

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD  
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING 5:30 PM  
REGULAR MEETING 6:00 PM  
January 16, 2019  
Minutes**

Present: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Deputy Supervisor Bob Washo, Council members James Smith, Phil LaMarche and Tim Danehy

Also, in Attendance: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Highway Superintendent Terry Billings, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, Village Trustee Carol Pynchon, Toby Irvén, Town Justice Michael Morgan, John Gray, David and Linda Curry, Richard and Martha Dudley, Dan and Lyne Soulia and Rebecca Hollis.

Absent: Historian Linda Casserly, Assessor Steve Teele and Attorney Eric Gustafson

Supervisor Ashley opened the Town Board Organizational Meeting

- A. Call Meeting to Order: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order
- B. 5:30 pm Council member Phil LaMarche made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Public Officers Law 105 (f), seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

5:50 pm Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

6:00 pm Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley moved Supervisors report to beginning of agenda due to another commitment that John Gray had to appear at later in the evening.

John Gray reported on the December 31, 2019 year end standings. Gray went over the fund balances with the board members stating \$637,000 is the Towns cash position, which is up about \$100,000 from last year cash position.

Gray reported that the Town is under budget. Questions and answers were exchanged.

Discussion was held on the fund balance from 2017 in the "SL" account that is being carried over and how to rectify it. Gray is going to go back through the past years and try to find when it appeared and if it is indeed "SL" money.

### C. Supervisor Appointments

#### 1. Deputy Supervisor:

Supervisor Ashley appointed Bob Washo Deputy Supervisor.

#### 2. Historian:

Supervisor Ashley appointed Linda Casserly Town Historian

#### 3. Fire Warden:

Supervisor Ashley appointed Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray Fire Warden for the Town of Canton.

#### 4. Board Committees:

Insurance committee: Smith and Ashley

Policy committee: Washo and Ashley

See complete list of committee members

### D. Board Appointments

#### 1. Town Tax Collector/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Marriage Officer:

Council member Jim Smith made a motion to appoint Lisa Hammond as Town Tax Collector/Registrar of Vital Statistics/Marriage Officer, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

#### 2. Supervisor as Marriage Officer:

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to appoint Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley as Marriage Officer for the length of the Supervisors term, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries

### E. Rules of Procedure

#### 1. Set dates/times for meetings:

Council member Phil LaMarche made a motion to hold Regular monthly Town Board meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m., seconded by Council Member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Tim Danehy added that he would like to hold a monthly meeting in different localities of the Township, possibly the Village of Rensselaer Falls, hamlet of Morley and Pyrites in the warmer months.

2. Designation of Official Newspapers:

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to designate the Watertown Daily Times and the St. Lawrence Plaindealer as official newspapers, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. Official Depository:

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to use Community Bank as the official depository for the Town of Canton, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Mileage Allowance:

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to set the mileage rate at .50 cents, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Council member Tim Danehy asked Supervisor Ashley to bring back to next months regular board meeting a total paid out in mileage for the year 2018. Supervisor Ashley stated she would like to see the mileage increased to 54.5 cents.

5. Review/Approve Town Policy of Late Bills:

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to accept the Town Policy of Late Bills as presented, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

A. Call meeting to order: Continued on with Regular meeting at this point

B. Public Comment:

David Curry of 20 Lincoln Street Canton asked Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley what the percentage is that retirees are paying toward health insurance. Ashley asked the board members if they were there to listen or if she should answer the question of Curry. Board members instructed Ashley to answer. Ashley stated that the rate ranges from 25 to 28% depending upon the plan and other factors. Ashley stated that there has been no talk of raising the premium to 100% for retirees, but that the Board is discussing an increase of 25%. Washo added that the 25% increase would be dependent on contract and or non-contract employees/person.

Linda Curry of 20 Lincoln Street Canton stated she is concerned as her parents have Town of Canton insurance and are elderly and on a fixed income. Curry also



stated that 25% is a huge increase and there needs to be more notice of any increases.

Council member Phil LaMarche stated that it his understanding that the 2002 policy states that retirees will pay 50% of the health care contributions. LaMarche stated that the bookkeeping has not been kept up with from past administration. LaMarche stated that the Town health care rates have increased at a rate faster than what has been past on to the retirees of the Town.

Richard Dudley 77 Judson St, Canton stated that he received a letter from the prior Town Supervisor upping their contribution to health care each year. Dudley spoke against increasing the health care contributions for retirees. Dudley stated he was the past Town Attorney under the retirement system. Dudley suggested that the board members talk to their Town Attorney about the proposal of increasing the retiree's health insurance contribution before making a decision.

C. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates(s): none

D. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting December 12, 2018

Council member Jim Smith made a motion to approve the December 12, 2018 regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Year End Meeting December 31, 2018

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to approve the December 31, 2018 Year end meeting minutes, seconded by Council member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries

Council member Bob Washo abstained from voting as he was not present

E. Supervisor Report: See above

F. Audit Committee:

Approval of Expenditures

"A" account \$6,958.33

"B" account \$1,849.32

"SM" joint \$1,233.69

"SL" special lighting \$360.32

"DA" Town Highway \$38,277.39

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

#### G. Approval of Department Reports

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond reported that tax collection is at 17% to date.

Council member Phil LaMarche pointed out the numeral typo on Judge Philips monthly report of \$1,2005.50. Number should be \$12,005.50. Clerk Hammond will ask the Court Clerk to correct

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to accept the department reports, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

#### H. Committee Reports:

Committee member Bob Washo reported that the Technology committee met and discussed a unified place for the department reports and other internal items to land, possibly back to drop box or a google doc.

Committee member Jim Smith reported that the Comprehensive Plan committee met to review the draft of the plan and it was decided to take a couple weeks to review it and come back together for discussion. Smith said a meeting will be held at the end of January to come to an agreement and schedule a public hearing.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she and Deputy Supervisor Bob Washo have been reviewing the Town policies.

Committee members Phil LaMarche and Tim Danehy reported that the Recreation committee met and the search for a new Recreation Director has begun, with applications being accepted until January 31, 2018.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she and Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez met on the BOA Grant.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley reported that the Ethics committee is scheduled to met on January 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm in the Municipal Building.

#### I. Old Business:

##### 1. Vital Statistics Registrar Districts consolidation – Rensselaer Falls/Town of Canton

Council member Jim Smith made a motion a approve a resolution consolidating the Vital Registration districts of the Town of Canton and the Village of Rensselaer Falls, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

See attached resolution

2. Department Audits:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that upon advice from the Town Attorney the board decided to get an outside general accountant to perform internal department audits. Discussion was held on the form that will be used while reviewing the departments records. Ashley to type a scope to go with the audit form and reach out to an accountant to perform the task.

3. Canton Capital Resource Corporation Organizational Meeting:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley reported that the CCRC will hold a meeting on January 21, 2019 at 5:00 pm at the St. Lawrence Health System Medical Campus.

J. New Business:

1. Consider Replacement of Highway Backhoe Loader Unit:

Highway Superintendent Terry Billings stated that after reviewing the Backhoe there is still life left in it and asked instead for approval to buy a New Felling XF-70-2 HDG Hyd. Detachable Gooseneck trailer. The highways old trailer is a 1968 and has frame issues and is not safe.

Billings stated it would be good for a farmer to use and that he should be able to sell it.

Billings stated he got a price on State Contract of \$62,011 with an expiration date of February 9, 2019 for the new trailer and added that they use the trailers often, especially during paving season.

After discussion Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she felt this should go to the Highway Committee for review and allow time to check on the current procurement policy. Ashley read through the policy. Council member Bob Washo suggested tabling this matter to allow the committee to discuss it and bring it back to the February monthly meeting.

2. Fire Contracts:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that two fire contracts have been received back from Morley and Pyrites that can be signed by the board members tonight. Both contracts and vouchers signed during meeting.

Motion by Council member Phil La Mache to approve the two fire contracts both for \$37,000.00 each, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Ashley stated Village of Canton will be meeting and approving their contract on Tuesday evening and that Village of Rensselaer Falls Attorney has asked to see the 1988 contract that is referred to in the fire contract. Clerk Lisa Hammond reported that she did search in the minutes and didn't find



anything. Hammond will continue to search in hopes to find something related to the 1988 contract.

3. Fire Summit Task Force:

A brief discussion was held on who will serve on the Task Force and it was decided that Council member Jim Smith will serve on January 30, 2019 at 6 pm. Ashley stated that the group felt it was not necessary to go with an outside person to facilitate. Ashley stated that she feels an outside facilitator would be better suited for the integrity of the process and that she is looking for feedback. Council member Tim Danehy stated that after one meeting is held in this manner, and if it doesn't work than the Town Board should have say in how the next meeting is ran. Council member Jim Smith stated his concerns about how the pieces of pie are being cut out for the four different fire departments to receive their money from the Town of Canton.

