

Supervisor Johnson: Good evening, we are going to call this evening's regular meeting of the Sweden Town Board to order. I am going to ask everyone to rise wherever you are as we recite the Pledge.

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 everyone. If you remain standing for a moment, as we observe a moment of silence. Tonight, let's remember both our fighting men and women around the world protecting our freedoms, our first responders, as we always do, and especially during this time when they're acting with selflessness and bravery. And, then finally let's remember the families and those dealing with this disease firsthand. (Silence) Thank you.

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, because of the situation I am going to waive reports and the privilege of the floor this evening, and there is no correspondence to note.

So, for the public as well as for the rest of the Board, good evening and welcome to the regularly scheduled Sweden Town Board meeting of March 24, 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 Bob Muesebeck. Bob if you could note that you are on the line, please.

Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck: Yes, I am.

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Patricia Hayles.

Councilperson Hayles: Hello.

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Randall Hoke.

Councilperson Hoke: Randy Hoke, 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 on the line from the Town? (Silence) Ok, thank you.

We are meeting this way because we believe it is important to practice social distancing as our federal, county and state officials have advised. We want every one of our Town of Sweden employees to remain healthy; we want our residents to remain healthy. In short, we are committed to doing our part to flatten 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 majority of our business tonight is minor: several sets of minutes will be approved and our monthly abstract of bills paid. Before those minor items are approved, we are taking one important action and that is I am declaring a State of Emergency for the Town of Sweden this evening.

Why are we taking this action? The simple answer is, in the words of the Boy Scout motto, to be prepared. The State of Emergency allows me, as Supervisor, to take action without constantly reconvening the Town Board when decisions need to be made quickly. It allows me, as the Supervisor, the authority to expend funds and assign personnel, supplies, equipment and facilities in response to an emergency without bureaucracy or red tape slowing the process.

It also allows the Town of Sweden to be eligible for federal or state assistance that may be forthcoming in regards to the emergency. As of tonight, there are no personnel, supplies, equipment or facilities being assigned; the declaration merely gives me the authority to do so if the need arises within the next thirty days. At the end of the thirty days, the State of Emergency expires unless I feel it is necessary to extend it.

Now I want to tell you what this declaration is not. It is not a cry for immediate help or assistance. I believe our Town's current needs are being cared for adequately. Nor is it a symbol of fear or panic. Your Town Board has been actively and tirelessly preparing for the outbreak of this virus locally for weeks, starting with our Board voicing concerns over residents' concerns over the quarantine at SUNY Brockport just a few weeks ago, until today when those early concerns seem so small in comparison to the reality of this virus spreading across the nation. As Supervisor, I cannot express my appreciation and awe at watching the way that this Town Board and all of the Town's employees have reacted to this national crisis. Rest assured that we will continue to plan for and serve the needs of our residents with clear eyes and minds, unclouded by fear or panic. We will base our decisions on the facts, and not on speculation or emotion.

I am now going to read the Town of Sweden's State of Emergency Declaration and at the end ask for my fellow board members' support. This request for the support of other Board members is not required by law, but it is an important step to show the residents of our Town that the Town Board is united in solidarity on this measure.

Town of Sweden State of Emergency:

Both the State of New York and the County of Monroe have declared a State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 crisis. In following, I specifically find as the Sweden Town Supervisor that the COVID-19 crisis imperils the public health and safety of both individuals and businesses in the Town of Sweden. Taking into consideration various Executive Orders and related emergency guidelines issued by the County of Monroe, the State of New York and the United States of America, and after consultation with federal, state and local governmental departments, I find it to be in the best interests of the Town of Sweden for me to hereby issue a State of Emergency in the Town of Sweden allowing me the discretion to, amongst other things, use any and all facilities, equipment, supplies, personnel and various other Town of Sweden resources as required to cope with this emergency. Consequently, and pursuant to Executive Law Section 24, I hereby declare a State of Emergency effective March 24, 2020 at 9:00 p.m. in the Town of Sweden, County of Monroe, State of New York. This State of Emergency shall remain in effect for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days commencing on the aforesaid date and time unless and until either 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 website for the Town of Sweden as well as local media reports for updates. And, I will sign that today.

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

Deputy Supervisor Muesebeck: Yes, I shall.

Supervisor Johnson: 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, Sir, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: Councilperson Humby, do you support me in this declaration?

Councilperson Humby: Yes, Sir, I do.

Supervisor Johnson: And that's a yes from Councilperson Humby. Thank you all of you for your support in this.

A few more notes from the Town of Sweden before we go into our regular agenda. The Sweden Town Hall has been closed for one week as of today. Many of our employees are working from home and are allowed to access their offices for a brief time during the day, as is necessary. Our highway and building and grounds departments are working on a rotating, limited schedule to limit any exposure of any of those employees. Our community center is completely shuttered, although many of our dedicated employees there are working remotely as best they can.

Should you need anything from any department of the Town, the phone numbers and/or email addresses for each department in the Town are posted on the Town of Sweden Supervisor Facebook page as well as on our Town website – www.townofsweden.org . Furthermore, should you not know where to turn for any need related to the Town, please call my cell phone anytime, the number is 585-615-5243. The entire staff of the Town is committed to meeting our residents' needs as best we can during this time.

The Town Board will continue to make decisions about closures, cancellations and work schedules based on the directives given to us by federal, state and local health authorities. We will continue to keep you, our residents, as up-to-date as possible via the website and Facebook.

