

Supervisor Gary Dickson called the meeting to order at 12:00 P.M.

<b>ROLL CALL:</b>	Present	Gary Dickson	Supervisor
		William Bauer	Councilman
		Joseph Cantafio	Councilman
		William P. Hanley, Jr.	Councilman
		Jeff Piekarec	Councilman
	Absent	None	

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

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**DISCUSSION OF THE FIRE AT THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

Supervisor Dickson stated the purpose of the meeting is informational for the current Town Board Members and incoming members regarding the status of the Highway Department building.

Chief Munson of West Seneca Fire District No. 2, Union Fire Company, provided a summary of the fire with the following key points:

- All six west Seneca fire companies assisted, as well as Erie County and the Town of Hamburg
- At approximately 2:02 A.M. on December 25, 2021, Union Fire Company was dispatched to a fire at the West Seneca Highway Facility on South Avenue and arrived within 4 minutes
- Heavy fire was observed, and impending roof failure was determined
- The main fire was extinguished at 3:16 A.M. with active fires remaining in some areas
- Salvage operations were ongoing for 3 – 4 hours
- Around 7:00 A.M. the fire was suspected in the roofing membrane and if left intact the fire could still be present and a partial demolition was performed to prevent the spread of fire to the front of the building

Highway Superintendent Adams thanked all involved in the response to the fire and provided the following information:

- The back portion of the building is fully compromised
- Able to remove some equipment
- Utilities were initially disabled
- Vehicles lost include three plow trucks, one sewer truck, and potentially one sanitation vehicle; there was substantial damage to other vehicles that will be evaluated
- Receiving support from other municipalities including Cheektowaga, Clarence, the Town of Aurora, Tonawanda, and the Town of Newstead
- The structure needs to be evaluated and utility connections are being configured to get heat into the front of the building

Buildings and Grounds General Crew Chief Hanavan provided the following information regarding the status of the utilities:

- The gas was shut off which means the boilers, hot water tank, and radiant heaters are off; National Fuel must pressure test every line in the building and the concern is that the pipes are old and won't pass the pressure tests
- Another concern is water pipes freezing if heat is not restored

Supervisor Dickson questioned if sanitation services were unaffected. Mr. Adams confirmed sanitation services are not affected and stated the mild weather worked in the town's favor as many pieces of equipment were still outside the building; only one vehicle inside the building was potentially compromised. Supervisor Dickson questioned if Mr. Adams is looking for an alternative location to store equipment. Mr. Adams stated he is looking into a location, and employees will be monitoring the weather and temperatures to mitigate damage to the equipment. Supervisor Dickson questioned if there are enough snowplows available in the event of snow. Mr. Adams stated he is planning to consolidate routes from seventeen down to twelve to fifteen.

Councilman Piekarec asked how many plow trucks were outside and undamaged. Mr. Adams stated all but one of the plow trucks were inside the building; one is having an engine replaced offsite.

Supervisor Dickson questioned if Mr. Adams foresees equipment shortages extending through the first half of the year. Mr. Adams stated he has been in contact with vendors, and they will work with the town as much as possible due to the circumstances.

Supervisor Dickson stated he has spoken with the insurance broker and their team will be onsite as early as tomorrow.

Councilman Hanley questioned establishing a remote location for electronics drop off and other walk-in services. Mr. Adams stated the Highway Department is currently blocked off and a plan will be developed.

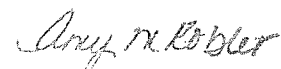
**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Supervisor Dickson, seconded by Councilman Hanley, to adjourn the meeting at 12:34 P.M.

Ayes: All

Noes: None

Motion Carried



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**AMY M. KOBLER, TOWN CLERK**