

**DRAFT**

**ROLL CALL:** Present Supervisor Dickson  
Councilmember Breidenstein  
Councilmember Piekarec  
Councilmember Robertson  
Absent Councilmember Kims

Supervisor Dickson read the Fire Prevention Code instructing the public where to exit in case of a fire, or an emergency was stated.

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**MINUTES TO BE APPROVED**

1. Town Clerk Newton re Meeting Minutes 2024-26 of December 16, 2024

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to approve Meeting Minutes 2024-26 of December 16, 2024.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Michael Teager, Ethics Board Chairperson, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ Requested status on the proposed Ethics Code changes noting the changes have been presented for three years – Town Attorney Trapp stated he will address the latest revisions within two weeks. There was further discussion between Mr. Teager and Mr. Trapp as to how many revisions were presented. Supervisor Dickson reiterated that Mr. Trapp will address this issue within two weeks.

Deputy Supervisor Greenan read the following comment from Facebook:

- ✓ Courtney Fallon, Treehaven Road, requested the Town Board not receive the Recreation report for September through December; in her opinion, the report lacks details.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Code Enforcement re Request for special use permit – 1850 Union Road

Attorney Jacob Piorkowski appeared with Sukhwinder Atwal, owner of Urban Herb LLC, and made the following comments:

- ✓ Provided additional documents: lease for prior tenant, a signed affidavit by the principal of the prior business, letter from former client setting forth that there is no relationship between the prior business and Ms. Atwal.

Code Enforcement Officer stated the applicant attended two Planning Board meetings where these issues were discussed, and the items were provided to the Town Board.

Supervisor Dickson asked the applicant if they have discussed the requirements in West Seneca with Chief Cosgrove and the Code Enforcement Office. Mr. Piorkowski stated they have not met with Chief Cosgrove but have appeared before the Planning Board to discuss the town code and requirements.

Councilmember Breidenstein stated he was not familiar with the documents. Mr. Piorkowski stated two submissions to the Planning Board including architectural drawings, documentation regarding security, lighting, signage, bollards in front of the store, age restrictions, and hours of operation.

Supervisor Dickson asked if Mr. Schieber has inspected the store. Mr. Schieber stated he has not because the store has not been approved.

Councilmember Breidenstein questioned if there is any cannabis related inventory in the store. Mr. Piorkowski stated there are non-cannabis items left from the prior owner. Councilmember Breidenstein referred to the town code, specifically areas that children are known to congregate, and stated the convenience store on the property is a location that children are known to congregate. Mr. Piorkowski stated the security guards will be instructed to watch for minors.

Councilmember Piekarec questioned why the store was not yet cleared out. Ms. Atwal stated the previous owner will be cleaning the store out.

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to table the item pending discussion between the applicant, Code Enforcement, and the Police Department.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. PERSONNEL**

1. Deputy Supervisor Greenan re Amended motion – Municipal Director of Human Resources Lisa Scibetta

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Piekarec, to amend the motion of December 16, 2024, to include the effective date as follows: to appoint Lisa Scibetta as Municipal Director of Human Resources at an annual salary of \$80,000 effective January 6, 2025.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

2. Town Clerk re Appointment of Claire Termini as provisional Cashier

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to appoint Claire Termini to the position of full-time provisional Cashier in the Town Clerk's Office, Group 3 Step 1 at the rate of \$23.13 per hour per the White Collar Union Contract effective January 14, 2025, to be paid from account line 01141000.50137.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

3. Highway Superintendent Adams re Retirement of Douglas Blanchard as Highway Mechanic Crew Chief

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to accept the retirement of Douglas Blanchard from his position as Highway Mechanic Crew Chief effective January 10, 2025.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

4. Highway Superintendent Adams re Appointment of Alexander Murphy as part-time Sanitation Department Laborer

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to appoint Alexander Murphy as a part-time Laborer in the Sanitation Department, at a rate of \$15.75 per hour effective January 13, 2025,







\$12,923.00 Total Decreases

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

7. Director of Finance re Budget amendment – Police Department

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to authorize the following 2024 budget amendment for the use of revenue from the 2024-2025 New York Law Enforcement Tech Grant:

WHEREAS, the Town of West Seneca Police received a 2024-2025 New York Law Enforcement Tech Grant from New York State stating they were awarded a grant in the amount of \$227,698.00; and

