

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Sweden was held at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, New York, on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

Town Board Members present were Supervisor Patricia Hayles, Councilperson Scott Maar, Councilperson Tyler Sharpe, Councilperson Adam Staskiewicz, and Councilperson Gary Sullivan. Also present were Finance Director Leisa Strabel, Building/Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshal Lyle Stirk, Building/Planning Clerk Phyllis Brudz, Town Assessor Tammy Baker, Town Attorney Jim Bell, Superintendent of Highways Brian Ingraham, and Town Clerk Karen Sweeting.

Visitor present was Pat Cliff.

Supervisor Hayles called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked everyone present to say the Pledge to the Flag and remain standing for a moment of silence to remember our first responders and those serving in the military around the world. Councilperson Sullivan added to remember long-time resident and former Town of Sweden Supervisor Jack Milner who passed away earlier this week.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one spoke.

CORRESPONDENCE:

No correspondence noted.

REPORTS OF DEPARTMENTS AND BOARD MEMBERS:

Town Assessor Tammy Baker reported that last year the State of New York increased the low-income senior exemption from \$37,400 to \$58,400. Monroe County adopted that option and this year taxpayers that fell under that income threshold qualified for the exemption. In October the state clarified how Assessors are to calculate income. There are local options for towns to adopt for senior citizens and those on low-income disability.

Ms. Baker reported that Monroe County adopted a significant increase in the veterans' exemption level, which will take effect in 2025 for county taxes. The volunteer firemen's exemption is now a state-wide exemption. This exemption currently "sunset out" in 2025, so the Town will need to change to the new exemption which adds a sliding scale and spousal benefit.

Ms. Baker announced that the equalization rate for the Town has dropped to 93%. If Ms. Baker does not update assessed values, the Town risks dropping to around 80%. Supervisor Hayles noted that an update was not done in 2023. Finance Director Leisa Strabel stated that we want the assessed valuation to be as high as reasonable when going for bonding. If you don't have enough growth in your assessed base, they charge more interest. There are many other reasons to keep up with the assessed values. Supervisor Hayles added that because our Assessor has been so consistent everyone should go up at the same proportion. Property owners should not be impacted in a great way.

Supervisor Hayles suggests leaving the firemen's and veteran's exemptions as is. She explained that COLA and the median income for the Town of Sweden was used to determine the limits suggested in the resolution on the agenda at this meeting.

Ms. Baker commented that residents don't like to hear of an increase in assessments, but the lower our equalization rates drop, the next time you do an update the higher the values will have to be increased. In doing an increase each year, the taxpayers should not experience huge increases.

Supervisor Hayles asked Building/Planning Clerk Phyllis Brudz and Building/Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshal Lyle Stirk to detail the two proposals received for software. Ms. Hayles noted that the department received notice from the current vendor that they merged into a new company and support for the current program will end in June 2024.

Ms. Brudz provided the board with a list of pros and cons for each option. She explained why CivicPlus, though higher in cost, meets the needs of the department. Staff are familiar with CivicPlus, the implementation process is less, and they have dedicated customer support. Mr. Stirk mentioned that CloudPermit is a newer vendor and is an action-based program, not a property-based program. The property is not recognized until there has been an action assigned to it. It is labor intensive.

Supervisor Hayles added that Ms. Brudz and Mr. Stirk were able to negotiate a lower cost and she appreciates their efforts.

Superintendent of Highways reported they have been cleaning up after some minor wind damage. They have been plowing and salting due to recent storms and taking care of equipment maintenance and repairs. He will have an updated salt report next month.

Finance Director Leisa Strabel reported that the audit resumes tomorrow. She attended ARPA funding training. The next reporting period is in April. All funds received by the Town of Sweden were spent on the Town Hall renovations. Reporting is done twice a year to the US Treasury Department. Ms. Strabel attended the CDBG meeting and suggested improvements to Sherry Lane – sidewalks, drainage, etc. She will attend the pre-application meeting on Friday. Supervisor Hayles explained that we focus on certain areas because of the income criteria. The application is due in February and the project would be done in 2025.

Ms. Strabel and Recreation Director Jill Wisnowski mailed notices out to area businesses for the park banner program. There is a new credit card fee posting law – changing how businesses notify customers of the fee, effective February 11, 2024.

