

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, good evening everyone. I'm going to call this evening's regular meeting of the Sweden Town Board to order. I'd ask everyone to rise as we recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

All Board Members: I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Supervisor Johnson: Thank you and if you remain standing for a moment as we observe a moment of silence and we remember our fighting men and women around the world, our EMS workers, as well as those affected by COVID-19 and their families. (Silence) Thank you everyone, please be seated.

Because of the situation I am going to waive reports and privilege of the floor this evening, and there is no correspondence to note. Full reports of the board members will be taken at our next meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Good evening and welcome to the regularly scheduled Sweden Town Board meeting of April 14, 2020. This meeting is being conducted remotely in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order No. 202.1, filed on March 7, 2020 suspending Article 7 of the Public Officers Law. The suspension allows municipal boards to hold meetings by conference call provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceedings and that the meetings are recorded and later transcribed.

I am here at the Sweden Town Hall. Attending the meeting by telephone are Deputy Supervisor Robert Muesebeck. Bob, would you identify yourself, please?

Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck: Present

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Patricia Hayles

Councilperson Hayles: Present

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Randall Hoke

Councilperson Hoke: I am present.

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Rhonda Humby

Councilperson Humby: Present

Supervisor Johnson: Town Attorney James Bell

Attorney Bell: Present

Supervisor Johnson: Town Clerk Karen Sweeting

Clerk Sweeting: Present

Supervisor Johnson: Director of Finance Leisa Strabel.

Director of Finance Strabel: Here

Supervisor Johnson: Is there anyone else from the Town on the line? (Silence) Very good.

We are meeting this way because we believe it is important to practice social distancing as our federal, state and county health officials have advised. We want every one of our Town of Sweden employees to remain healthy; we want our citizens to remain healthy; and we want to contribute to flattening the curve of the COVID-19 virus.

This meeting is being streamed live to the Town of Sweden Supervisor Facebook page. It is also being audio-recorded and will be transcribed and made available on our website as soon as practical.

The first order of business this evening is an Extension of the Town of Sweden State of Emergency Declaration that I declared on March 24, 2020. I am going to read it and at the end, ask for my fellow board members' support.

*Town of Sweden Extension to State of Emergency:*

*As the Sweden Town Supervisor, on March 24, 2020 I did declare a State of Emergency in the Town of Sweden, County of Monroe, State of New York. At that time, I found, among other things, that the COVID-19 crisis imperiled the public health and safety of both individuals and businesses in the Town of Sweden. As of today's date, I continue to make these same findings concerning the COVID-19 crisis and therefore find it to be in the best interests of the Town of Sweden to extend the State of Emergency for an additional thirty (30) day period. This extension to the State of Emergency shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days commencing on April 14 at 9:00 p.m. and shall continue unless and until otherwise rescinded or extended by me for an additional period not to exceed thirty (30) days. Any residents in need of special or emergency assistance are advised to contact 911. All residents are advised to monitor the Town of Sweden website as well as local media reports for updates. Dated today, April 14, 2020.*

Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck, do you support me in this declaration?

Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck: Yes, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: That's a "yes" from Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck. Councilperson Hayles, do you support me in this declaration?

Councilperson Hayles: Yes, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: That's a "yes" from Councilperson Hayles. Councilperson Hoke, do you support me in this declaration?

Councilperson Hoke: Yes, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: That's a "yes" from Councilperson Hoke. Councilperson Humby, do you support me in this declaration?

Councilperson Humby: Yes, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: That's a "yes" from Councilperson Humby. The Board is in unanimous agreement that we continue with this State of Emergency. As I stated to the Town the last time that we met, this is not, it's not in the sense that there's any dire need or emergency, but we want to be sure that the resources that we might need to deal with this crisis are available, and that's the reason for this declaration. It also allows the Town Board to move more expeditiously to react to any needs in our community.

Now we will move on to our other business for tonight.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Supervisor Johnson: On the Consent Agenda, we have nine items this evening. The first, is the approval of the minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting. The second is approval of the minutes of the March 27, 2020 meeting. The third is a resolution accepting permanent and temporary sidewalk easements for Brockport Land Associates. That is for the Owens Road Sidewalk Project. The fourth is a resolution accepting temporary sidewalk easements on Owens Road, or from Owens Road Self Storage. The fifth is a resolution authorizing bids for sidewalk/concrete projects. The sixth is a resolution declaring of lead agency status for SEQR for amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Number seven, a resolution, SEQR Determination regarding the 2020 amendments to the Comprehensive Plan. Number eight, a resolution adopting amendments to the Sweden Comprehensive Plan. And the final resolution for some necessary budget modifications. Alright, so as to those nine items on the Consent Agenda, would anyone on the Board like any of those items moved to the Non-Consent Agenda?

Councilperson Hoke: No

Councilperson Muesebeck: No

Councilperson Humby: No

Councilperson Hayles: No

Supervisor Johnson: Ok, hearing no objections then I'll ask for a motion on the Consent Agenda.