WHEREAS, the cash received from this grant on July 2, 2024 will be recognized as revenue in the General Fund as General Governmental State Aid – Police, account 01000100.43490 as purchases are made against this grant;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Town Board does hereby authorize the 2024 budget amendment to increase General Governmental State Aid – Police by \$67,645.00 for the purchase of a new Trimble 3-D scanner from Keystone Precision Solutions with funds received on the Law Enforcement Tech Grant. 01312000.50200 will also be increased by \$67,645.00 for the cost of the purchase of 3-D Scanner

Increase:

01000100.43490	State Aid – Police	\$67,645.00
01312000.50200	Police/Equipment	\$67,645.00

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

8. Director of Finance re Attendance at NYGFOA Annual Conference

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to authorize Director of Finance Judith Kindron to attend the New York Government Finance Officers' Association annual conference April 2 - 4, 2025, in Albany, New York, at a cost not to exceed \$1,500, with funds available in the Finance/Continuing Edu and Training account line 01131000.50414.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

9. Recreation Supervisor re West Seneca Soccer Club

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to authorize the Supervisor to execute the necessary documents to enter into an agreement with the West Seneca Soccer Club for use of the West Seneca Soccer Complex.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

**C. WARRANT**

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to approve the vouchers submitted for audit, chargeable to the respective funds as follows:

General Fund: \$ 703,938.22  
Highway Fund: \$ 270,825.73  
Trust & Agency: \$ 0.00  
Capital Fund: \$ 330,021.57  
Sewer Districts: \$ 23,106.49  
Water Districts: \$ 0.00  
Drainage District: \$ 0.00  
Gas Conversion Lighting Districts: \$ 241.13  
Electric Lighting Districts: \$ 1,156.73  
Total: \$ 1,329,289.87

**D. REPORTS FOR FILING**

1. Town Clerk re December 2024 monthly report

Received and filed.

2. Code Enforcement Officer re Building and Plumbing reports for December 2024  
Received and filed.

3. Recreation Supervisor Masset re Report for September – December 2024

Received and filed.

**ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC**

Beverly Leising, Harwood Road, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ Status on the deer cull – Supervisor Dickson stated he received notification from the NYSDEC that the permit was mailed and upcoming meetings are planned.
- ✓ Concerned about the costs of the town resuming recycling – Supervisor Dickson stated Highway Superintendent Adams provided cost estimates and the town currently spends approximately \$1M for the recycling contract. The proposal will save the town money and provide better service. Mrs. Leising encouraged the town to remind residents what items are recyclable.
- ✓ Encouraged the Town Board to oppose the all-electric requirements that will be effective in 2026
- ✓ Encouraged the Town Board to stop tabling the proposed cannabis dispensary and make a decision
- ✓ West Seneca Cares provided 118 people with gifts and spoke of many acts of kindness she has experienced

Thomas Coates, 534 Main Street, made the following comments and questions:

- ✓ Recognized the contributions of Mary Lou Dietrich and her advocacy of public safety and parks
- ✓ Requested the Town Board construct a well-lit sidewalk along the east side of the driveway from Main Street as well as installing pavers around the evergreen tree used for the Tree Lighting Center in the interest of safety for all visiting the Town Center campus – Supervisor Dickson instructed Mr. Foote to provide plans and a cost estimate.

**COMMUNICATIONS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Town Clerk Newton

- The 2025 Town & County taxes will be mailed at the end of the week and are currently awaiting the Erie County Legislature's signed warrant

Town Engineer Foote

- The weather has stalled the Phase 8 Sewer Project, when sewer lining resumes the trunks west of

the Soccer Park will be completed followed by the golf course

Code Enforcement Officer

- New owners of two vacant parcels - Bellwood School property and restaurant at Seneca Street and Transit Road

Municipal Director of Human Resources Scibetta

- Is looking forward to serving the town and will provide future updates

Councilmember Piekarec

- Upcoming Senior Center Advisory Board meeting

Supervisor Dickson

- Reminded all that the town will be closed on January 20<sup>th</sup>
- The NYSDEC permit has been issued
- Met with the new owners of the Senecal Mall site property and they have great plans for the property

Councilmember Breidenstein

- Reminded all of the upcoming Recreation Commission meeting
- Attended the grand opening of Revitalize You, a new business in town

Councilmember Robertson

- Congratulated the new Police Officers
- Toured the Gemcor building and noted progress is being made

Chief Cosgrove

- Appreciates Town Board support to replace retired Police Officers

Deputy Supervisor Greenan

- Invited new vendors for the Farmers Market to contact herself or the Chamber of Commerce

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to enter into executive session at 7:30 P.M. to discuss a worker's compensation case and an Article 78 case.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Robertson, to leave executive session and return to the open meeting at 8:03 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilmember Breidenstein, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried