

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

August 9, 2018

6:00 PM

Minutes

Present: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council Member's Bob Washo, Jim Smith, Phil LaMarche and Tim Danehy.

Also, in Attendance: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Recreation Director Caitlin Boreyko, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Historian Linda Casserly, Angela Gray, Village Trustees Carol Pynchon, Klaus Proemm and Toby Irven

Absent: Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, Assessor Steve Teele and Highway Superintendent Terry Billings

A. Call Meeting to Order: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order

Additions to the agenda under Old Business: Item 3. Pyrites Boat Launch

B. Public Comment: None

C. County Legislature Representative (Updates): none

D. Approval of minutes: July 11, 2018 Regular Meeting-

Council Member Tim Danehy made a motion to approve minutes from above, second by Council Member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

E. Supervisor Report: Angela Gray of Gray & Gray CPA gave a verbal financial report. Gray stated that she met with Supervisor Ashley on allocated funds with the Highway. Gray stated that they will be moving funds from the DB account to the DA account for brush and weeds for payroll. Gray stated that there is nothing out of the ordinary at this time and that Supervisor Ashley and the Gray firm have started working on 2019 budget. Gray stated that there was 2017 audit feedback from the State Comptroller's Office with eight questions. Two matters that were brought to Gray's attention were the amounts that the Town had in the capital reserve fund of \$6,325.00 and what it's there for. Gray responded back that these are previous Capital reserve Funds, nothing current.

The second question from the Comptroller was the due to/due from accounts. These should be paid back within twelve months and come with some form of agreement. Gray responded that this will be addressed in future. The board is aware of this and is the process of rectifying.

Monies were transferred from DB to B \$125,000.00. This loan took place in 2017. Council member Bob Washo stated for the record that these were not loans back in 2017 it was moving monies around from one account to the other because it

was needed, but the procedure was not properly done by the former Supervisors Office.

Supervisor Ashley was asked to contact the Comptroller about the audit that was conducted in 2017 of the Town of Canton.

Gray reported that they filed the AUD on the Town Joint Municipal Building and will be filing the Health District AUD as soon as possible.

Council Member Bob Washo asked Gray about the number of accounts that the Town has. Washo wants Gray to ask Comptroller about the accounts and how they play into the tax cap.

F. Audit Committee:

1. Approval of Expenditures

The following bills for Abstract #8-2018 were approved for payment:

General "A".....	\$23,626.70
Town Outside "B".....	\$52,155.86
Special Lighting "SL"	\$281.73
Joint Activity "SM".....	\$3,444.81
Highway "DA".....	\$5,488.14
Highway "DB".....	\$18,747.90
Trust & Agency.....	\$19,641.12

Council Member Bob Washo stated that half of what was spent out the B Fund is for Recreation. Washo wants the Recreation Committee to review and make copies of bills to watch that we don't go over budget.

Council Member Phil LaMarche made a motion to accept bills as approved, seconded by Council Member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

G. Approval of Department Reports

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley congratulated Historian Linda Casserly on her State award to the 2018 NYS Historian Conference in Rochester on September 30th through October 1st.

Town Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that summer hours are working well

Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez gave an oral report stating that the downtown revitalization winner was Saranac lake this year and that the NY Main Street Grant is progressing. 101 Main Street project is the most visible project right now. 45 and 7 Main Street projects are moving along and with the library

wrapping up. Blueway and Waterfront are pretty much done and we need to order signs to finish up the Grant.

\$27,000.00 reimbursement from Pyrites Blueway Plan was received. Supervisor asked what the board members what they would like to do with the monies. Discussion was held and matter was tabled.

Council Member Phil LaMarche made a motion to accept department reports, seconded by Council Member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

H. Committee Reports:

Committee member Phil LaMarche reported the Grass River Blue Way Plan Committee and WAC also met. WAC members were displeased with spelling errors and the quality. Another draft has been redone. LaMarche to read and report back to the board.

Leah Rodriguez and Phil LaMarche met and want to get Blueway signs in the ground to wrap up that portion of the grant.

Phil LaMarche reported the Recreation Committee met twice about the departure of Recreation Director. These meetings were productive. In the short term, LaMarche stated we can make it work. Concerns of employees keeping the pavilion open and going were discussed. There were talks of an Ice Manager and Program Coordinator, but just talks.

Economic Steering Committee and the Economic Development met and looked over the water front grant that has issues. Discussion was held on restructuring the work plan for this grant – we need to look at the budget. The state has helped with what needs to stay and what we can take out.

Phil LaMarche reported on the BOA grant, stating that he and Leigh Rodriguez met and that the Village of Canton expressed an interest in taking this over.

Bob Washo reported on Highway – Washo stated that for a couple years they have been discussing the possibility of going from an elected Highway Superintendent position to an appointed Highway position. Washo gave a brief description of process, stating that shared services make sense to save money and have one appointed person in charge of Highway. Discussion was held. Council Member Jim Smith stated that he wants to give the voters a chance to decide. Council Member Bob Washo added that if this was to pass it would give the Town Board three years to organize themselves to the new position, as Billings has three more years in his term. Smith added that most municipalities Highway budgets are 50% of their total budgets.