Councilperson Muesebeck: Bob, so moved.



Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden accepts both the temporary easement and the permanent easement for the property identified as 84.01-1-19.12.

Sec. 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 53                      Accepting Temporary Sidewalk Easement Owens Road Self Storage

WHEREAS, the owners of Owens Road Self Storage, for the property identified as 84.01-1-19.141 have agreed to grant a temporary easement to the Town of Sweden for the purpose of constructing a sidewalk; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden wishes to accept said temporary easement.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden accepts the temporary easement for the property identified as 84.01-1-19.141.

Sec. 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 54                      Authorize Bids for Sidewalk/Concrete Projects

WHEREAS, the Town Engineer, MRB Group, has prepared specifications and bid packages for site work, concrete installation, and sidewalks at several locations: Owens Road, Holley Street, Persistence Path and the Highway Garage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby authorizes the bidding of the sidewalk/concrete projects to include site work, concrete installation, and sidewalks on Owens Road, Holley Street, Persistence Path and the Highway Garage as per specifications prepared by the Town Engineer.

Sec. 2. That upon receipt of such specifications, the Town Clerk is directed to advertise for bids as required by law.

Sec. 3. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Sec. 4. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 55                      Declaration of Lead Agency Status for SEQR Compliance for the Action to Adopt Amendments to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden, has given public notice of its declared intent to be the Lead Agency for the Coordination Review and Determination of Significance under the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Sweden Town Board does hereby designate itself as the Lead Agency for the Coordinated Review and Determination of Significance, under the SEQR Regulations, for the above referenced action.

Sec. 2. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 56 SEQR Determination Regarding the 2020 Amendments to the Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee has submitted recommended revisions to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden declared Lead Agency Status for purposes of SEQR Compliance on April 14, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden held a Public Hearing on March 10, 2020, to obtain public input and concerns regarding the proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden, as Lead Agency, has duly reviewed the proposed amendments, other documents and comments submitted with respect to the above-referenced amendments, and has duly considered the impacts which may be expected from the proposed amendments and compared the same with the criteria set forth in the applicable SEQRA Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. The Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby declares that it is acting as Lead Agency concerning the adoption of amendments to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan.

Sec. 2. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden has prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form regarding the amendments to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan.

Sec. 3. The Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Supervisor to execute and file a Negative Declaration in the form attached hereto and to sign and date the Short Environmental Assessment submitted for consideration, confirming that the proposed amendments themselves, as part of a planning tool, will not have significant impact on the environment.

Sec. 4. The Town Board hereby authorizes and directs the Town Clerk to forward copies of this Resolution and the Negative Declaration to all appropriate agencies.

Sec. 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 57 Adoption of Amendments to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan

WHEREAS, the Sweden Town Board has completed its review of the proposed amendments to the Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has prepared a Short Environmental Assessment Form and Negative Declaration; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has held a public hearing on the proposed amendments to the Plan and has considered all written comments regarding the same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board hereby adopts, in accordance with the provisions of Section 272-a of New York Town Law, the amendments attached hereto as Schedule A to the document entitled Town of Sweden Comprehensive Plan.

Sec. 2. That this shall go into effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 58 Budget Modifications

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Supervisor is hereby authorized to make the following modification to the 2020 Town Budget:

\$1,500 from A1450.4 Elections Contractual to  
A1330.4 Tax Collection Contractual

Sec. 2 That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, there is nothing on the Non-Consent Agenda.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Johnson: As I mentioned a bit ago with regard to reports, I am going to ask for reports from the Board on April 28<sup>th</sup>, two weeks from tonight. There are a few things I would like to report briefly to the Town because there are things happening between now and the end of the month that must be detailed.

First of all, Spring pick-up is going forward as scheduled on April 27<sup>th</sup>, beginning April 27<sup>th</sup> running through May 1<sup>st</sup>. Our highway crews will be working with social distancing protocols in order to remain safe. All of the regular rules apply and can be found on our website and in this past weekend's Suburban News. We are asking that this year, you do not place heavy items at the curb. Items should be limited to a weight that one highway crew member can lift because one of the items when we're sending our highway crew out is that we're having them all located in separate vehicles.

The rabies clinic, normally held in May, has been postponed to a later date, probably at least August. We will let you know as soon as we have a firm date. There have been a lot of inquiries to the Town Hall about that, about the rabies clinic.

Our recreation department has started some on-line programming. I encourage residents to check that out on the Sweden Clarkson Community Center Facebook. Our rec folks are working hard despite not being on site and still working to try to get many of the programs for this summer in place even if they're delayed here at the beginning.

The Town Park and Dog Park remain open for exercise using social distancing. We have closed all Town playgrounds and the Skate Park.

Finally, we have decided to forge ahead with the reassessment project. Many residents will receive notices shortly so I want to make sure residents are aware of this. The Town was in danger of being assigned an equalization rate that would put Sweden property taxpayers at a disadvantage across shared taxing jurisdictions like the county, school district and fire district. In addition, an equalization rate puts those municipal taxpayers at a disadvantage when shares of sales tax and mortgage tax are divide among municipalities.

