

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING**

March 27, 2019

6:00 pm

Minutes

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

Also, in Attendance: Town Attorney Dan Ramsey, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector Heidi Smith, Village Trustee Klaus Proemm, Susan Huntley, John Casserly, John Gray Jr, John Danis, Kathleen Gibson, Lawrence Aldous, Shirley Aldous and Tom Woodside

Absent: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond

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

B. Public Hearings:

Public Hearing #1

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. in the Canton Municipal Building, 60 Main St, Canton, New York for the purpose of considering a local law for an Extension of the Solar Moratorium Law.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley opened the Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m.
No public comment

Motion made by Jim Smith to close the Public Hearing at 6:02 p.m., seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Public Hearing #2

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 27, 2019, at 6:15 p.m. in the Canton Municipal Building, 60 Main St, Canton, New York for the purpose of considering a local law adding a referendum to the November 5th, 2019 ballot asking whether or not the Highway Superintendent should remain an elected position, or changed to a position appointed by the Town Board.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley opened the Public Hearing 6:15 p.m.

John Danis of Rennselaer Falls asked about the process of this referendum
Council members responded by stating that this is just a Public Hearing to decide if its going on the ballot. Council members added that they will be committed to the process if

it should go to an appointed position. Members added that this meeting is for the purpose of listening to the public. Council members stated that this will be up to the voters at election time to weather its appointed or elected.

Mike McCormick spoke in favor of putting this referendum on the ballot in hopes that the position becomes appointed. McCormick stated that he is dissatisfied with the Town highways work on his road. McCormick said that he has had a problem with the culvert in front of his home and the Town is not willing to work with him on fixing it. McCormick is concerned that the current Highway Superintendent is solely in control of what he does and what he spends Town monies on. Council member Bob Washo stated that he has responded to McCormick's concerns and will continue to do so.

Klaus Proemm of Harrison Street spoke in favor of putting the referendum on the ballot.

Tom Woodside of Miner St Rd stated that he can not support an appointed position for Highway Superintendent as he sees it as control by the Governing board.

Lawrence Aldous of CR27 Canton stated that he is against an appointed position for Highway Superintendent.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she received an email from Rosemary Crupi of 55 Spears St stating that she wants to see the referendum added to the ballot so the voters can decide.

John Casserly of Miner St Rd is in the middle of appointed or elected, but wants to see it go on the ballot.

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

C. Consider Extension of Solar Moratorium:

Motion made by Council member Bob Washo to extend the Solar Moratorium Law for another six months, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, motion carries. All voted in favor.

Council member Phil LaMarche abstained from the vote

Council member Tim Danehy reported that the Planning Board feels the law is in good shape. The board and Attorney will review, with the matter being placed on the April agenda for further discussion.

D. Consider November 5, 2019 Ballot Referendum:

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to add a referendum to the November 5, 2019 ballot asking whether or not the Canton Highway Superintendent should remain an elected position, or changed to an appointed position by the Town Board, seconded by Council member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Tim Danehy added that he doesn't like the idea of the Elected position because that seat has a lot of control. Danehy added that if the position was appointed and the voters don't like the job being done, then the voters have control of voting out two Council members every two years. Danehy supports accountability and supports putting this on the ballot.

Council member Jim Smith added that this is an opportunity to make change. As this opportunity will allow the voters to decide.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she wants the referendum on the ballot to let the voters decide.

Council member Phil LaMarche stated that a new ethics policy is in the works to help control any nepotism. LaMarche is divided on appointed as opposed to elected but feels it should go on the ballot to let the voters decide.

E. 2018 Annual Update Document:

John Gray Jr of Gray and Gray was present and reported that his office will have the AUD filed by Monday April 1st, 2019 on time without an extension. March 31st is the deadline which falls on a Sunday.

Motion was made by Council member Jim Smith to allow Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to give final approval for filling the AUD prepared by Gray and Gray on April 1, 2019, seconded by Council member Bob Washo, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

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 (1)

6:52 p.m. Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Public Law 105 (f) and (H), seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

7:35 p.m. Council member Phil LaMarche made a motion to come out of executive session, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

7:36 p.m. Council member Jim Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Hammond, Canton Town Clerk