

The Seneca Village Council held a public hearing on September 15, 2009 at the Seneca Village Hall.

Public Hearing was called to order at 7:00 PM

Roll Call: Present: Victor, Timmons, Sears, Spicer
Absent: Lamb

Mayor Spicer opened the public hearing by explaining the purpose of the hearing was regarding the vacating the public road right-of-way commonly known as West Bluff Road. Attorney Mason added that at this time, oral or written comments were accepted from the public.

Mrs. Ellen Hanson of 5640 Bluff Road stated she is asking the Council to re-consider the vacating of Bluff Road due to the following reasons: convenience; travel will be extended from a typical 1 mile to 3 ½ miles and safety; the extra travel distance will affect the fire, ambulance and school bus arrival time. Mrs. Hanson added that she would suggest that the road be vacated when the project ensues due to the imposing situation for the six homeowners with no room for vehicle turn-around.

Mr. John Hanson of 5640 Bluff Road stated he felt there would be a safety issue with the snow removal situation if this road was vacated by the Village. Mayor Spicer stated that if vacated, Mr. Keating would have an agreement with the township to provide snow removal. In addition, the Village does not have the manpower to provide this service. Mr. Hanson requested a copy of the completed ordinance vacating Bluff Road. Mr. Hanson also stated that the publication notice incorrectly listed Bluff Road stopped at his driveway and it should have been 250 feet west of his driveway. Attorney Mason referred to Village Engineer Guy Christensen to research this information.

Mayor Spicer thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hanson for their comments.

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the public hearing of September 15, 2009 is adjourned at 7:15PM.

Roll Call: Ayes: Sears, Timmons, Victor, Spicer
Nays: none

The Seneca Village Council held its routinely scheduled Council meeting on September 15, 2009 at the Seneca Village Hall.

Council meeting was called to order at 7:15PM

Roll Call: Present: Victor, Sears, Timmons, Spicer
Absent: Lamb

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council approves the September 1, 2009 Council meeting minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Timmons, Sears, Spicer
Nays: none

Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Sears that the Council approves the payment of bills and the August Treasurer's Report as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Sears, Timmons, Spicer
Nays: none

No Seneca Business Spotlight Presentation

Communications, Petitions, Reports and Additional Agenda Items:

Additional Agenda items:

1. Hustis Announcement
2. Johnson Variance Announcement
3. Hydrant Flushing Announcement

Mayor Spicer gave his condolences to the Arthur Hustis family on behalf of the Village.

Mayor Spicer also announced the Jim Johnson variance ordinance will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Ms. Jennifer Bilyeu of the Just Animals Shelter asked Village Council for permission to collect donations at the corner of Route 170 and Route 6 for the annual fill the bag event on October 3, 2009 from 9AM-1PM.

Old Business:

Public Property Victor:

Commissioner Victor announced that Village maintenance workers will be flushing hydrants next week and the water may be discolored or pressure low.

Comm. Victor also indicated that he is working with Chamlin & Associates to research the water rate survey in relation to Village utility billings. He added that the preliminary report was completed today and will be discussed at a meeting next week and presented to the entire Council at the next Council meeting.

Comm. Victor stated a Valley View resident meeting was held on September 13, 2009; residents formed a committee and gathered recommendations for the alleviation of flooding to present to the Council at a future Council meeting.

Public Affairs Spicer:

Mayor Spicer referred to Village Engineer Guy Christensen regarding two bid letting announcements.

Engineer Christensen stated that sealed bids will be accepted for street paving and patching maintenance at the Seneca Village Hall until 11:00 a.m. on September 29, 2009. In addition, bids will also be accepted for the improvement of the Crotty Creek, I & M Canal and the Rat Run Creek until 11:00 a.m. on September 30, 2009. This work includes cleaning and shaping of the channels, disposal of the excavation and restoration of disturbed areas outside the channels. Mayor Spicer stated that regarding the channel cleanings, each will be bid separately, and bid amounts will be the deciding factor on what portion the Village proceeds with.

Commissioner's Report and New Business:

Accounts and Finance Timmons:

Commissioner Timmons asked Attorney Mason to cover the proposed 2009 tax levy discussion. Attorney Mason stated that the Village is proposing to decrease the levy amount from 1.748 to 1.629, this will not only provide a tax savings to Village residents but due to the decrease there will be no need for a truth in taxation public hearing. Decreases are in the sewage tax from \$40,000 to \$10,000 and the fire protection tax from \$60,000 to \$35,000. Additionally, a new levy for storm water management at .06 percent, and harbor tax at .0125 will generate \$26,400 and \$5,500 respectively. Mayor Spicer added that with the proposed water rate study results, if the study proves to be higher than expected, the proposed tax levy figures can be revised to reflect changes.

Attorney Mason also spoke regarding the Working Cash Ordinance, which allows Village to levy a working cash fund which generates revenue to cover any budget shortfalls.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council adopts Ordinance # 09-15, an Ordinance for the Working Cash Fund.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Timmons, Sears, Spicer
Nays: none

Comm. Timmons spoke regarding a P2D2 Program; this program helps to reduce the chemicals found in our waters by asking residents to drop off unused prescription and over-the-counter drugs at participating pharmacies and police departments. It was the consensus of the Council to have Commissioner Timmons research the subject, and investigate the cost of destroying the medications.

Public Health & Safety Sears:

Commissioner Sears spoke regarding a grant researched through the State of Illinois that would provide the Seneca Police Department with the following equipment: 1 camera, 1 radar unit and four mobile radios.

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Victor that the Council approves a payment of \$2500 toward the total of \$10,000 for an equipment grant for the Seneca Police Department through the State of Illinois.

Roll Call: Ayes: Sears, Victor, Timmons, Spicer
Nays: none

Public Affairs Spicer:

Mayor Spicer announced a flu and pneumonia shot clinic held at the Seneca Village Hall on September 22, 2009 from 2PM-5PM. An additional announcement was made regarding a military photo collection at the Seneca Village Hall now through October 31, 2009. The photos will be displayed in the locked display cabinet at the Seneca Village Hall starting the week of Veteran's Day.

Mayor Spicer spoke regarding a resolution of intent relating to the proposed construction of a 5-lane wide box culvert on US Route 6 at Rat Run. The resolution of intent would be between the State of Illinois and the Village of Seneca. Mayor Spicer stated that since the property lies within the Village of Seneca limits, the state can not make an agreement with the private developer, Gerard Keating. Mayor Spicer stated the Village will not sign the agreement unless Mr. Keating commits to cover the necessary funding on the Village's behalf.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the September 15, 2009 Council meeting be adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Sears, Timmons, Spicer
Nays: none

Theresa L. Russell, Village Clerk