

MEETING, TOWN BOARD OF GENOA

October 14, 2020

A Regular meeting of the Town Board of Genoa, Cayuga County, State of New York was held at the Town Hall, 1000 Bartnick Road, Genoa NY on October 14, 2020.

Present:	Lorie Sellen-Gross, Supervisor	Paul Wheeler
	Cheryl Shields, Board Member	Patrick Doyle
	Don Slocum, Board Member	
	Chris Stout, Board Member	
	Brandon White, Board Member	
	Sue Moss, Clerk	

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Supervisor Lorie Sellen-Gross with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Patrick spoke about the Solar Law the Board is planning to adopt for the Town. They discussed minimum lot sizes, limiting removal of trees and vegetation, fencing of the system and maintenance of the grounds.

CODE ENFORCEMENT REPORT

Lorie Sellen-Gross

The following is a summary of activity since the September 9, 2020 report:

- Issued eight building permits.
- Performed routine inspections on outstanding permits and site inspections for new permits.
- Office hours on Monday afternoons and by appointment.

Summary of building permits issued since the September 9, 2020 report:

#20-41 Paul & Mary Geri	8581 State Route 90	tear-off and replace roof.
#20-42 Mary Burns	10089 State Route 90	replace roof.
#20-43 Charles Sellen	9364 State Route 90	2,400 square foot pole barn.
#20-44 Ronald & Carol DiSanto	8589 State Route 90	tear-off and re-roof.
#20-45 Ronald & Carol DiSanto	8589 State Route 90	sunroom, and deck.
#20-46 Stephen & Christina Morse	1069 Honoco Road	demo/remove trailer.
#20-47 Good Shepard Catholic Community	8703 State Route 90	replace roof on rectory.
#20-48 Ellen & David Reynolds	465 Powers Road	addition/renovations.

Appeared in Genoa Town Court on September 15, 2020 with a property owner on State Route 90, for sanitation, weeds, and junk violations. Judge Orkin gave this property owner until October 6, 2020 to remedy violations. Violations were not remedied by October 6th and Judge Orkin has scheduled a hearing for October 20, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

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Issued two order to remedy violations and appearance tickets for properties on State Route 90 on October 6, 2020 – one for weeds and one for junk, trash, rubbish, and sanitation. Both have until November 9th to comply or appear in Town Court on November 17, 2020 to answer charges.

Reviewed proposed Solar Local Law and offered comments for Town Board consideration and discussion.

RESOLUTION 82-2020 **APPROVAL OF September 9, MINUTES**

On a motion of Board member Shields, seconded by Board member Slocum, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White

Nays 0

Resolved to adopt the September 9, 2020 minutes

RESOLUTION 83-2020 **APPROVAL TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

On a motion of Board member Shields, seconded by Board member White, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White

Nays 0

Resolved to approve a budget adjustment and transfer of funds

Budget Adjustment – Water Fund

SW1-9060.8: Transfer budgeted amount – decrease (will not be using) \$14,000

Divide this \$14,000 and increase amounts in account lines as follows:

SW18340.2 – Transmission and Distribution Equipment: \$4000

SW18320.1 – Power and Pumping Personal Services: \$8000

SW18320.2 – Power and Pumping Contractual: \$2000

Inter-funds Transfer:

Transfer \$40,080 from Water District Surplus Funds to Current Water Funds

In doing so, this will need a budget adjustment increase of \$40,080 on account SW18320

This \$40,080 was the cost for Moody's to clean wells, 2, 2A and 4.

Budget Adjustment – General Fund

Reduce Contingent account \$2078

Increase Budget: A4020.4 Registrar Vital Statistics \$400

Increase Budget: A4540.4 Ambulance \$1678

RESOLUTION 84-2020 **APPROVAL OF ADDITIONAL BILL**

On a motion of Board member White, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White

Nays 0

Resolved to approve the Picard and Anderson bill as presented

RESOLUTION 85-2020 APPROVAL OF HUNT ENGINEERING BILL

On a motion of Board member White, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved to approve the Hunt Engineering bill for \$7391.08 as presented

RESOLUTION 86-2020 APPROVAL OF CHANGE ORDER

On a motion of Board member White, seconded by Board member Slocum, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved to approve the Change Order as presented

RESOLUTION 87-2020 APPROVAL OF FINAL PAYMENT

On a motion of Board member White, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved to approve the final bill of \$87,506.55 to Grant Street Construction as presented

RESOLUTION 88-2020 CLERK'S REPORT

On a motion of Board member Stout, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved that the September 2020 Clerk's Report be approved

CLERK'S REPORT

Report on Revenues from Clerk's Office for September 2020

Dog Licenses 175.00 (\$198 total - \$23 Ag & Markets population control fund)

Certified Copies 120.00

Building Permits 980.00

Disbursements for September 2020

Paid to Supervisor \$ 1275.00

ASSESSOR REPORT

Lorie Sellen-Gross

Assessors are required by NYSRPTL to complete an ethics course after every appointment. I participated & completed Ethics and the Assessor 9/18/2020 to meet that requirement.

