

# Village of Canton, New York

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: January 21, 2020

### ***Board Present:***

Michael Dalton, Mayor  
Beth Larrabee, Trustee  
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Carol Pynchon, Trustee  
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

### ***Others Present:***

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney  
Brien Hallahan, Superintendent  
Cara Adams, Deputy Clerk  
James Santimaw, Police Chief  
Linda Casserly, Historian

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer  
Jim Putman, Recreation Director  
Jeff Murray, Code Officer  
Cindy Brand, Assessor

**ORDER OF BUSINESS:** The Mayor opened the regular meeting at 6:30pm.

**Mayor Dalton added the following item under New Business:**

**f. Complete Streets Appointment- Kara McLuckie**

**Mayor Dalton moved the following item up from New Business:**

**d. Approve Promotion of Police Officer Ryan Cole to Sergeant Effective**

**Immediately-** Trustee Larrabee stated that it was a delight to interview Officer Ryan Cole for the Sergeant position. She stated that Officer Cole has been with the Village Police for five years, Narcotic Certified, part of the St. Lawrence County Drug Task Force, Firearms Instructor, Instructor at the Academy and has a great work ethic.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to promote Police Officer Ryan Cole to Sergeant Effective Immediately. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- a. Approve minutes of December 16, 2019 -** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16<sup>th</sup>; seconded by Trustee Proemm. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

Trustee Proemm made a motion to accept the Department Head Reports; seconded by Trustee Larrabee. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Recreation Report- Recreation Director Putman stated that the Food Bank sponsored a Public Skate on Christmas Eve that was well attended. Knights of Columbus sponsored a Public Skate on Christmas, attendance was down.

Recreation Director Putman asked the Board for the feedback on the following:

Possibility on keeping the ice down at the Pavilion open through April and holding swim lessons at Taylor Park?

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Recreation Committee Supports both of the suggestions but they are looking for feedback from families on their thoughts of holding swim lessons at Taylor Park.

Trustee Larrabee stated that she is interested in hearing the feedback. She has concerns of the safety with the dark moving waters.

A decision will be made once the feedback is received.

Police Report- Chief Santimaw thanked Sergeant Andy Dow if his years of service and congratulated him on his retirement. Sergeant Dow's last day was January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Santimaw thanked the Board for the support on Sergeant Ryan Cole promotion.

Clerk/Treasurer Report- Clerk Noble did not have anything to add.

Economic Developer Report- Economic Developer Rodriguez was not present at the meeting.

Superintendent Report- Superintendent Hallahan did not have anything to add.

Trustee Pynchon asked Superintendent Hallahan about the replacing of the signs in his report and on the NYMIR Report. Superintendent Hallahan stated that the recommendation is from NYMIR. They will continue to replace the stop signs and street signs. They recommend changing the signs at night to check the reflectiveness.

Trustee Pynchon asked about the bids of the Maple Hill project? Superintendent Hallahan stated that the Bid documents are ready, just waiting for the legal transfer of the property. Attorney Ducharme stated that the property transfer doesn't have to go through before the bid documents are sent out. Superintendent Hallahan will send the bid documents out and advertise the bid.

Historian Report- Historian Casserly stated that she has four files of pictures that are not identified. Renice Bisnett is a fabulous worker and is working on identifying them. Renice has organized her office. Between Renice and Rachel she has some great people working in her office.

Assessor Report- Assessor Brand informed the Board that she is wrapping up with the exemptions and is looking forward to getting back out in the field.

Code Officer Report- Code Officer Murray did not have anything to add to his report.

Trustee Sorensen asked Code Officer Murray what questions he is receiving about 19 Miner Street? Code Officer Murray stated people are wondering what is going to happen? Mayor Dalton stated that the issues will be addressed soon.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Golf Committee- Trustee Pynchon informed the Board that Bacon Brothers have decided not to continue the concession at the Golf Course. An RFP was sent out but no responses were received. She suggested that they try to get the word out for the concession stand at the Municipal Golf Course.

Recreation Committee- Trustee Pynchon stated that Mayor Dalton will be meeting with the School to discuss reciprocal use of ice time/pool time and come up with an understanding.

Trustee Pynchon informed the Board that applications are coming in for the Economic Development Assistant.