There has been an outpouring of requests by our residents of “what can I do to help?”. Because of that, I want to let you know about a few immediate needs. First, the Red Cross is experiencing a precipitous drop in blood donations, and during this time of increasing needs in our medical system, this issue must be addressed quickly. There are two local blood drives coming up, both will be held at the Brockport Fire Department Exempt's Club at 248 West Avenue in Brockport. The first is this Thursday, March 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and then the second will be held on April 9 from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Rest assured that the Red Cross has taken all of the necessary precautions to ensure the health and safety of donors. Please visit the Red Cross website or my Facebook page to learn more.

The second need has to do with the elderly in our community, and was noted on a call I had with County officials today. There are significant needs for volunteers to provide both transportation as well as to deliver meals to elderly people within our community. If you are willing and able to provide any such help, please call the Monroe County Coronavirus hotline at 753-5555. Again, that is the Monroe County Coronavirus hotline at 753-5555.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, now at this time we are going to move into our other business for this evening. The first, there are four different items on the Consent Agenda, I'm sorry, five, excuse me. They are five sets of minutes from the last couple of weeks. First, minutes from March 10th, then March 14th, then March 15th, then March 16th and March 20th. So as to those five items, would anyone on the Town Board like any of those items removed and 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 will ask for a motion on the Consent Agenda this evening.

Councilperson Hoke: Randy Hoke makes the motion.

Supervisor Johnson: Randy Hoke with the motion, can I have a second, please?
(Silence) Can someone second the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, please?

Councilperson Humby: Rhonda Humby seconds it.

Supervisor Johnson: Ok, Rhonda Humby with the second, thank you. Any discussion on the Consent Agenda? (Silence) Alright, hearing no discussion then, Karen, the Clerk, if you could call the roll please.

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Hayles.

Councilperson Hayles: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Hoke

Councilperson Hoke: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Humby

Councilperson Humby: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Muesebeck

Councilperson Muesebeck: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Supervisor Johnson

Supervisor Johnson: Aye. Minutes are all approved, thank you everyone.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval for Payment of Bills

Supervisor Johnson: We have one item on the Non-Consent Agenda and that is the payment of bills. Can I have a motion please?

Councilperson Muesebeck: So moved, Bob.

Supervisor Johnson: Bob Muesebeck with the motion. And, a second?

Councilperson Hayles: Patty Hayles, I'll second.

Supervisor Johnson: Thank you, Patty. Alright, any discussion on the payment of bills?
(Silence) Alright, Karen if you could call the roll again, please.

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Hayles.

Councilperson Hayles: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Hoke

Councilperson Hoke: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Humby

Councilperson Humby: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Councilperson Muesebeck

Councilperson Muesebeck: Aye

Clerk Sweeting: Supervisor Johnson

Supervisor Johnson: Aye. The bills are to be paid, thank you everyone.

All of the Board members reviewed the invoice audit journal and authorized payment of the bills in Abstract 3 dated March 25, 2020 in the amount of \$111,743.69.

General Fund: In the amount of \$54,958.00 as set forth in Abstract 3 dated March 25, 2020.

Highway Fund: In the amount of \$24,345.77 as set forth in Abstract 3 dated March 25, 2020.

Special Fund: In the amount of \$11,405.42 as set forth in Abstract 3 dated March 25, 2020.

Capital Fund: In the amount of \$21,034.50 as set forth in Abstract 3 dated March 25, 2020.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, the next item is other business. I am going to ask the Board for a brief executive session this evening but before I do that I'm going to make one additional comment and that is I know I speak for the entire Town Board in saying that despite the difficulty of the past few weeks, we are all thankful to have the opportunity to work on behalf of the Town to do our part in bringing us all through this national crisis. If there is anything else we, as a Town, can do to address problems or concerns in our community, or raise awareness of a problem or need, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Isn't it wonderful that during a time of social distancing, we are all coming together like never before. Please continue to abide by the recommendations of federal, state and local officials so that together we can defeat this virus and get back to normal life as soon as possible. This will end, and may we all take courage in that.

Anyone else on the board, uh, any other business or comments? (Silence) Alright.

Town Attorney Bell: I have, uh, excuse me, Jim Bell. Kevin when you sign the State of Emergency, you need to sign at least four of them in originals.

Supervisor Johnson: Ok, I can do that.

Town Attorney Bell: Under Executive Law 24, they need to be dispersed in different ways, that I can speak to you and the Town Clerk and the Chief Financial Officer tomorrow about, but. Sign at least four of them if you would please.

Supervisor Johnson: Ok, I certainly will.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, can I have a motion to go into Executive Session please?

Councilperson Hayles: This is Patty Hayles, so moved.

Supervisor Johnson: Alright, thank you Patty with the motion, and could I have a second?

Councilperson Muesebeck: Second, Bob.

Supervisor Johnson: Bob, thank you for the second. Alright, we will take a voice vote, all in favor say aye.

Councilperson Hayles: Aye

Supervisor Johnson: Aye

Councilperson Hoke: Aye

Councilperson Muesebeck: Aye

Councilperson Humby: Aye

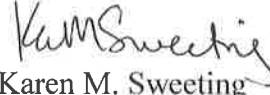
Supervisor Johnson: Ok, that was unanimous. Any opposed? (Silence) Very good. We will go into Executive Session and for the information of the public we will not be coming back to our regular meeting to transact any business. Thank you very much. Good night. (Recording ended - Executive Session began at 6:16 p.m.)

At 6:43 p.m., Councilperson Hayles made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Humby 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 Hoke moved to adjourn the March 24, 2020 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 6:44 p.m. Councilperson Muesebeck 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 March 24, 2020 and shall also constitute the minutes of the meeting.



Karen M. Sweeting, Town Clerk