The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic has created some logistical complications for the assessment update process. A few municipalities have abandoned their updates for the 2019-2020 season. Many, like the Town of Sweden, have chosen to forge ahead in order to protect their taxpayers from the inequities that will arise from an assigned equalization rate. The decision to go forward with the Assessment Update was not made lightly.

Assessment notices will be mailed out next week. Assessor Tammy Baker has property sales books and review forms at <https://www.townofsweden.org/departments/assessor> . Residents will be able to look at properties that have sold in the past three years (sorted by category) to see the selling prices. If after reviewing the information, the property owner believes their assessment is not correct, they can choose which properties are most comparable to their home and submit that information to the assessor. Submissions will be taken by US mail, through the drop box at the front of the Town Hall, 18 State Street, via email at [tammyb@townofsweden.org](mailto:tammyb@townofsweden.org) or by fax at 637-7389. So to reiterate those points of contact, the website that you can check for comparable sales is [www.townofsweden.org/departments/assessor](http://www.townofsweden.org/departments/assessor) . Tammy Baker's email is [tammyb@townofsweden.org](mailto:tammyb@townofsweden.org) and her fax number is 637-7389.

The assessor normally holds informal reviews in person but due to social distancing requirements, this is not possible. Therefore, an informal review can be made by mail, e-mail, the drop box, by fax and by phone at 637-8683 especially for those who do not have access to the internet. For those not satisfied with the informal review decision, the right to grieve to the Board of Assessment Review is the next step. The Town is putting into place a plan for the BAR to hear those grievances while maintaining social distancing and safe environmental practices.

The fastest way to contact Tammy Baker at this time is via email; residents should include a phone number in the file, or in the email to facilitate communication.

I would like to say just one item on this. An assessment update is never popular and this year it brings new challenges to the process. But, the Town of Sweden is committed to fair and equitable assessments among the Town of Sweden properties; and to protecting its taxpayers



from being assigned an unfair portion of county, school or fire district levies. I just want to reiterate the point is, the Town would be financially at a disadvantage in the event that we did not do this re-assessment process. Yes, it raises assessments. However, if we didn't do it, we would not be entitled, necessarily, to the same share of sales tax or other revenues that help us keep our budget in order and financially protect the Town of Sweden. So, nobody wants to do it but at the same time, we must do it in order to preserve the financial situation of the Town.

In closing, the Sweden Town buildings have been closed for four weeks as of today. Many of our employees are working from home. They work in their offices for short periods of time, only as necessary, to keep the occupancy of the buildings low. Our highway department is working on a half-time rotating schedule. Our community center is closed to the public, but employees are working on remote programming and future programming.

I believe we're getting closer to the time when we will be able to resume some of the regular activities of the Town. Your Town Government will be prepared when that time comes. Until then, don't hesitate to contact any of us with your suggestions or concerns. Thank you.

Alright, any additional business from any members of the Board? (Silence)

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Supervisor Johnson: Ok, hearing nothing, I would ask the Board for a brief Executive Session. The issues to be discussed will be both issues concerning the life, public safety, health, welfare of our community as well as employee concerns in all departments of the Town. So, could I have a motion, please?

Councilperson Hoke: Randy would make the motion.

Supervisor Johnson: Randy with the motion, and could I have a second, please?

Councilperson Hayles: Second.

Supervisor Johnson: Rhonda Humby with the second. Alright,

Councilperson Humby: That was Patty.

Supervisor Johnson: Oh, it was Patty, excuse me. Patty with the second. Any discussion on that motion?

Town Attorney Bell: Kevin, do you want me to participate in this Executive Session?

Supervisor Johnson: I would, so Mr. Bell, we'd like the Town Attorney as well as the Finance Director for the Town, Leisa Strabel, to be involved in the Executive Session. Thank you, Jim. Any further discussion? (Silence) Then we'll take a voice vote please, all in favor say aye.

Councilperson Hoke: Aye

Councilperson Muesebeck: Aye

Councilperson Humby: Aye

Councilperson Hayles: Aye

Supervisor Johnson: Aye, any opposed. Alright, we will move into Executive Session. We will not be returning to the regular meeting and we will be conducting no official business in the Executive Session. Thank you everyone. (Recording ended - Executive Session began at 6:15 p.m.)

At 6:42 p.m., Councilperson Hoke made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Hayles to leave executive session. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Muesebeck moved to adjourn the April 14, 2020 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 6:43 p.m. Councilperson Humby seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting  
Town Clerk

\*\*I, Karen M. Sweeting, Town Clerk of the Town of Sweden, do hereby certify that the foregoing is the verbatim transcription of the Town Board meeting held telephonically on April 14, 2020 and shall also constitute the minutes of the meeting.

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Karen M. Sweeting, Town Clerk