The Seneca Village Council held its regularly scheduled Council meeting on October 5, 2010 at the Seneca Village Hall.

Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm

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

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council approves the September 21, 2010 council meeting minutes as presented.

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

Treasurer’s Report:

A motion was made by Comm. Timmons and seconded by Comm. Lamb that the Council approves the payment of bills as presented.

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

No Seneca Business Spotlight presentation

Communications, Petitions, Reports and Additional Agenda Items:

1. Donated Tree Information

Old Business:

Public Property Victor:

In Commissioner Victor’s absence, Mayor Spicer read a press release relating to the continuation of the fire hydrant replacement project which is due to resume this week on October 7th in the 100 block of South Main Street. Boil Water order will be in effect after work is completed.

Streets Lamb:

Commissioner Lamb spoke about the Route 170 RR Crossing project which is to be completed with exception of striping on Wednesday, October 6, 2010. He also gave a Seneca bridge update that detail work is progressing with the installation of lights, railing and clean-up; according to IDOT, the bridge is scheduled to open the end of October, 2010. Comm. Lamb thanked Mr. George Duval of Manlius Township for help with shoulder work on Shipyard Road recently.
Public Affairs Spicer:

Mayor Spicer gave an update on the Police Department grant; a proposal was previously presented to the Village Council at the last Council meeting on September 21, 2010 for their review. The proposal included engineering and architectural services; engineering by Chamlin & Associates and architectural services by Greg Lyons, registered Architect from Coal City, Illinois. The architectural/engineering fee for all work mentioned would be $21,500 not to exceed; and the amount would be released in conjunction with a grant through the State of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. Commissioner Lamb asked if a generator would be included in the final bidding documents for the project and it was indicated that it would in fact be included due to the requirement for the 911 equipment.

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Sears that the Council allows the Mayor to sign an agreement with Chamlin & Associates for engineering/architectural services for proposed Police Station addition to the Seneca Village Hall.

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

New Business:

Accounts & Finance Timmons:

Commissioner Timmons announced that Spring Grove Nursery had offered a free tree during their “Green Legacy” program. It will be of no cost to the Village and it could be either planted at either the boat launch or along the I & M Canal.

Streets Lamb:

Commissioner Lamb asked the Council for their input on the possibility of creating a parking ordinance for Main Street limiting the parking to 2 hours between the hours of 8am-5pm from Armour to Scott Street. The question was asked whether to include Williams Street; it was stated if the Council would like to add any additional comments on that to contact Commissioner Lamb prior to the next Council meeting. Council agreed to direct Attorney Mason to construct an ordinance to be presented at the next Council meeting.

Public Health and Safety Sears:

Commissioner Sears announced that the Village Halloween Trick-or-Treat hours have been set for October 31, 2010 between 5-7 pm. In addition, an announcement was made about the yearly community event planned for the same date at 4:30pm by the Ellis family for a Halloween party at their Ace Hardware store.
Mayor Spicer stated that he was asked by the Seneca Plan Commission to read a motion that was previously made at the last Plan Commission meeting. The motion read: The Planning Commission makes a strong recommendation against the proposed police weapons range on the Wehrli property. It is of note that; Title 5 precludes the discharge of even air rifles or bow/arrows in the Village let alone firearms. For these reasons, per Title 10, this use is not a permitted or Special Use in either Industrial or Riverfront Zoning districts. This space is adjacent to residential uses and zoning districts. It was noted that the motion was unanimously approved on September 22, 2010 by five of the seven member board; two members were absent from the meeting.

After Mayor Spicer read the motion, discussion was started by Commissioner Sears stating that the range costs the Village nothing, and that the Village insurance company previously sent a representative out to the Seneca Properties, LLC land to review and it was approved with one exception which was to routinely have a qualified range officer present during training sessions. Commissioner Sears asked the question if the Village was to proceed with allowing the police officers to utilize the facility, would an ordinance change be necessary. Attorney Mason’s response was that if the area was currently being utilized for this reason, that it would be in violation of the standing ordinance, but to change the rule, it would require the majority of the Council approval by motion to proceed with allowing officers to utilize the range for this purpose.

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council authorize the discharge of weapons by police officers in the Village limits on the Wehrli property.

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

Mayor Spicer announced that work has begun on the Seneca High School construction project to remove the tennis courts and replace with a girl’s softball field. The water and sewer lines that service homes to the west of that property will be covered by concrete or asphalt due to the pending project and therefore it has been discussed between the Village and the High School to replace the pipe with stronger product and relocate some of the existing lines. An intergovernmental agreement was drawn up by the Seneca High School, reviewed by the Village Council, Village attorney as well as the Village engineer and changes have been presented to the high school by the Village. The Village is agreeing to pay for the replacement pipe, which is estimated to cost Village approximately $7000.00, the high school will be responsible for relocation of the lines and completion of project. It was discussed and determined by the Council to present a motion to allow the Mayor to sign the agreement once changes are agreed upon and completion of agreement is made.

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council allow the Mayor to sign a completed intergovernmental agreement between the Seneca
High School and Village regarding relocation of certain utility easements and the allocation of the expenses between the parties.

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

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council enters into executive session to discuss the sale or lease of real estate.

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

A motion was made by Comm. Timmons and seconded by Comm. Sears that the Council returns to regular session.

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

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council amend the discharge of weapons by police officer for training purposes on the Wehrli property to discharge of weapons by police officers for training certification in the magazine area of the Wehrli property.

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

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Sears that the October 5, 2010 Council meeting is adjourned at 8:10pm.

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

Theresa Russell, Seneca Village Clerk