

**TOWN OF CANTON REGULAR  
BOARD MEETING  
6:00 PM  
September 11, 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, John Gray of Gray & Gray, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Assessor Cindy Brand, Highway Superintendent Terry Billings, Recreation Director Jim Putman, Toby Irvén, Sue Mende and County Legislator Kevin Acres

**Absent:** Historian Linda Casserly and Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray

Additions to the agenda:

September 5, 2019 Budget Work Session Minutes

Additions to New Business: #8 Canton Chamber and #9 Constitution Week

- A. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order
- B. Public Comment: none
- C. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates(s): Kevin Acres was present and gave an update on the current Sales Tax. Acres reported that a ten-year agreement to receive sales tax is up and that some parties met with the City of Ogdensburg on today's date to discuss the future. Another meeting will be held on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she is very concerned over the sales tax in that the Town only receives about \$800,000.00 and any change would be devastating to the Town.  
County Legislature Acres reported that he received a copy of everyone's fund balance and stated that the Town of Cantons is a little on the slim side, noting that the Town is around 17% of its levy. Supervisor Ashley requested a copy of this report from Acres.  
Acres said the County is considering using some of their sales tax revenue and give it to the municipalities to replace AIM money that the State eliminated.

Ruth Doyle will be contacting Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley about Solar project nominations. Acres suggested reaching out to Dan Parker former Legislator, as he has extensive knowledge on energy.

D. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting Minutes August 14, 2019

Special Meeting Minutes with Rensselaer Falls July 30, 2019

Special Budget Work Session Meeting Minutes September 5, 2019

Motion was made by Council member to approve Jim Smith the minutes listed above, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. 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. A brief discussion was held on the SM Joint account not being legal per the Comptroller. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that during the budget process the SM monies will be moved to the A account for the 2021 budget year.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that Sales Tax makes up about 1/3 of the Canton Town Budget. Ashley added that on December 5, 2019 the Town Supervisors and Village Mayors are going to hold a joint meeting with this as an agenda item. Council Member Tim Danehy wants to see where the sales tax comes from, would like to see revenue by Townships.

F. Audit Committee:

A: \$34,399.40	TA: \$13,055.53
DA: \$14,491.10	B: \$22,763.94
SL: \$296.00	SM: \$260.07
DB: \$2,794.44	

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:

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

H. Committee Reports:

Committee member Bob Washo reported that the Highway/ Complete Streets have been circulating information on the matter of Clark Street to Taylor Park Rd about potential widening. This information will be shared with the board when received with the assistance of Brooks Washburn Engineering.

Committee member Jim Smith reported that he and Committee member Phil LaMarche met with the Justices about concerns on their budget. Discussion was held on mandates by the State requiring the Courts to have certain Law Books in hard copy form. The Court has applied for JCAP funding.

Committee member Jim Smith reported that the Comprehensive Plan Public Hearings will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of September in the Village of Rensselaer Falls and the Village of Canton, jointly with the Town on both dates. County review will be received on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September with their recommendations coming to all boards.

Committee member Mary Ann Ashley reported that the Waterfront Advisory committee met and are still looking at Watershed study information. The Economic Development Consortium met, in which was a very good meeting. The committee is looking at expanding the scope of the committee for more investors, possibility asking Rensselaer Falls to join in.

Committee Member Tim Danehy reported that he and Committee member Carol Pynchon met on the Ethics Code matters and came up with a draft disclosure statement, which has been sent to both the Town and Village boards.

#### I. Old Business:

##### 1. Purchase of new copier:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that three quotes have been received and suggested taking it to Committee. Ashley hoping questions about the website can be addressed also.

##### 2. Court request for increase in 2019 contractual funds:

Motion by Council member Jim Smith made a motion to increase the Justice Court by \$1500.00. Discussion was held.

After discussion on expenditures Council member Jim Smith withdrew his motion of the \$1500.00 and made a new motion to increase the Justice Court budget by \$3,000.00, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

##### 3. Approve Argent Development Annexation Request:

Approval to annex 3.3-acre lot request by Argent Development off Sullivan Drive in the Village of Canton

Motion by Council member Tim Danehy to approve contingent on Attorney Ramsey finding out particulars on a possible special election, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.



Discussion was held on the four or five residents that live at this particular location having an option to approve this whether to accept the annexation or not. Attorney Dan Ramsey spoke with the Election Commission and stated they indicated they would support the municipalities decision on how to handle this type of situation in case a special election needed to be held so the residents can have a voice.

4. NYSDOT Response on Pyrites 8-9-18 request for Speed Limit reduction:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that the State reduced the speed limit to a 50 mph.

5. Solar Law SEQR Negative Declaration:

Attorney Dan Ramsey recommended adopting the Negative Declaration with no Environmental Impact, and then he will file it with DEC.

Council member Jim Smith, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Phil LaMarche abstained from voting.

