

**TOWN OF CANTON REGULAR
BOARD MEETING**

6:00 PM

October 9, 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, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, John Gray of Gray & Gray, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Assessor Cindy Brand, Recreation Director Jim Putman, Toby Irvén, Sue Huntley, Karin Blackburn, Planning Board Chair Mike Morgan and Planning Board member Sigi Barr-Sap, Village Trustee Carol Pynchon, John Casserly, Jack Honor of EDF Renewables and Adam Akinson of North Country Now

Absent: Historian Linda Casserly and Highway Superintendent Terry Billings

- A. Call meeting to order:
- B. Public Comment: none
- C. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates(s): none
- D. EDR Renewable Solar Presentation-Rich Road Project:

Jack Honor of EDF Renewables gave a presentation to the board members on the Rich Road Solar Energy Center 240 megawatt project located on Route 11 in the Town of Canton. Honor stated that transparency is key. Honor expects a lot of public input during the process. Public Hearings and Public Board meetings along with open houses will be held. This is a 1400 acre project with plans to sign on 800 more acres. Honor added that all stakeholders will be treated equally and fairly during the process. Honor provided a power point handout that can be viewed in the Town Clerk Office. Honor said that the Village of Canton is considered part of the project even though they won't have any panels, Honor added that the Village is considered a host municipality under the permitting law because they are located so close to the project. Honor has had no contact with the Village of Canton thus far, but will find out if they get to appoint someone to the committee or not.

The progress of the transmission line will be determined if this project will happen in 2023 or 2024.

Honor stated that their Solar panels are not toxic. Most all of the materials are recyclable. This project will create job opportunities. Question and answers were exchanged between Honor and the Town Board.

Total project cost is around 220 million per Honor. Brief discussion was held on the name of the Project.

E. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Board Minutes 9-11-19

Special Board Meeting-Joint Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing with Village of Rensselaer Falls 9-16-2019

Special Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes 9-26-2019

Minutes were tabled due to the Board members not receiving via email in their inbox.

Council member Tim Danehy noted that the minutes were sent to their junk email at no fault of Clerk Hammond. The Council members did not have the opportunity to read them over for approval.

F. Supervisor Report:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that the Town of Canton received their NYS Comptroller's 2018 Fiscal Stress Report

In 2016, the score of fiscal stress was 25, 2017 it was 15.8 and in 2018 it was 9.6

In 2016, the score for Environmental stress was 13.3, and in 2017 it was 30 and in 2018 it was 40.

The Town is labeled as a moderated Environmental Stress.

Ashley is proud that the Town's fiscal stress score has gone down.

John Gray of Gray and Gray stated that the firm sent partner Angela Gray and two senior accountants to a two and a-half-day seminar in Saratoga that was put on by the New York State Comptroller's Office. Gray reported that the seminar was excellent and the attendees got a lot out of it.

Gray read over the Supervisors hand out that was provided on fiscal status of the Town of Canton. Questions and answers were received and fund balances were discussed.

G. Audit Committee:

A: \$37,135.73 TA: \$11,856.99

DA: \$8,834.83 B: \$3,660.14

SL: \$304.07 SM: \$4,687.03

DB: \$140,963.15

Council member Bob Washo questioned a bill from Berna Carr on the Municipal Building Assessment. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that the Town of Canton took lead on the matter therefore the Village will reimburse half of all cost.

Council member Bob Washo requested that Supervisor Ashley run figures for the Highway Department to help with decision making of what is still available in this year's budget. Ashley to get information to the Highway Committee and Highway Superintendent Terry Billings.

Washo also requested paper work on the Enbridge training that Superintendent Terry Billings put in for in the amount of \$25.00. Supervisor Ashley stated that there is a memo signing an employee up, and that she will get that from Billings when he returns from vacation.

Motion made by Council member Phil LaMarche to approve expenditures, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

H. Acceptance of Department Reports:

Motion was made by Council member Bob Washo to accept Department reports as presented, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

I. Committee Reports:

Committee member Bob Washo reported that the Highway is waiting to see how much money is left for the year and will be deciding how and where to spend it.

Committee member Jim Smith reported that the Comprehensive Plan was passed by all three Municipalities.

Committee member Bob Washo reported that the Solar Committee is done and now it will be handled by the Town Board members. Washo added that the full board will act as committee going forward.

Recreation Committee Member Tim Danehy reported that the ice is in at the Pavilion.

J. Old Business:

1. Purchase of new copier:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that three quotes on a new copier have been received.

The IT Committee met and have questions about following the procurement policy. Discussion was held on number of copies, particularly colored copies.

ABS	\$6,778.05
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Symquest	\$5,219.00
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Usherwood	\$4,901.00
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Supervisor Ashley will do more research and get more data for the committee to review – matter tabled

2. Consider Planning/Zoning Board Secretary Appointment: Tabled
3. Ethics Policy/Draft Law/Set Public Hearing

Motion to set Public Hearing on November 6th, 2019 at 6 p.m. on Ethics Policy followed by 2020 Budget Public Hearing on November 6th, 2019 at 6:15 p.m. Made by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

4. Health Insurance Costs/Contributions:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated for the record that the cost of health insurance is going up 7.5 % and possibly 9 % for retirees. Ashley asked board members to think about contributions for discussion at upcoming meetings. Ashley to find out in November about prescription costs.

