

**TOWN OF CANTON REGULAR  
BOARD MEETING**

**6:00 PM**

**March 13, 2019**

**Minutes**

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

Also in Attendance: Attorney Dan Ramsey, Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, Village of Canton Trustee Carol Pynchon, Toby Irvén, Dan & Lyne Soulia, Town Justice Rose Mary Philips, Town Justice Mike Morgan, Assessor Steve Teele, Assessor Cindy Brand, John & Dakota Casserly

Absent: Historian Linda Casserly

Additions to agenda: Permanent appointment of Code Enforcement Officer and Pyrites Community Safety Complaint

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

The Town Board recognized and thanked Assessor Steve Teele for his fourteen years of service. Teele became the Town Assessor in April of 2005 and is retiring from the position with exemplary service. Teele will be replaced by Cindy Brand.

B. Public Comment:

John Casserly of Miner St Rd was present and requested the Town Board meetings be held in a different location other than the Board Room. Casserly also suggested that the meetings be videoed.

Lynne Soulia of Canton wants to see the board meeting held in a different room so the members backs are not to the public. Soulia added she would also like to see the meetings video recorded.

Council member Bob Washo polled the board about moving the board meetings to the Courtroom on a regular basis. Council member Jim Smith stated he would like to talk to the Village Board members about this matter. Village Trustee Carol Pynchon added that she will advocate for the Village board to hold their meetings downstairs in the courtroom.

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

D. Approval of Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes February 13, 2019

Motion was made by Council member Bob Washo to approve minutes, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

E. Supervisor Report:

John Gray of Gray and Gray read over the hand out that was provided. Questions and answers were received and fund balances were discussed. Continued research on Special Lighting balance is ongoing. Council member Bob Washo noted that the reports that Gray goes over in public session are received by the board members via email days before the meeting is held, so therefore the board members have time to read them over and bring up any concerns they may have for Gray to answer. Gray stated that the firm has started the AUD and will have it filed by the March 31, 2019 deadline.

F. Audit Committee:

A : \$45,122.53	TA: \$14,040.05
DA: \$38,301.59	B: \$29,107.87
SL: \$338.93	SF: \$100,500.00
SM: \$1,157.22	

Motion made by Council member Bob Washo to approve expenditures, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

G. Acceptance of Department Reports:

Town Justices Mike Morgan and Rosemary Philips were present to brief the board members on discussions that were held on the possibility of taking one of the court room bathrooms and making it a changing/locker room for the Village Police Department. Judge Morgan stated that they were approached by the Mayor of Canton and were willing to work with him on this. Morgan added he later found out that if one of the bathrooms is eliminated it would affect the amount of people that could be in the courtroom space. Morgan has worked with the Code Enforcement Officer to try to help the Mayor out with this. Morgan suggested using part of the Jury room located downstairs or other rooms in the building that are being underutilized. Judge Philip concurred with Morgan's findings, as both Judges want to accommodate the need with safety apriority. Council member Bob Washo noted that this the first the Town Board has been involved and suggested that the Building committee meet with the Village Mayor, Town Supervisor and Judges to come up with suggestions to move forward.

Motion was made by Council member Phil LaMarche to accept Department reports as presented, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

## H. Committee Reports:

Committee member Bob Washo reported that the Solar committee cleaned up the last edits and that Planning Board Chair Mike Morgan is going to present it to the Planning Board on March 26, 2019.

Council member Jim Smith reported that the Fire Prevention Task Force met for the second time, with both Canton and Morley Fire District having no representation. Smith feels that there should have been alternates to serve. A lot of dialogue went on between the departments, which Smith feels was very helpful. Smith stated that there is one Fire Department that does not have internet added that he feels Spectrum should provide this for free to the Fire Departments. Both Morley Fire District and Canton Fire reached out to let members know they could not make the meeting.

Committee member Phil LaMarche stated the Recreation committee held a stake holders meeting.

