

The Seneca Village Council held a regularly scheduled Council meeting at Seneca Village Hall on February 7, 2023 and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None

Also Present: 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. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the January 17, 2023 council meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the October and November Treasurer's Reports and payment of bills as presented.

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

Nays: None

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION:

None.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:

Additional Agenda Item: *Weber: New:* Grant opportunity.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Victor: A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Wood to approve an expenditure to Chamlin & Associates in the amount of \$30,000.00 for Water/Sewer Master Planning Report. This will be paid out of ARPA funds. The purpose of the report is to evaluate the existing system and offer options for upgrades.

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

Nays: None

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC PROPERTY, WATER & SEWER - VICTOR:

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to Cummins Sales & Service in the amount of \$3,139.10 for cooling system maintenance to village hall generator.

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

Nays: None

ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE - WEBER:

A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve a motion to add Shelly Figgins as a signer on all Illinois Funds accounts.

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

Nays: None

Additional Agenda Item: Comm. Weber advised that a RAISE grant for infrastructure was brought to his attention as a possible means of helping to pay for the bridge replacement on River Road. However, after researching the grant further, it was determined that we do not qualify, as the project must be a million dollar project. Comm. Weber will be contacting the county to explore cost-sharing for the project.

STREETS - WOOD:

None.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY - HIGGINS:

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve a Vendor/Subcontractor Agreement with Blue Line Professional Consultants LLC for mental health wellness screening services. These screenings were state mandated by HB 3653. The cost is \$150.00 per officer, and is a requirement for all officers to be screened. There is no extra funding from the state for these required screenings.

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

Nays: None

Discussion took place regarding increasing the annual video gaming terminal fees from \$25.00 per terminal to \$100.00 per terminal. All of the annual terminal fees go to the Police Department. Mayor Olson advised that this increased cost would cover the police department's costs to police Shipyard Days. This pertains to video gaming terminals only; the fees for dart boards, jukeboxes, pinball machines, etc. will remain at \$25.00 each. By law, the business owner is responsible for half of the fee and the terminal operator is responsible for the other half. For six machines, the total fee would be \$600.00, with \$300.00

to be paid by the business owner and \$300.00 to be paid by the terminal operator. This will take effect with the 2024 renewals, which will take place in December 2023. This will be brought back at the next council meeting for approval.

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the hiring of Cole Klicker as a part-time police officer at an hourly rate of \$22.62. Cole Klicker is a long-time resident of Seneca and a great addition to the department.

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

Nays: None

PUBLIC AFFAIRS – OLSON:

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins Terms of Engagement regarding demolition matters and authorizes Mayor Olson to execute same. Mayor Olson advised that there are three major problem properties in town, specifically 348 N. Main Street, 119 Hossack Street, and 362 N. Market Street, which need to be dealt with. Sheryl Churney of Klein, Thorpe & Jenkins has experience in dealing with these types of properties. Two of the properties will need to be demolished, but it's possible that the property on Hossack Street could be rehabbed and sold. Clerk Peddicord is working with NCICG on applying for a grant that would reimburse the village for the costs of demolition and rehab.

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

Nays: None

Mayor Olson presented an Ordinance Amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Temporary Signs for discussion. It was determined that there is a provision in the code which requires realtors and similar businesses to pay a temporary sign permit fee annually. This has never been enforced and it was agreed that it should be removed from the code. This ordinance will be presented for approval at the next council meeting.

Mayor Olson then presented an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 6 of Title 3 of the Seneca Code of Ordinances Regarding Scavengers for consideration. While reviewing the code, it was discovered that this provision existed, which has never been enforced. This ordinance will be brought back for approval at the next council meeting.

Mayor Olson announced that the village will be hosting an electronics recycling event on Saturday, March 25, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the village hall parking lot behind the police department. There is no limit on the amount of items that can be brought and there is no cost to dispose of televisions.

Mayor Olson announced that Renee Schaefer McKinney has resigned as Shipyard Festival Committee Chairman and her resignation was accepted with regret. He thanked Renee for her 23+ years of service to the Shipyard Festival.

Mayor Olson advised that there are vacancies on the Shipyard Festival Committee and applications will be accepted at village hall until 4:00 p.m. on February 21, 2023. If there are any questions, interested parties can contact village hall at 815-357-8771.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Brett Snyder of the Morris Chiefs spoke regarding the Chiefs youth football program and its connection to Seneca. The Morris Chiefs is interested in funding opportunities. Approximately 15-20 Seneca families have children participating in the Morris Chiefs program.

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Victor to adjourn the February 7, 2023 council meeting. A voice vote was held. All ayes. No nays. The council meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.



Jennifer A. Peddicord, Village Clerk