5. Discussion of Sales Tax Revenue:

A brief discussion was held on Sales Tax distribution. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley received data from the County Supervisor Association and has not had time to read through it. Council member Jim Smith stated it will ultimately be the County's decision. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley added that the Supervisor's Association will be holding a joint meeting with the Mayors Association in December to discuss Sales Tax. Council Member Jim Smith wants Ashley to find out how it will affect the Towns Tax Cap.

K. New Business:

1. Approve Solicitation for Dog Control/Dog Pound Professional Services:

Council member Bob Washo asked Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley if she has circulated this ad to the board and Ashley stated not at this point. Ashley stated she contacted Ag & Markets about input for the ad. Ashley added she was waiting for approval from the board before circulating a draft. It was decided that Ashley will send a draft proposal out for approval to the Town Board members.

2. Set Public Hearing for 2020 Budget 11-6-19 – See item J.#3 for date and time
3. BAR Appointment Elliot Rodee-5 Year Term 9-30-19 – 9-30-24

Motion made for approval of Elliot Rodee to serve the BAR made by Council member Jim Smith, Seconded by Council member Bob Washo, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

4. Complete Street Task Force Appointment – John Kennedy

Motion made for approval of John Kennedy to serve on Complete Streets made by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

5. Approve Spending PAVENY and EWR Funds Resolution:

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

6. Approve Transfer of Highway Contingency Funds Resolution:

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

7. Town of Russell Hold Harmless Agreement and Highway Agreement: Tabled

8. Consider Atlantic Testing Agreement Review of Environmental Testing:

Discussion was held where the funds will come from to pay for testing at the site in the amount of \$3,805.00

Motion made by Council member Bob Washo to take the monies from the A General Account, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

9. Consider River Street Planning & Development Agreement-Zoning Audit:

Motion was made by Council member Bob Washo to sign agreement to spend no more than \$3,500.00 out of the A fund, seconded by Council member Jim Smith, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

10. Taylor Park Fence Issue:

Discussion was held on the ongoing fence issue at Taylor Park. Council member Tim Danehy gave a brief history on the leased property and the agreement of maintaining a fence. Danehy gave an update on the current condition of the fence. Council member Bob Washo stated he will be staying out of the discussion, but will offer some page wire toward the project. The Town of Canton put up some fencing years back but was never to the Land owners standard. Council member Jim Smith suggested talking to Highway Superintendent about erecting a proper fence with 6 ft posts. Smith will report back to board.

11. Approve Payout to Village on Recreation Retirement Resolution:

Motion to approve resolution made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

See attached Resolution

L. Public Comment:

Toby Irven wants to see the website improve on its edits. Irven finds it difficult to find things, and things are not updated. Irven having hard time finding calendar items.

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)

7:30 p.m. Council member Jim Smith made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose of Public Officers Law 105(1) (F), seconded by Council member Tim Danehy, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

8:15 Council Member Bob Washo made a motion to come out of executive, seconded by Council Member Tim Danehy. All Voted in favor. Motion carries.

8:16 p.m. Council Member Phil LaMarche made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa A. Hammond

RESOLUTION ____

October 9, 2019

Budget Amendment

**Transfer of Funds from Special Items B-1900-1990-4 Contingency to
Parks/Recreation B-1700-7110-4 Contractual
for Half of Retiree Payout**

WHEREAS, the Village of Canton Recreation Department has had a long-time employee retire this year and the Town of Canton is sincerely appreciative of their service; and

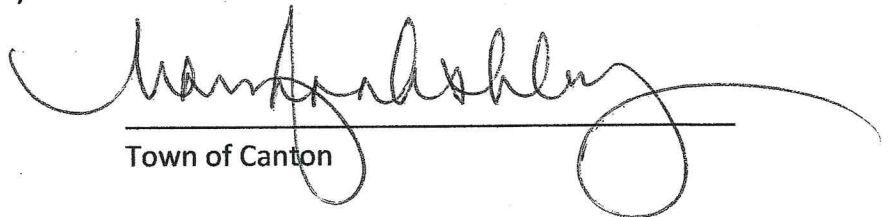
WHEREAS, the Town and Village have a shared services agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Town had not anticipated and budgeted for the cost; and

WHEREAS, a budget amendment is needed by full approval of the Town Board to transfer \$13,651.58 from B-1900-1990-4 Special Items Contingency Account to Parks & Recreation B-7100-7110-4-Contractual Expense Account; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Canton Town Board approves the budget amendment to transfer \$13,651.58 from B-1900-1990-4 to B-7100-7110-4 to cover the Parks & Recreation Employee retirement payout costs.

10/9/19
Date


Town of Canton