## I. Old Business:

### 1. Department Audits Update:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that three individuals and two firms were asked and no one is interested in doing internal department audits. After discussion it was decided that the Council members will perform the audits and report back. Ashley made the suggestion of budgeting in 2020 for an outside firm to perform internal audits.

### 2. Fire Contracts:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that Canton and Rensselaer Falls have both signed their Fire Contracts and they have been processed.

Motion to sign contracts made by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

### 3. Canton Canoe Weekend:

Kathy Duffany and Gene Newman were present to promote and share information about the Canton Canoe Weekend on May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019, celebrating 58 years located at Taylor Park. Duffany stated that this is one of the oldest canoe races in the country. Newman added that they usually get around 250 entries and it brings Canton business and advertisement for the area.



4. Retirement Standard Workday Resolution:

Supervisor Mary Ashley reported that a resolution on the Town Clerks/Tax Collector Standard Workday needed to be done.

Motion made by Council member Jim Smith to accept the standard workday resolution for Elected Official Town Clerk/Tax Collector, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

J. New Business:

1. Solar Moratorium Extension/Set Public Hearing Date:

Motion by Council member Jim Smith to hold a Public Hearing on extension of the Solar Moratorium on March 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

2. Place Highway Superintendent Position on ballot to become an appointed position/Set Public Hearing Date:

Motion by Council member Jim Smith to hold Public Hearing placing Highway Superintendent Position on the ballot on March 27, 2019 at 6:15 p.m., seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Attorney Dan Ramsey suggested that the Law Office of Pease and Gustafson do all the filing on Local Laws and Notices on Public Hearings in the future. All board members in agreement of this process.

3. Consider Highway Skid Steer Purchase:

Discussion was held on the purchase of a new Bobcat S570 Skid Steer at a price of \$36,423.32 including Bucket Positioner, Severe Duty Tires and Construction Bucket at previous meeting.

Motion by Council member Jim Smith to purchase the Skid Steer, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

4. All States Property update:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley reported that this matter is still in process, and a contract has not been signed. Council member Bob Washo added that based on the phase one testing, the board asked for a phase two testing with no schedule. Matter tabled to later date.

5. CEO request to increase Commercial roofing Fee Resolution:

Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray requested that the Town Board members consider an increase to the fees on Commercial roofing.

Motion by Council member Tim Danehy to increase the Commercial Roofing fees, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

See attached resolution

6. Set Second Notice Tax Collection Fee:

Motion by Council member Phil LaMarche to charge a \$2.00 second notice fee to taxpayers, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

7. Judson Street Road Complaint:

Brian Washburn of Judson St Rd was present and expressed his concerns of the condition of outer Judson St Rd. Washburn stated that no work has been done on this road for a decade and suggested that board members walk the road to get a good look at the sides of the road that are collapsing. The board members thanked Washburn for sharing his concerns.

8. Trails Committee Request:

Dakota Casserly of Miner St Rd was present and spoke on behalf of the Trails Committee and the Master Trail Plan. Casserly gave a brief history of the committee. Casserly asked the Town Board to consider helping support efforts in improving the unsafe condition of Miner Street Road for pedestrians as this road is highly used by SLU students and community members. The committee is working toward connecting the Village to the Taylor Park Community Beach. Casserly is hoping for funding to move forward with this project in keeping with the Master Trail Plan that was recently completed. Toby Irven of Complete Street spoke in favor of the Town Board's commitment of trying to find funding to improve Miner Street Rd. Casserly is asking that an engineer be hired to give guidance, existing estimates, options and bids.

9. Charter Communications Franchise Renewal:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley updated that Attorney Eric Gustafson's office will help with the upcoming 2021 renewal process. This is currently a ten-year agreement and Charter is looking to change this to a fifteen-year agreement.

Council Member Tim Danehy wants to see Charter cover areas of the Town that are not currently being covered. Council member Bob Washo recommended putting a committee together and appointing Toby Irven to it. Attorney Dan Ramsey assured the board members that their firm has a relationship with Charter and anticipates this being a smooth transaction.