Trustee Pynchon wanted to inform the Public when the following Committee meetings are:

Recreation Committee Meeting- Second Wednesday at 10:30am

Economic Committee Meeting- First Tuesday after the Steering Committee

Communication & Technology Meeting- Fourth Monday at 5:00pm

Trustee Proemm added the following:

Complete Streets Meeting- First Monday at 5:00pm

Sustainability Committee Meeting- Second Tuesday at 5:00pm

Trustee Proemm stated that the Level 2 EV Charger should be installed by March 1<sup>st</sup> and the Level 1 charger is on backorder until March.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Zoning Audit-** Attorney Ducharme stated he is waiting for confirmation on meeting with Monica on February 13<sup>th</sup>. After Board discussion, Trustee Pynchon is going to send the Draft Contract for the Zoning Audit to the Board to review. Margaret from River Street needs to sign off on the draft contract before the Village can sign.
- b. **Information Resources and Technology Use Policy-** Trustee Pynchon thanked the Board for feedback on the Policy. Topic has been tabled.
- c. **Update on File Sharing-** Trustee Pynchon thanked everyone for their patience on the file sharing.
- d. **Discuss Capital Improvement Tax Exemption-** Attorney Ducharme stated that a change to the Capital Improvement Tax Exemption would be a change to code and tax law provision. The exemption is currently \$50,000 but could be increased up to \$80,000.

Assessor Brand stated that there are currently four exemptions in the Village. The exemptions are for 8 years and are reduced by 12.5% each year.

Assessor Brand stated that the Enhanced Star Exemption is available for people turning 65 this year, deadline is March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Assessor Brand recommended adjusting the low income guidelines as well.

After Board discussion the Board agreed to have a Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Tax Exemption and Low Income Guidelines on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:20pm.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # **08 of 2019-2020**. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$103,324.67	Golf Course	\$4,160.29
Water Fund	\$39,720.22	Joint Activity	\$15,494.99
Sewer Fund	\$23,734.34		

- b. **Green Living Fair Resolution-**

**RESOLUTION  
GREEN LIVING  
FAIR**

WHEREAS, the Village of Canton established the Canton Sustainability Committee to strengthen Canton's future through sustainable development and passed a Climate Smart Community resolution pledging to do its part by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and working with the community to adapt to rapid climate changes; and

WHEREAS, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for the changes in climate that are already happening will benefit the community through economic growth, more jobs, improved health, greater security and a cleaner environment; and WHEREAS, as a Climate Smart Community, the village has pledged to support the development of a green innovation economy and to inform and inspire the public by, among other actions, holding a green vendor fair and hosting climate-related education seminars, workshops, conferences, or fairs; and

WHEREAS, the Canton Sustainability Committee is partnering with the Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley and Paul Smith's College, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and other organizations in Canton and Potsdam to organize the *North Country Sustainability Day & Green Living Fair* April 3 & 4, 2020 at St. Lawrence University for the purpose of inspiring and empowering everyone to combat the global climate crisis by fostering a culture of sustainability across the North Country and beyond; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Village of Canton will be an enthusiastic partner in the event and urges residents to participate.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to pass the resolution and be a partner for the event. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- c. **Sales Tax Resolution-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the Resolution Opposing Any Change in County Sales Tax Apportionment to Local Municipalities. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**VILLAGE OF CANTON  
RESOLUTION  
OPPOSING ANY CHANGE IN THE COUNTY  
SALES TAX APPORTIONMENT TO LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES  
January 21, 2020**

**WHEREAS**, in 1965, New York State enabled counties to collect sales tax because Medicaid expenses became a shared expense between the counties and the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Lawrence County Board of Supervisors, at that time in 1965, decided to share 50% of realized sales tax revenues with local governments, including the City of Ogdensburg; and an additional one percent sales tax was added in 2012, and they agreed to share that additional one percent with local governments including the City of Ogdensburg; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the 10-year agreement being up for re-negotiation between St. Lawrence County and the City of Ogdensburg, a county committee has been appointed to study and re-negotiate the existing sales tax distribution formula with the City of Ogdensburg in closed-door sessions; and

**WHEREAS**, the position of the county needing more funding to meet Medicaid costs, in addition to the need to re-negotiate the sales tax agreement with the City of Ogdensburg, may result in the county benefiting from additional sales tax revenues and the local governments, including the City, receiving decreased revenues;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Village of Canton, on behalf of its citizens, opposes change to the current negotiated sales tax formula between the City of Ogdensburg and St. Lawrence County. Any change will devastate the Village of Canton municipal budget, resulting in significant local tax increases, possible personnel layoffs, and cancelation of non-essential programs.

- e. **Approve Tim Nolan to attend Annual Training in Lake Placid-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve Tim Nolan to attend the Annual Code Enforcement Training in Lake Placid. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
- f. **Complete Streets Appointment- Kara McLuckie-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to appoint Kara McLuckie to the Complete Streets as an alternate. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Ethics Board will need to be established to share with the Town and Village. After the Ethics Board is established the disclosures will be discussed. The Ethic Disclosures will be discussed at the next Joint Village/Town Meeting.

Trustee Larrabee acknowledged the passing of Don Tracey and his commitment to the Fire Department and the Community.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:18pm. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Adams  
Deputy Clerk