

Seneca Village Council held a regularly scheduled Council meeting at Seneca Village Hall on November 2, 2021 and the meeting was called to order 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. Weber and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the October 19, 2021 budget 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 to approve the October 19, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Higgins that the Council approve the 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:

None.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMISSIONER CALLAHAN:

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the total amount to be raised by tax levy of \$826,477.21 for the tax year 2021, collectable in 2022.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-32, Annual Bond Abatement Ordinance.

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

Nays: None

COMMISSIONER WEBER:

Comm. Weber announced that the leaf collection schedule has been updated due to the lack of falling leaves. The first collection will now be on Monday, November 15 for Lincoln Street and north, and Monday, November 22 for Union Street and south. If necessary, additional collection dates will be added, weather permitting.

With regard to the River Road replacement project, Engineer Casey McCollom advised that he has not yet heard anything from the state of Illinois. Comm. Weber advised that the news recently incorrectly reported that the work would begin in a month and a half to two months. In fact, at this time we do not have a timeline, as we still need IDOT approval of the plans.

MAYOR OLSON:

Mayor Olson renewed his request for residents and businesses to write letters of support for the NCICG Rebuild Downtowns & Main Streets Capital Grant. Engineer Casey McCollom has been working on getting figures together and has been working with NCICG. The application will consist of three parts: the village hall parking lot, including landscaping, curbs and gutters at a projected cost of \$350,000.00; the Armour Street parking lot, including landscaping, curbs and gutters at a projected cost of \$300,000.00; and street lighting on Main Street at a projected cost of \$900,000.00.

Mayor Olson presented community surveys to the council for review. These will be sent out to residents before the end of the year to determine their thoughts on what they want to see changed in the village. He asked that the council review them prior to the next meeting. The hope is that as many residents as possible will respond to the surveys.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC PROPERTY, WATER & SEWER:

Comm. Victor read a statement that due to running out of the water bill postcards, residents with last names beginning with R to Z received their water bills in a different format. This is not a permanent change.

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE - CALLAHAN:

Comm. Callahan announced that the results of the 2020 census shows that Seneca's population has decreased slightly to 2,353.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve an expenditure to Tyler Technologies, Inc. in the amount of \$6,741.34 for annual maintenance fees. This covers our annual software maintenance fees.

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

Nays: None

Comm. Callahan presented an Ordinance Pertaining to the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund for review. This is required by the U.S. Department of Treasury in order to use the covid relief funds.

STREETS - WEBER:

None.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY - HIGGINS:

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to Grundy County ETSB in the amount of \$8,068.75 for annual Starcom fee. This amount is down from last year by approximately \$1,000.00 due to ETSB picking up the impact fee. Next year ETSB will pick up the port fee for another decrease.

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

Nays: None

Comm. Higgins announced that Shop with a Cop will take place on December 11 at the Morris Walmart at noon. Applications are available at village hall.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS - OLSON:

Mayor Olson requested that the council consider committing a specific amount of village funds to the NCICG Rebuild Grant in order to make our application stronger. This is not a matching grant, however a commitment of specific funds would make the application stronger, as this is a very competitive grant. The potential award is anywhere from \$250,000.00 to \$3 million and 50 communities will receive awards. This will be discussed further at the next council meeting.

Mayor Olson read a statement with regard to the formation of the Beautification, Betterment & Tourism Committee. He requested that the BBT would like to have their own funds that would be used exclusively by them. Presently, their funds are held in the downtown fund. Christmas lights for the past few years

have also come out of that fund. At present, there is approximately \$300.00 remaining in the downtown fund.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure in an amount not to exceed \$1,500.00 for holiday trees, greenery and prizes for BBT.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve setting up a department to administer BBT monies. The account will start with a zero balance and the funds will be raised by the BBT.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the appointment of Ray Jackson to the Planning Commission, with a term to expire in November 2026. Mr. Jackson was the only applicant for the position.

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

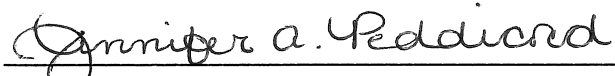
Park Board President Melissa Klicker made a number of announcements on behalf of the Park Board:

- 1) Graves Park ball fields are officially closed until Spring.
- 2) She advised that 53 businesses participated in the outfield banner sponsorship program. A full list will be posted on Facebook and at village hall.
- 3) She thanked REG for their work at Graves Park with trimming shrubs, taking down the outfield banners and painting the concession stand and shelter building.
- 4) This year the park board purchased a 20 foot inflatable screen and projector to host the Movie in the Park. The following families and entities were thanked for sponsoring the movies in the park: the Lamboley Family, JRR Race Team and Delta Theta Tau Sorority.
- 5) The public was invited to the Holiday Market Sip & Shop on November 21 from 10 to 2, and the Christmas in the Park from 4 to 7:30 pm.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to adjourn the November 2, 2021 council meeting at 6:39 p.m.

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

Nays: None



Jennifer A. Peddicord, Village Clerk