Town Attorney Jim Bell reported updates to the CVS assessment litigation, a settlement has been proposed.

Councilperson Sharpe reported that things are quiet at the cemetery, and the Farmers Museum Committee is meeting to plan the annual Harvest Festival, moving the date up to September 14th. Supervisor Hayles asked for the date of flag placement. Mr. Ingraham answered it typically takes place a couple of weeks before Memorial Day.

Councilperson Maar attended the Seymour Library Board meeting. Libby Caruso is now the President of the Board and they have welcomed two new members. The library has been working with BOCES to offer classes to the migrant population and is looking to work with home school community members. There is an Open House event scheduled for January 30, 2024 from 4 pm to 7 pm. The Library Director will share the successes of the library and the Foundation will share what support they give the library.

Mr. Maar shared the end of year financials. They have invested in some CDs. They are proposing a couple of capital projects – restroom renovation and carpeting throughout the building.

Councilperson Staskiewicz will have a detailed report next month. Supervisor Hayles asked if he could find out what they have planned for the April eclipse.

Councilperson Sullivan reported that inspection of alarm systems is complete, and the kitchen renovations continue. There were several roof leaks at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center. Minor repairs to the ADA restroom. Lodge rentals are still strong at the park.

Mr. Sullivan shared that several residents requested repairs to Field 7 at the park. A quote was received, but higher than anticipated. Material costs were high, so they will obtain additional quotes. Mr. Sullivan will follow up on the lighting repairs at the Town Hall.

Supervisor Hayles reported that several water surveys have come in and the response has been good. She attended the newly elected official training with Councilperson Maar. Ms. Hayles attended the Monroe County Supervisors Meeting and is hoping to get assigned to the County Sales Tax Board. Ms. Hayles is meeting with department heads to discuss budgets and on-going matters. She attended a Sweden Community Foundation meeting with Councilperson Sullivan and suggests that the park masterplan be reviewed for potential additions and projects. Roof replacement at the Sweden Clarkson Community Center needs to be addressed.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

Councilperson Sullivan made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Sharpe to approve **all** Consent Agenda items as listed below.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

- RESOLUTION NO. 23 Appoint Representative to Seymour Library Board – Streb

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists on the Town of Sweden Seymour Library Board; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden duly posted the vacancy.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby appoints Kenneth J. Streb to serve as a representative on the Seymour Library Board for a term beginning January 23, 2024 and expiring December 31, 2024.

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

- RESOLUTION NO. 24 Appoint Justice Court Clerk PT - Rath

WHEREAS, there is a need for a substitute Court Clerk in the Sweden Justice Court; and

WHEREAS, the Chief Court Clerk recommends the appointment of Debbie Rath as PT Court Clerk.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden hereby appoints Debbie Rath as PT Court Clerk on an as-needed basis.

Sec. 2. That the rate of pay is \$16.55 per hour.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 25 Calling a Public Hearing Regarding the Adoption of Local Law No. 1 of 2024 – Amending Sweden Town Code Chapter 164 Taxation, Article 1 Senior Citizens Tax Exemptions

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature has authorized municipalities to fix income limitations regarding real property tax exemptions granted to persons aged 65 years or over; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden desires to raise the income limitations by amending Chapter 164 Taxation, Article 1 Senior Citizens Tax Exemption, of the Sweden Town Code; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Sweden proposes the following to replace the existing code:

164-1A. – Pursuant...the extent of 50% of the assessed valuation thereof. The maximum income for purposes of the 50% exemption shall be equal to **\$40,000**. ~~The eligible income level will then increase \$1,000 annually through 2009 for incomes up to \$29,000.~~

164-1B. – The Town of Sweden has the further option of giving exemptions of less than 50% to persons age 65 or over whose incomes are more than **\$40,000**. Under this option, called the “sliding-scale option”, a qualifying owner can have a yearly income as high as **\$52,000** and a 5% exemption in places that are using the maximum limit. ~~The eligible income levels will then increase \$1,000 annually through 2009, such that there will be a graduated reduction in exemption for incomes more than \$29,000 but less than \$37,400.~~

164-2A. – If the income.....exceeds **\$52,000** “income tax yar” shall mean.....Such income shall include social security and retirement benefits,

taxable IRA distributions, interest, dividends, total gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset in the same income tax year, net rental income, salary or earnings, and net income from self-employment but shall not include a return of capital, gifts or inheritances.....