A brief discussion was held on why there is four fire departments.

Council member Phil LaMarche stated that having Pyrites close to his home has saved him and other home owners insurance money.

4. 2019 Senior Citizen Exemptions Income Ceiling:

Motion was made by Council member Jim Smith made a motion to keep the Senior Citizen income ceiling at \$20,000 through \$28,400, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

5. Morley Fire District Board of Commissioners Letter:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated the Town of Canton received a letter from the Morley Fire District Commissioner Mike Lennox asking for financial help to cover the interior fire fighter cancer insurance cost, as they did not budget for this new mandate. A brief discussion was held and it was decided to table the matter.

Ashley stated that Pyrites is going through their own insurance company and insuring just one fire fighter slot.

Council member Jim Smith stated that the Town has no jurisdiction over the Morley lighting district.

6. Part Time Court Clerk Appointment:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that the board budgeted for a part time court clerk to work 166 hours for the year of 2019 at \$12.00 an hour to assist in time off for the current full-time court clerk Marc Armstrong. Ashley introduced Rebecca Hollis as this part time court clerk to the board and welcomed her.

Justice Michael Morgan stated that the St. Lawrence District Attorneys Office did an overview of all the courts in the County and found Canton and Ogdensburg to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> busiest courts.

7. Dog Pound Services Agreement – Tabled to executive session
8. NYS Unified Court System Audit Letter: Discussed above under Old Business #2

9. AOT Annual Meeting Resolutions:

Ashley stated she emailed all resolutions to the board members and added she is not attending, as it was not budgeted for.

10. Zoning Board Opening:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that Janet Favro will not be seeking another term and the Favro will be recognized at the February meeting for her dedication.

K. Public Comment: none

- L. Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identified as proper by Public Officers Law 105 (1) (H) and (F).

8:05 pm Bob Washo and Jim Smith  
Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Hammond  
Canton Town Clerk



# TOWN OF CANTON

## 2019 BOARD COMMITTEES

COMMITTEES	COUNCIL MEMBER
AUDIT	Smith/LaMarche-Odd Danehy/Washo-Even
BOA-BROWNFIELD	As needed
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN	Smith/Danehy (T/V)
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Danehy/Lamarche (T/V)
HIGHWAY	Smith/Washo
INSURANCE	Ashley/Smith
JUSTICE	LaMarche/Smith
POLICY	Ashley/Washo
RECREATION	LaMarche/Danehy (T/V)
SHARED SERVICES	Danehy/Washo (T/V)
SOLAR	Smith/Washo
SUSTAINABILITY	Washo (T/V)
TRAILS/COMPLETE STREETS	Washo (T/V)
WATERFRONT ADVISORY	Ashley/LaMarche (T/V)
TECHNOLOGY & COMMUNICATIONS	Danehy/Washo (T/V)

T/V Town and Village of Canton

Ashley=3

Danehy=6

LaMarche=5

Smith=6

Washo=8

**RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

**January 16, 2019**

**Approving Consolidation of Vital Registration Districts  
Between Town of Canton  
And Village of Rensselaer Falls**

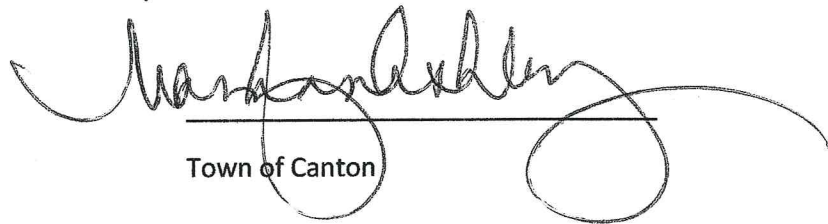
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Canton has been assigned by New York State as Vital Statistics Registration District 4451 and the Village of Rensselaer Falls has been assigned by New York State as Vital Statistics Registration District 4431 and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Clerk has requested the approval of the Town Board to formally consolidate the Town and Village into one primary registration district, namely the District of the Town of Canton under Vital Statistics Registration District 4451, and

**WHEREAS**, the formal consolidation of the Registration Districts would benefit the public by eliminating questions as to which district records should be filed and not result in the loss of services to either municipality, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** by the Town Board of the Town of Canton that consolidation of the Town and Village Registrar functions under the Town's registration number (Vital Registration District 4451 is approved, pending necessary approvals of all other required entities including the Village of Rensselaer Falls, St. Lawrence County and New York State Department of Health.

1/16/19  
Date

  
Town of Canton