6. Consider Passage of Solar Law:

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

Roll call vote was taken:	Jim Smith	yes
	Bob Washo	yes
	Tim Danehy	yes
	Mary Ann Ashley	yes

Council member Phil LaMarche abstained from voting

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley thanked everyone involved.

Attorney Dan Ramsey noted that the Town of Canton will be vigorously involved when these potential large-scale producers come into the area. The Town of Canton will be working with land owners, Environmental groups and municipality itself. Ramsey added that the Town of Canton merely attempting to codify protections for a jointing land owners and that everyone at the table will have a chance to be heard through the Article 10 processes.

Council member Bob Washo stated that discussion need to be held on who is going to be working with potential developers. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated that she will have it added to the Special meeting agenda on September 26, 2019 for further discussion. Washo wants the negotiating committee to be the whole board.

Attorney Ramsey will file this law with the Department of State.

J. New Business:

1. Consider Draft Canton Capital Resource Corporation By-Laws:

Toby Irven gave a brief overview of the changes made to the by-laws. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley thanked Irven and the other CCRC members for their dedication and work on the changes. Irven listed off the members of the CCRC.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley made a motion to accept the proposed changes, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

2. Appointment of Sole Assessor:

Motion to appoint Cindy Brand as Sole Assessor for a six-year term was made by Council member Tim Danehy, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Brands term will run from October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2025. Effective October 1, 2019 Cindy Brand will work as a part time employee, 19 hours a week at a salary of \$27,500.00 per year with no benefits. Brands Office hours will be held on Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays.

3. JCAP Grant Application Resolution:

Motion to approve resolution by Council Member Jim Smith, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

See attached resolution

4. Town Sponsored Health Insurance Costs:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted for the record that Health Insurance costs will increase 7.2% for active members, 9% for retirees and Simply Prescriptions an average of 7% increase.

5. Consider Planning Board Secretary Appointment: Tabled

6. NYS Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment Letter-Rich Road Solar Energy Center:

Supervisor Ashley stated that she can nominate two people to serve on an Adhoc siting board. Ashley may work with County Administrator to start this process. Council member Bob Washo stated he feels its very important to have people at the table.

7. Remington Arts Festival Request:

Discussion was held on a request from Remington Arts asking for \$1,000.00 contribution. It was denied. Council members in agreement that they would like to see the Festivals budget and then may be going ahead the Town would consider putting in their budget.

8. Chamber Agreement:

Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to approve \$5,500.00 in an agreement with the Canton Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche. All voted in favor. Motion carries.  
Approval for Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to sign agreement was approved.

9. DAR Proclamation:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley read a proclamation declaring Constitution Week which will be held on September 17, 2019 through September 23, 2019.  
So Proclaimed.

See attached.

K. Public Comment:

7:40 p.m. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley made a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of F&H, seconded by Council member Phil LaMarche, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

8:00 p.m. Council Member Phil LaMarche made a motion to come out of executive, seconded by Council Member Bob Washo. All Voted in favor. Motion carries.

8:01 p.m. Council Member Jim Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council Member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted

Lisa A. Hammond



**RESOLUTION**  
In Support of a  
**JUSTICE COURT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM GRANT**

September 11, 2019

**WHEREAS,** The Town of Canton authorizes the Canton Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2019-2020 grant cycle up to \$30,000.00, or the exact amount being requested;

**WHEREAS,** The Justice Court for the Town of Canton has a heavy caseload because of the presence of two colleges, the County jail within its jurisdictions, and the Village Court dissolving in December, 2012, merging with the Town and;


**WHEREAS,** The Canton Court System operates at a high degree of efficiency despite the constraints faced by a community where 65% of its property is tax exempt; and

**WHEREAS,** The Canton Court System could improve its efficiency by using a grant through the Justice Court Assistance program that would upgrade a number of office supplies and materials; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED,** The Town of Canton does hereby support an application for a Assistance Program grant that will allow for badly-needed updating of the office's equipment and systems.

By order of the Town Board of Canton:

Date:

  
Mary Ann Ashley, Supervisor

9/11/19

# PROCLAMATION

**Whereas:** *The Constitution of the United States of America, the guardian of our liberties, embodies the principles of limited government in a Republic dedicated to rule by law; and*

**Whereas:** *September 17, 2019, marks the two hundred thirty second anniversary of the framing of the Constitution of the United States of America by the Constitutional Conventions: and*

**Whereas:** *It is fitting and proper to accord official recognition to this magnificent document and its memorable anniversary, and to the patriotic celebrations which will commemorate it; and*

**Whereas:** *Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the President of the United States of America designating September 17 through 23 as Constitution Week;*

**Now, Therefore I,** Mary Ann Ashley, *by virtue of the authority vested in me as Supervisor of the Town of Canton do hereby proclaim the week of September 17 through 23 as*

## Constitution Week

*And ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals the Framers of the Constitution had in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties,*

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Canton to be affixed this 11<sup>th</sup> day of September of the year two thousand nineteen.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