Did you realize that the Assessor is the ONLY Town Official REQUIRED to complete Basic Certification & Required annual Continuing Education AND NYS reimburses the Town for the expenses incurred?

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Reminder... Budget year for each town during my current 6-year appointment:
2020-Genoa 2021-Ledyard 2022-Scipio 2023-Sempronius 2024-Throop 2025-Venice

We discussed many scenarios that while are legal, are not ethical. Each Appointed and Elected Official has an ethical responsibility to attend all the training offered at conferences and training seminars when we attend. Many Town Supervisors, Board members, Clerks and other employees attend training conferences. Is it ethical to allow taxpayers to pay for your lodging, food, training and travel expenses if you bring a spouse/significant other? What if you don't actually attend all of the training? Perhaps you miss just one course and go shop or sightseeing instead. This is legal but is it ethical? Just some food for thought.

I will be completing the required annual continuing education requirements for 2020 on October 5th & 6th. The New York State Assessors' Association is hosting this year's annual conference virtually. Some of the topics include Three Sides of the SCAR Trial, Appraisal Review & Covid 19: What Assessors Need to Know, Residential Modeling & Ration Analysis, Memorable Case Law for a Forgettable Year, Ins and Outs of the Exemption Process as well as Data Mining for Commercial Valuations.

I will be preparing and mailing the annual renewal applications for the Agricultural, Low-Income Senior Citizens and Low-Income Disabled exemptions over the next couple of months. I may need to order envelopes to complete the process. It is my goal to make this process as easy and stress-free for applicants as possible. I will be diligently entering applications through-out the time of mailing to the March 1st deadline. I will also be extra-sensitive to those with extenuating circumstances to help folks get the renewals completed and returned to me for processing.

The Town of Venice Supervisor has reached out to me about installing a window separation for safety and distance of property owners and myself. We discussed adding a window to my office door. This will be a good solution. I will need to purchase a small copier/printer for my office to do all the photocopying necessary. Opening the door, walking past the owners to make the copies and then back past them a second time before closing the door/window defeats the whole purpose. We also discussed encouraging applicants to use mail-in/drop off method if possible and making appointments for those who feel it necessary to apply in person or need help. This would avoid folks all showing up at the same time and allow distancing. I will be including this information with the renewal mailers.

I have had conversations about expectations of precaution and safety measures with some of the Town Supervisors where I am also appointed, but there are no other reasonable plans in place that I am aware of at this time.

2020 Assessment Updates in the Towns of Genoa & Ledyard were tabled. The tabled updates can be done for 2021. If the Town decides to proceed keep in mind that there will be minimal, if any, financial benefit for the Town and Town Property Owners. I suspect that the NYS reimbursement will not be available. Valuation updates are always stressful for property owners. How will property owners perceive the change especially at this time? I am willing to proceed as the Town Board wishes. Please keep in mind

I am appointed to value each property equitably and fairly and will do so regardless of circumstance. Ultimately an update to change assessments are up to each of you to decide as an elected representative of the Town Property Owners. A Town Board resolution to update 2021 or not is needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Heather Garner, Assessor

RESOLUTION 89-2020 APPROVAL TO POSTPONE 2020 REVAL TO 2021

On a motion of Supervisor Sellen-Gross, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved that the 2020 Reval be postponed to 2021 be approved

An email from State Comptroller DiNapoli stated that New York State is ranked #2 nationally in jobs lost.

WATER REPORT

Sue Moss

Total - 2,787,500 gallons

Average - 92,917 gallons

HIGHWAY REPORT

Brandon White

The men helped the Towns of Scipio, Venice, and Niles with the last of their chip sealing.

Cayuga County Soil and Water helped replace a cross culvert at the bottom of the hill on Powers Road. We also changed a culvert on Atwater Road. Jeff replaced rear brakes and rotors, both back springs and the radiator on our 2008 F-450. We paved the Town Hall parking lot and the intersection of Rte. 90 and Creek Road. We had some extra material, so we paved over three cross culverts on Mahaney Road south of Atwater Road. The guys started mixing salt and sand to fill our salt shed for the coming winter season.

Paul informed the Board that Grant Street Construction has completed the water project work. There is just some cleanup left.