10. Discuss NYS Legalization of Adult use of Cannabis:

A brief discussion was held on the request for support last month of adult Cannabis use. Council member Jim Smith stated the Attorney General's Office has come out not in favor of this, along with many of the law enforcement agencies, moving the timeline out for approval. Council member Bob Washo stated that regardless the Town needs to be ready, as there is a lot of money at stake. Washo added that the Town needs to be ahead of it, especially with code matters.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she herself will need to learn more about this and hear what the Town's constituents have to say.

11. NY Municipal Insurance Reciprocal Report:

Discussion was held on NYMIR's findings of which Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley referred to as an audit of the Town's facilities. Council Member Bob Washo wants to negotiate with the Village of Canton, as the Municipal building is a shared building and some of the findings were issues in the building as well as Taylor Park, that is also shared with the Village. Recreation Director Jim Putman stated that the items at Taylor Park to be addressed are only suggestions. Supervisor Ashley added that because the Town carries the insurance, she wants to respond to the matters within 60 days as requested.

Council member Bob Washo asked if it is time for the Village to carry the insurance on the Park instead of the Town. Washo would like to see these items be removed from the Town policy. Trustee Carol Pynchon stated that she has been uncomfortable with picking and choosing what items will be corrected. Pynchon wants to have more discussions on the matter of Taylor Park and the Municipal Building with the shared services committee.

12. Triad Group/SLC Attorney Letter-Worker's Compensation  
Firefighter/Ambulance Claims

Discussion was held on a letter received from the Triad Group and the St. Lawrence County Attorney's Office regarding Worker's Compensation Claims. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley reminded the board members that she was approached about the Town doing the claims.

Ashley informed the members that the Village of Canton processes claims if a Firefighter is hurt. Ashley stated that it has been recommended that the Town do the claims on all four Fire Departments by both the Triad Group and the County Attorney. Attorney Dan Ramsey will do research on the matter.



Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley expressed her concern wondering about the shift in County Worker's Compensation costs being put on the Town.

13. Permanent appointment of Code Enforcement Officer:

Council member Jim Smith made a motion to permanently appoint current Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray with an increase in salary to \$42,000.00. Single Health Insurance will begin 91 days from today March 13, 2019, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

14. Pyrites Community Safety Complaint:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley discussed a letter received from John Friot Jr from Pyrites about concerns of the bridge in Pyrites that is still currently closed. Council member Bob Washo added that the bridge has been condemned and it's only a matter of time before it comes out completely. The Town of Canton is sympathetic to this but realizes that it is out of their hands.

K. Public Comment:

- L. 8:30 p.m. Council member Jim Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche, all voted in favor. Motion carries. 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, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

10:00 p.m. Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

10:01 p.m. Council member Bob Washo made motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa A. Hammond

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_  
DATED: March 13, 2019

**Approval to increase Commercial Roofing Building Permit Fee**

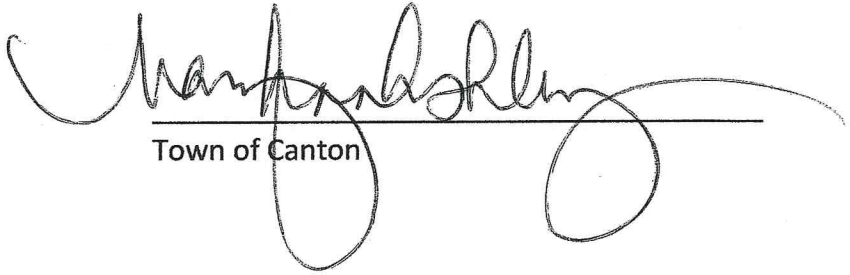
**WHEREAS**, the Town of Canton Code Enforcement Officer is recommending an increase in the Commercial Roofing Building Permit Fee; and

**WHEREAS**, this increase will increase coverage of necessary blueprint review and inspections on completed projects; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Canton Town Board hereby approves the change in the fee schedule to show commercial roof projects to be calculated under the cost of construction section in the fee schedule.

3/13/19

Date



Town of Canton