

**MINUTES
TOWN OF GENEVA
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING
May 9, 2023**

PRESENT: Supervisor Mark Venuti Councilmember Robert McCarthy
 Councilmember Mitchell Wilber Councilmember Kimberly Aliperti

ABSENT: Councilmember Jeffery Dunham

Recording Secretary: Lorrie S. Naegele, Geneva Town Clerk. The actions described below are not necessarily listed in order of occurrence.

Others Present: Highway Superintendent Bernie Peck, Water and Sewer Superintendent Howard Bailey, Code Enforcement Officer Floyd Kofahl, & Town Residents

Informal Discussion – 5:30 p.m.: Informal discussion with Town Board, department heads and public.

1. Call to order - 6:00 p.m.: The Regular Town Board Meeting.

2. Privilege of the floor. None

3. Gratitude's: To water and sewer department staff Howard Bailey, Jeff Ilacqua and Steve Augustine for installing the Harmony Park outdoor instruments behind the town hall last week.

Town resident Tom McClure will be recognized as an outstanding senior citizen by the Ontario County Office for the Aging on Friday, May 19. Tom is a volunteer extraordinaire, and we are proud of him.

4. Approval of the minutes: Approval of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Town Board on April 11, 2023. Motion to approve made by Councilmember McCarthy, second by Councilmember Aliperti. Unanimously approved.

5. Town Clerk's report.
Questions, comments.
The Board acknowledges receipt.

6. Code Enforcement Officer's report.
Questions, comments.
The Board acknowledges receipt.

7. Highway Superintendent's Report:
Questions, comments.
The Board acknowledges receipt.

8. Water & Sewer Superintendent's Report:
Questions, comments.
The Board acknowledges receipt.

9. Supervisor's report of finances for the previous month
Questions, comments.
The Board acknowledges receipt.

10. 2023 RESOLUTION NO. 39-2023 - Approving Abstract-005, May 2023, Bills for Payment, and Prepaid Bills. Motion to approve made by Councilmember McCarthy, second by Councilmember Aliperti. Unanimously approved.

**TOWN OF GENEVA, NEW YORK
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 39-2023**

Whereas certain abstracts and bills for services and goods received or to be received by the town have been presented for payment or necessarily paid Abstract-05 May 2023, vouchers 0391-0417 total \$699,090.56 and

Whereas those abstracts and bills have been reviewed by the supervisor's bookkeeper, the supervisor and other members of the town board, and are in proper order for payment or approval, now therefore, it is

RESOLVED the pre-paid bills that are presented are approved and the supervisor is authorized to pay the unpaid bills.

11. 2023 RESOLUTION NO. 40-2023 - Approving Water and Sewer Department Position Changes. Motion to approve made by Councilmember McCarthy, second by Councilmember Wilber. Unanimously approved.

**TOWN OF GENEVA, NEW YORK
RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN BOARD
RESOLUTION NO. 40-2023**

Whereas Water and Sewer Superintendent Charles Bracko is retiring effective June 2, 2023, after 43 years of service to the town; and

Whereas the Water and Sewer Assistant, Howard Bailey, has worked in the department for 36 years and is willing and able to move to the position of Water and Sewer Superintendent, but he will need to be trained by Charles Bracko to perform the administrative duties of the position, including reporting on the water and sewer systems to government agencies; and

Whereas Charles Bracko is willing and available to train Howard Bailey in the full functions of the Water and Sewer Superintendent position, and also assist the Town Supervisor and other town officials as needed on water and sewer issues, as an independent contractor, providing a total of 122 hours from the date of his retirement to the end of the year, for which his health insurance benefits will continue to be paid, at a cost of approximately \$7,337.00, according to an agreement between him and the town that has been prepared; and

Whereas Jeffery Ilacqua has worked for the town in the water and sewer department for 25 years and is currently the Water and Sewer Maintenance person, and is willing and able to move to the Water and Sewer Assistant position; and

Whereas Stephen Augustine has worked for the town in the water and sewer department for 20 years and is willing and able to move to the Water and Sewer Maintenance position; and

Whereas the town will hire a new person for the department, also in the Water and Sewer Maintenance position, to fill the open position; now therefore, it is

RESOLVED the supervisor may sign the agreement with Charles Bracko for him to train and consult to the end of the year; and it is further.