OLD BUSINESS/UPDATES

Paul and Lorie are not happy with the paving of the parking lot at the Town Hall by Suit-Kote. Paul has spoken with management and they have offered to put down slurry seal in the spring at their cost. The pavement was rolled too late – it had cooled before rolling. Board members would like to hear all options available. It was suggested that the blacktop be removed, and the job redone.

The Creek Road bridge (Bakers Bridge) will be repaired with CHIPS money in 2021

The Cayuga Hazard Mitigation Plan now has participation of one-half the Towns in the county.

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Water policies on the website will be changed to reflect that new water setups must be paid in full before any work can begin.

The list of businesses on the TOG website has been updated.

Paul is working on the new machinery requests for 2021.

NEW BUSINESS

The cost of mowing for 2021 will increase by \$60 to cover each department area

The Board agreed to the requested \$600 for the Office of the Aging

Lorie received an email from the Office of the State Comptroller regarding the Town's fiscal and environmental stress scores for 2017, 2018, and 2019.

2017 Fiscal Stress 0.0 Environmental Stress 10.0

2018 Fiscal Stress 3.3 Environmental Stress 3.3

2019 Fiscal Stress 3.3 Environmental Stress 10.0

A letter was sent to Lorie from Hunt Engineers wanting to discuss the use of a Facilities Conditions Assessment. The Board said no.

Lorie and the Board went over the new medical insurance coverage options for 2021.

There was some discussion about increasing the water district rates.

RESOLUTION 90-2020 APPROVAL OF BILLS

On a motion of Board member Stout, seconded by Board member Shields, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White

Nays 0

Resolved to approve the bills as presented

After reviewing the Tentative Budget dated 10/5 that the Town Clerk presented to the Town Board at its Board Meeting on 10/14/20, the Town Board felt that even though the 2021 Town Budget has not been finalized, most likely there is a need to exceed the property tax cap for 2021. In preparation of this, a motion was made as follows:

RESOLUTION 91-2020 APPROVAL of PREPARATION of LOCAL LAW #1 OF 2020

On a motion of Board member Slocum, seconded by Board member Stout, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White

Nays 0

Resolved to prepare a Local Law #1 of 2020; A Local Law Overriding the Tax Levy Limit for Fiscal Year 2021

The Town Clerk will advertise for a Public Hearing for this Local Law prior to legal advertising date for this hearing date of November 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. The Town's current preliminary 2021 Budget dated 10/5/2020 is available for review at the Town Clerk's Office on her regularly scheduled office hours. The 2021 Town's Final Preliminary Budget that will be up for possible adoption between 11/5/20 and 11/11/20 (which may fall under overriding the tax cap law being

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establish), may be viewed at the Town Clerk's Office on 11/5/2020 through 11/11/20 during her regular office hours.

The topic of solar energy has surfaced in conversations over the last year during the Town Board meetings. The Board has decided to prepare a local law that amends and supersedes any existing Town of Genoa rules and regulations pertaining to Solar Energy Generating Systems or Facilities, as well as their infrastructure and related battery and storage facilities. The Town Board of the Town of Genoa, of New York, is adopting this Local Law Number 2 of 2020 pursuant to the powers granted by Town Law of New York State §§ 130, 261, and 263 and by Municipal Home Rule Law § 10, which authorize the Town of Genoa to adopt certain provisions and local laws that advance and protect the health, safety and welfare of the community.

The purpose of this Local Law is to facilitate and regulate at the same time the development and operation of certain renewable energy systems based upon the use of sunlight; to promote solar power and to protect the land and persons from the impacts of such land use and development, protect important agricultural lands, forests, wildlife and other protected resources; and to provide a regulatory scheme for the designation of properties most suitable for the location, to mitigate impacts and nuisances as well as including the decommissioning of any systems installed. It is in the public interest to allow for renewable energy systems while keeping in mind our Town's Comprehensive Plan and Agriculture and Farmland Protection Plan.

RESOLUTION 92-2020 **APPROVAL of PREPARATION of LOCAL LAW #2 OF 2020**

On a motion of Board member Shields, seconded by Supervisor Sellen-Gross, the following resolution was

ADOPTED Ayes 5 Sellen-Gross, Shields, Slocum, Stout, White
Nays 0

Resolved to prepare a Local Law #2 of 2020; A Local Law Amending and Superseding Any Existing Town of Genoa Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Solar Energy Generating Systems or Facilities

The Town Clerk will advertise for a Public Hearing for this Local Law prior to legal advertising date for this hearing date of November 5, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

With no further business, on a motion of Board member Shields, seconded by Board member Slocum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m. Carried unanimously.

Susan B. Moss, Town Clerk