolution calls on the New York Public Service Commission to investigate escalating charges and protect rural communities from unfair burden.

He noted that residents are essentially paying for electricity three times - through their electric bill, county taxes, and state taxes. They asked if Sennett would consider joining Cincinnatus and other municipalities in appealing to the state commission.

Board members expressed interest in looking into the matter, with one noting they had heard about this issue at a recent association town meeting where it was also discussed. He mentioned that people should expect their next electric bill to be particularly high.

With no further comments,

Councilman Wellauer made a motion to close the public portion. The motion was seconded by Councilman Vivenzio and passed.

Department Reports

a. Attorney (ambulance district, WD8)

No attorney report was provided.

b. Bookkeeper (budget adjustments, audits, etc.)

Cheri reported that she is still working on December records but has started on other tasks. Vouchers have been signed and paid and budgeted reserve numbers will be sent to the bank. She is working to resolve technical issues before putting money back into the investment fund. Regarding the audit, she indicated it has progressed but she hasn't received a copy and requested one from the auditor.

c. Planning Board

Councilman Rizzo advised the Planning Board conducted training instead of a regular meeting in February, completing an hour and a half of training which counts toward their required annual hours.

d. Codes/Fire Marshall

Harold reported that in January, three building permits were issued with fees totaling \$1,150 and construction value of \$280,700. Thirteen inspections were conducted, two permits were closed out, and there were four inquiries and four fire safety inspections.

Regarding Pizza Hut, construction is progressing with drywall completed inside. During the last visit about a week and a half ago, no flooring was down yet, but they were working on electrical and had received water, power, and energy connections. The estimated completion is approximately two months.

e. Zoning Enforcement Officer

Councilman Wellauer read the report of the Zoning Enforcement Officer and reported three site plan reviews at different addresses, review of a DEC permit, site plan review, and various zoning questions including inquiries about Route 34 property, Route 20 pole barn, cell tower, and Route 5 business expansion at the old Klaben trailer sales location.

f. Assessor

Councilman LaPointe advised the Assessor is currently working with property owners on exemptions and entering information into RPS Software.

g. Fire Dept.

Councilman Vivenzio reported that in January 2026, the Fire Department responded to 52 incidents with 251 total responders contributing 138.25 man hours. Incidents included 3 fires, 39 medical calls, 3 hazardous situations, 1 rescue, 1 public service call, and 5 non-emergencies. They provided 4 mutual aid responses and received 22.

Notable events included structure fire mutual aid to Skaneateles and implementation of a new incident reporting system (NERIS - National Emergency Response Information System). Code enforcement was notified of two concerns: excessive combustibles at Tractor Supply and a sprinkler system issue on County House Road.

h. Highway Dept.

Highway Superintendent Hares reported extensive plowing activities and shop maintenance/equipment repairs. The boilers have been functioning well for a month, with Dave Card making follow-up checks. 140 tons of salt are incoming, which should provide adequate supply for the remainder of the year when mixed with existing materials.

The 284 forms for road work have been submitted, with possible additional forms depending on project developments.

Superintendent Hares requested approval for purchasing an overhead door for the pole barn to replace the problematic slider door on the southeast end. Three quotes were obtained, with Martin's Door Service providing the lowest quote.

Councilman Vivenzio made a motion to authorize the Highway Department to purchase an overhead garage door for the pole barn at a cost of \$4,903 from Martin's Door Service LLC in Geneva, New York. Councilman LaPointe seconded the motion. The motion was amended to approve the contract contingent on prevailing wage compliance. Roll call vote: Councilman Wellauer - Yes, Councilman LaPointe - Yes, Councilman Rizzo - Yes, Councilman Vivenzio - Yes. Motion carried.

The board also reviewed and approved multiple 284 agreements for road work totaling approximately \$233,000, leaving \$70,000 for other materials and miscellaneous work:

Councilman Wellauer made a motion to approve and sign the 284 agreements for various road projects including \$50,000 for miscellaneous blacktop/oil and stone, \$64,645, \$77,956, \$82,325, and \$31,268 for various road segments as indicated on the 284 agreements. Councilman LaPointe seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Councilman Wellauer - Yes, Councilman LaPointe - Yes, Councilman Rizzo - Yes, Councilman Vivenzio - Yes. Motion carried.

i. Water Dept.

Water & Sewer Superintendent LaPointe reported several activities including a broken service line on Route 5 that was repaired. Quarterly samples were taken with results pending. Multiple hours were spent gathering information for the Auburn Wholesale Water Agreement through GHD.