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to have the Town Attorney do a draft resolution to turn the elected Highway Superintendent to an appointed position to make the November ballot seconded by Council Member Phil LaMarche. Washo

added that this will be Highway Superintendent Terry Billings last term and that Billings has no problem with seeing what the voters want. A Special meeting was set with this motion for September 14th Tuesday 4:00 pm

Jim Smith reported that the Comprehensive Committee has taken the last couple summer months off. Smith, Leigh Rodriquez and Carol Pynchon met with Jackie on coming to a consensus on the billing matters and helping the Town out with a waiver on timely submissions. Phil LaMarche added that the Economic Developer is in the process of hiring a part time intern.

I. Old Business

1. Assessor Position Discussion:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and Council Member Tim Danehy met with Bruce Green at the St. Lawrence Real Property on options for replacing current Assessor Steve Teele and about the needs of the Town of Canton. Green helped Ashley and Danehy understand that this is a full-time position. Danehy feels that it would be well served to advertise for this position to fill the term through 2019. Ashley stated that there is a limited pool of Assessors, and that Teele has offered to come back on an interim position. Discussion was held and it was decided to put on the agenda for September 14th at 4:00 pm.

2. Draft Town/Village MOU-Comprehensive Plan:

Discussion was held on the draft Comprehensive Plan MOU with the Town and Village of Canton. Supervisor Ashley stated that the Village of Canton agreed to this agreement.

Council Member Jim Smith made a motion to approve the MOU, seconded by Council Member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

See attached MOU Agreement

3. Pyrites Boat Launch

Council Member Phil LaMarche gave history on grant that was awarded to put in a boat launch on the Grasse River at Pyrites. LaMarche added that there have been problems with the work due to the rain and high-water levels. Tisdell's Engineering Firm has a second plan to fix this problem. LaMarche asked the board for approval to have Town Highway help out with the correction in the amount of approximately \$10,000. This would be half materials and half labor. The materials may be reimbursable.

Motion to approve expenditures from the Highway fund by Council Member Phil LaMarche to allow the Highway to move ahead on repair to the Pyrites

Boat Launch. Seconded by Council Member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council Member LaMarche will let the Highway Superintendent know about approval. Leigh Rodriguez asked for documentation on labor and materials to be provided by the Highway Superintendent

Council Member Tim Danehy stated that progress is being made on the review of the solar moratorium that will be on next months agenda

J. New Business

1. Resident petition for 30 MPH Speed Zone Rt 21 Ext:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that a petition has been received for a speed zone reduction on CR 21 Extension to Church Street submitted by Randy Sharlow. Petition was reviewed and discussion was held.

Council Member Jim Smith made a motion to have Highway Superintendent Terry Billings send the petition to the St. Lawrence County Highway for their review and forward on to the State. Seconded by Council Member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

2. Local Government Conference 10-9-2018:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council Members Bob Washo and Tim Danehy, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray will be attending.

3. Excellus Medicare Supplement Proposed Rate Change:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley was notified that the plan is to decrease by 12.9 % . This is for information purposes only

4. Resignation of Robert Halouska due to retirement:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that Robert Halouska for information purposes resigned due to retirement at the Highway effective August 2nd, 2018. Ashley stated that the Town appreciated his years of service for a total of 19.5 years.

5. Preliminary 2019 Budget Discussion:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated she has a calendar prepared. Packets will go out to departments next week on the budget. Ashley wants to look at multi years, and have employees think outside the box. Council Member Bob Washo doesn't want to see a wish list, but to see where we can cut back. Council Member Danehy stated that the most important thing is to see it presented in a different way, a more readable version.

Supervisor Ashley is hoping that Gray and Gray will help with the budget process. Ashley stated she has started the process of breaking it down and added that Municipal accounting is different than regular accounting. Council Member LaMarche wants a narrative as the process moves along. Council Member Tim Danehy wants to see it by department. Council Member Bob Washo wants people to see and understand debt liabilities.

Public Comment: Toby Irvin stated that he is encouraged to hear that there is going to be different framework on the budget. Irvin stated that there are many areas of the budget that need improvement. Irvin would like to see a zero-based budget. Discussion was held on having the department reports on the website. The last item Irvin added was he is still waiting on highspeed internet.

k. Executive Session: Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose as identified in Public Officers Law 105 (1)(e)(f) (h). at 8:20 p.m., seconded by Councilmember Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to come out of executive session at 10:22 pm. Council member Bob Washo seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to accept Assessor Steve Teele's offer to work part time starting September through November 2018, 15 hours a week December through February 2019, 20 hours a week and March through May 2019, 25 hours a week at \$40.00 an hour on a month to month basis. Seconded by Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Phil LaMarche made a motion to pay Assessor Steve Teele 30 vacation days and \$200.00 health insurance buyout. Seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Jim Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:25 pm. Council member Bob Washo seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Hammond
Canton Town Clerk