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden shall hold a Public Hearing at the Town Hall, 18 State Street, Brockport, NY, on the 13th day of February 2024, at 6:15 PM to hear all persons for or against the adoption of Local Law No.1 of 2024 – Sweden Town Code Chapter 164 Article 1. Senior Citizens Tax Exemption.

Sec. 2. That the Town Clerk is authorized and directed to cause a notice of this hearing to be published in the official newspaper of the town, in accordance with Section 265 of Town Law.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 26 Award Kubota Quote

WHEREAS, the Buildings and Grounds Department has requested the purchase of a Kubota V Series Machine or John Deere Gator; and

WHEREAS, the Buildings and Grounds Department secured quotes for both pieces of equipment, both of which are on New York State Contract; and

WHEREAS, the following quotes were received:

	<u>Quote</u>	<u>Contract #</u>
Bentley Bros, Inc. 13936 State Route 31 Albion, NY 14411	\$17,733.47	PC#69404
Landpro Equipment 7689 Ridge Road West Brockport, NY 14420	\$19,126.51	PC#69683

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden awards the quote from Bentley Bros, Inc. for a Kubota RTVX2-SKLH24 V-Series for a purchase price of seventeen thousand seven hundred thirty-three and 47/100 dollars (\$17,733.47).

Sec. 2. That the Supervisor is authorized to sign any and all documents required.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

- RESOLUTION NO. 27 Award Building/Planning Software Quote

WHEREAS, the Building and Planning Department’s software will be retired in June 2024; and

WHEREAS, the following quotes were received for new software for the Department:

Civic Plus	\$11,000.00	YEAR ONE
3022 South 4 th St. Suite 500	\$10,000.00	YEAR TWO
Manhattan, KS 66502	\$10,000.00	YEAR THREE
Cloud Permit	\$9,500.00	YEAR ONE
11911 Freedom Drive, Ste.720	\$7,000.00	YEAR TWO
Reston, Virginia 20190	\$7,000.00	YEAR THREE; and

WHEREAS, the Building and Planning Department’s staff recommends the purchase of the Civic Plus software at the higher price due to the integration of the building code into the software and it’s more robust planning and zoning features.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

Sec. 1. That the Town Board of the Town of Sweden accepts the proposal from Civic Plus for Community Development Software the first year price of eleven thousand dollars (\$11,000); and to permit the renewals of Years 2 and 3 at a cost of then thousand dollars (\$10,000) per year if it so desired by the Building and Planning Department.

Sec. 2. That the Supervisor is authorized to sign any documents required for the purchase.

Sec. 3. That this resolution shall take effect immediately.

NON-CONSENT AGENDA:

- Approval of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 9, 2024.

Motion made by Councilperson Sullivan and seconded by Councilperson Staskiewicz to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 9, 2024.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Abstain</u>	
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>	
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>	
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>	
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>	ADOPTED

- Approval for Payment of Bills

All the Board members reviewed the invoice audit journal. Councilperson Sullivan made a motion that was seconded by Councilperson Maar authorizing payment of the bills in Abstract 1 dated January 24, 2024 in the amount of \$436,470.88.

General Fund: In the amount of \$295,554.76 as set forth in Abstract 1 dated January 24, 2024.

Highway Fund: In the amount of \$79,189.00 as set forth in Abstract 1 dated January 24, 2024.

Special Fund: In the amount of \$11,318.52 as set forth in Abstract 1 dated January 24, 2024.

Capital Fund: In the amount of \$50,408.60 as set forth in Abstract 1 dated January 24, 2024.

VOTE BY ROLL CALL:

Councilperson Maar	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sharpe	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Staskiewicz	<u>Aye</u>
Councilperson Sullivan	<u>Aye</u>
Supervisor Hayles	<u>Aye</u>

ADOPTED

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

No additional business or announcements noted.

ADJOURNMENT:

As there was no further business to come before the Board, Councilperson Sharpe moved to adjourn the January 23, 2024 meeting of the Sweden Town Board at 6:48 p.m. Councilperson Staskiewicz seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion. Motion adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen M. Sweeting
Town Clerk