RESOLVED Howard Bailey is appointed Town Water and Sewer Superintendent, with a salary increase of \$9,840.00 going forward, to bring him to the salary of the superintendent's position, \$87,384.00, effective June 5, 2023; and it is further

RESOLVED Jeffery Ilacqua is appointed Water and Sewer Assistant, with a salary increase of \$1,779.00 going forward, his new salary being \$76,744.00, effective June 5, 2023; and it is further

RESOLVED Stephen Augustine is appointed Water and Sewer Maintenance worker, with a salary of \$74,565.00 going forward, effective June 5, 2023; and it is further

RESOLVED the new employee of the department, hired at the Water and Sewer Maintenance worker level, will start with a salary of \$69,805.00, as provided in the town's contract with the employee union.

12. Reports of Standing Committees

Economic Development – No Meeting

Sustainability – The public meeting for the HeatSmart campaign was Thursday, May 4, at the Geneva Community Center. It was attended by about 30 town and city residents who heard a presentation from Brett Peters of the Climate Solutions Accelerator about the opportunity for a free home energy audit, and the types of solutions available, like adding insulation, heat pumps and geothermal, and the subsidies and tax breaks that can be used to reduce the cost. For more info contact Brett at 585-445-3239 or brett@climategfl.org.

Kashong Conservation Area – In April they walked the trails and are looking into the wetter areas.

Communication – Town Times coming up

Parks and Recreation – The Harmony Park was installed behind the town hall last week by town water and sewer department staff.

13. Supervisor's Report: Selected Meetings and Events can be found on the agenda.

The town did not receive the DEC grant for the Electric Vehicle Charging Station at the town hall that had been applied for. This was to supplement the NYSEG "Make Ready" grant of about \$60,000 that covers bringing the power to the station. We are looking at options for proceeding without the DEC grant because, even if successful on re-application in the fall, which is not certain, it would likely be July 2024 before those grant funds would be available. The Board agreed to go forward with the charging station without the grant.

The town advertised for the position in the water and sewer department that will be open in June when Charlie Bracko retires and received more than 10 applications. Incoming Water and Sewer Superintendent Howard Bailey and Supervisor Mark Venuti reviewed the applications and selected three for interviews. They agreed to offer the position to Shaun Kunes, a Geneva High School graduate with experience with the NYS Department of Transportation, including supervisory, and currently with the Town of Seneca's public works department. Shaun has the skills, and we believe character the town was looking for, and we look forward to him joining our staff on June 5.

The spring rains, especially the April 5 extreme event, and the wet period at the end of the month, caused flooding in many areas of the town. The supervisor met with a technician from the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Seneca Watershed Steward shortly after the April 5 event to look at areas west of Carter Road for places to retain water, and two were identified and will be pursued. There have also been meetings looking at the areas around Lincoln Way, the south end of Lomar Drive, and Brian Drive, Crescence Drive and Carter Road extension. The supervisor and the Soil and Water technician met with Cornell officials last week to discuss areas on Cornell property for water retention, and three promising locations will be further investigated and likely pursued. The supervisor has another meeting with the Soil and Water technician this week to review other areas mentioned above for water retention facilities. These interventions take time and require landowners willing to dedicate space for a facility and the money to pay for it. The town has been working on this issue for some time and assisted in the installation of water retention basins in the Kashong Conservation Area

and the DeFelice farm east of County Road 6. Two water retention basins will be installed off Armstrong Road this year to alleviate flooding in that area. Water retention is planned for the town's property behind the North Side firehouse off Carter Road, but installation will take at least two years during which the facility will be designed, and grant funding (we hope) obtained. Plant trees. A mature tree can take up to 50-100 gallons of water a day.

Cornell's Design Connect team has completed a design for a comprehensive transfer station, including a reuse center, for the town. Final documents will be delivered to the town mid-May.

14. Old Business. None

15. New Business. Town is looking into purchasing an electronic sign that shows the driver's speed that can be moved around to town roads and help reduce speeding.

16. Privilege of the floor. None

17. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn made by Councilmember Aliperti. Second by Councilmember Wilber. Time 6:24 pm

Respectfully, Lorrie S. Naegele, Town Clerk