Generator maintenance was completed for the pump station. Several frozen meters in basements were addressed during night calls. A high level problem at the pump station was resolved by repairing floats.

Auburn City experienced a significant water leak losing 140,000 gallons per hour from their reservoir. Kris investigated to ensure the leak wasn't in Sennett's system - it was located near Washington Street by the old NAPA area.

Twelve new meters were installed. The new van is at the shop getting two light bars installed, with two days' advance notice expected before delivery.

Regarding the Auburn meter change project, equipment is ready in the shop and Auburn has provided payment. Auburn indicated they will wait for warmer weather before installation, with weekly communication continuing.

j. Town Clerk

Kate reported \$1,367 collected in January, with \$2 going to animal population control and \$1,365 to the general fund. Tax collection season is ongoing.

k. Animal Control

The Animal Control Officer reported two complaints for January 2026, including one notice to comply wrote and a couple of loose dog complaints.

The board discussed updating the animal control law to include leash requirements in parks. The process would require introducing the law at one meeting, holding a public hearing at the next, then finalizing it. The matter will be addressed when the supervisor returns.

l. Committees (Parks, Veteran Affairs, Sennett Seniors, Historian)

Historian reported working on genealogy searches and receiving requests from the county consortium for exhibits on old barns in July and one-room schoolhouses. Photos are being sought from residents for both historical collections.

The historian requested a town subscription to Ancestry.com (approximately \$299 annually) to better assist with genealogy research, noting past success with individual subscription use. The matter will be discussed when the supervisor returns.

Parks Committee is moving forward with Phase 3 planning, which would include another pavilion twice the current size, four pickleball courts with lights, and three bocce ball courts. Architect will prepare drawings to have the project "shovel ready" for any available grant funding.

Old Business

Town branding & marketing project

Councilman Vivenzio reported researching signage options by visiting various towns in the county. For the four main highways entering Sennett, quality signs like those in Union Springs would cost \$4,000 each (totaling \$32,000), while basic metal signs would cost \$500-600 each.

The challenge includes limited space due to telephone poles and other obstacles, particularly on routes like Grant Avenue. Sample options from various companies will be presented at the next meeting for board review.

Vehicle and Traffic Safety Signs status & results

Monthly stationary speed monitoring data is available for review. No significant issues were reported.

AED purchases/replacements

The matter is still progressing with no specific updates provided.

Employee positions to fill

Water department applications are open until the beginning of March. Many applications have been received, and interviews will be scheduled after the application period closes.

Boards in need of new members (BAR, ZBA, PB)

The town continues seeking one member for the Board of Assessment Review, one alternate for the Planning Board, and one alternate for the Zoning Board.

Water & sewer ACH/Credit card status (by district)

Kate will provide updates next month as she begins collecting water and sewer data. The credit card system is being utilized and helping residents.

New Business

250th celebration planning for 2026

Discussion centered on planning a smaller, in-house ceremony rather than competing with larger celebrations. Ideas included hosting something at the park with cake and simple activities.

200th Township celebration for 2027

Councilman Vivenzio requested volunteers for a planning committee for the bicentennial celebration on May 29, 2027. He reached out to Sennett Seniors to see if anyone is interested.

Shredding Services: Councilman Wellauer researched adding shredding services to the May 2-3 junk days. Vital Shred quoted \$450 per hour (typically 5 hours = \$2,250), while Confidata (current clerk's office provider) quoted \$250 per hour for a 2-hour Saturday morning session (\$500 total). The service would be limited to residents, similar to dumpster day restrictions.

Cemetery Matters: Councilman Vivenzio contacted Sennett Rural Cemetery and advised them the Board needs three bids by the next meeting. Sennett Rural Cemetery needs a 501(c)(3) designation for a \$4,000 sign grant. They are seeking legal assistance to establish their own 501(c)(3) status.

Association of Town's Meeting in 2027 will be held March 13-16, rather than February.

Supervisor Correspondence/Report

The Supervisor was absent, so no report was provided.

Executive Session – (Personnel matter)

No executive session was needed.

Payment of Monthly Bills

Councilman Wellauer made a motion to pay the bills with three or more signatures. Councilman LaPointe seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Councilman Wellauer - Yes, Councilman LaPointe - Yes, Councilman Rizzo - Yes, Councilman Vivenzio - Yes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Councilman LaPointe made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Wellauer seconded the motion. Motion Passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm.

Next regular meeting scheduled for March 19, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Salisbury, Town Clerk

Town of Sennett