

Seneca Village Council held a regularly scheduled Council meeting at Seneca Village Hall on October 19, 2021 and the meeting was called to order immediately following the budget meeting, which began at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Olson and Commissioners Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Also Present: Village Attorney Robert Russo, Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Clerk Jennifer Peddicord

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the October 5, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins that the Council approve the August treasurer's report, payroll and payment of bills as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Mayor Olson: New Business: Recognition of Clerk Peddicord's completion of clerk school.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER WEBER: Comm. Weber advised that Premier Asphalt was in town to patch holes in town last week and did a good job.

Comm. Weber gave an update regarding the River Road replacement project. Commissioners Weber and Callahan, and Treasurer Nancy Gross met recently to discuss finances for the project. Casey McCollom advised that plans have to be reviewed and approved by IDOT. In order to put this project out for bid, IDOT requires plans be approved ahead of the bid process. Once the plans have been approved, there will be a two-week advertising period. Best case scenario, we can put this out for bid in approximately 1-1/2 months. Worst case scenario, it could take up to 2 to 2-1/2 months. Comm. Weber advised that we will be using MFT funds and windmill funds. Comm. Callahan suggested that the Seneca Port District may be willing to give us funds for the project if we can get numbers together to present. Casey McCollom advised that is what the engineer's estimate is for. Casey McCollom was advised to begin the process for putting this out for bid.

MAYOR OLSON: Mayor Olson requested that residents and business owners write letters of support for the NCICG Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets Capital Grant. Further information will be shared on social media.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC PROPERTY, WATER & SEWER:

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to Santa Squad, LLC in the amount of \$2,500.00 for lighting up Crotty Park for the holidays. After this year, the cost will be decreased by 50 percent, as we will own the lights. This cost covers 50 trees at Crotty Park.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE - CALLAHAN:

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve an expenditure to First Midwest Bank Visa in the amount of \$5,106.96 for credit card expenses.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve an expenditure to WEX Bank in the amount of \$3,203.20 for fuel expenses.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Comm. Callahan presented the annual tax levy ordinance for review by the council. He advised that the levy shows a slight increase, but we are able to avoid a truth in taxation hearing. The LaSalle County EAV is down slightly and the Grundy County EAV has increased slightly, which evens out.

Comm. Callahan presented the annual bond abatement ordinance for discussion. We have sufficient funds on hand, therefore we do not need to tax for it. The bond was for the purchase of the Anderson property on the north hill.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the opening of a new bank account for the deposit of ARPA grant funds. These are covid funds and can only be used for specific purposes. Opening a separate account will make it easier for accounting purposes. The village will receive a total of approximately \$300,000.00, and we have received half so far.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

STREETS - WEBER:

Commissioner Weber announced the leaf collection schedule. He asked that residents place their leaves on the curb only, not the street, by 8:00 a.m. on Monday. No sticks, branches, or garbage. The schedule will be put on our Facebook page and website.

Comm. Weber congratulated the park board on their outstanding fall festival.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY - HIGGINS:

Comm. Higgins announced the trick or treat hours will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm on Halloween.

Comm. Higgins advised that the Planning Commission has discussed increasing the variance application fee from \$200.00 to \$500.00. The Planning Commission will have a hearing and then it will be sent to the council for approval.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - OLSON:

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve the appointment of Kelsey Kowalski as ESDA coordinator with a term to expire in May 2023.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the appointment of George Lamboley as Assistant to the ESDA coordinator with a term to expire in May of 2023.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Mayor Olson advised that he had Clerk Peddicord give copies of the comprehensive plan to the commissioners. Clerk Peddicord has been working on a community survey which will be ready for review at the next council meeting. If anyone has any ideas for the survey, they are asked to contact Clerk Peddicord or the mayor.

Mayor Olson recognized Clerk Jennifer Peddicord for completing clerk school this year.

Mayor Olson thanked Becky Seigel for the beautiful job she did decorating the front of village hall for fall.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Park Board President Melissa Klicker thanked a number of people and organizations for their donations and help on the first fall festival. An estimated 600 people attended the festival.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to adjourn the October 19, 2021 council meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None


Jennifer A. Peddicord
Jennifer A. Peddicord, Village Clerk