

**TOWN OF CANTON REGULAR
BOARD MEETING BY ZOOM**

6:00 PM

August 13, 2020

Minutes

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

Also in Attendance: Town Clerk/Tax Collector and Zoom Moderator Lisa Hammond, Attorney Eric Gustafson, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Assessor Cindy Brand, John Gray of Gray and Gray, Recreation Director Jim Putman, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, Historian Linda Casserly, Planning Board Chair Michael Morgan, Adam Atkinson, St. Lawrence University President Dr. Bill Fox, Vice President of Community and Employee Relations Lisa Cania, SUNY Canton President Dr. Zvi Szafran, Executive Director for University Relations SUNY Canton Lenore Vanderzee, Administrative Coordination for Associated Colleges of the St. Lawrence Valley Ben Dixon

Absent: Highway Superintendent Terry Billings

A. Call Meeting to Order: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the zoom meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Supervisor noted that Lisa Hammond is the moderator for the meeting.

B. Colleges Reopening:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley introduced College representatives and thanked them for attending the Town meeting. Ashley stated that all the colleges are reopening, and we are looking for a brief statement from the representatives on how they are feeling about the reopening and give us information on the plans being set forth. All Colleges have their reopening plans on their websites. Ashley encourages everyone to review those plans. Ben Dixon stated that he will post the link "return to College page web page for the Associated College, which has all of the information"

Zvi Szafran spoke first stating that he is looking forward to the kids returning to College, as it has been lonely on campus. Classes will start on August 31, 2020. Students will start arriving between the 17th and the 30th of August. Students will be tested for the Covid-19 virus upon arrival and be quarantined until negative results are given. Isolation places have been established in case of a positive result.

Dr. Fox began by thanking the Canton Town and Village boards for the tremendous support and helping get ready for reopening. Fox stated that community support is essential. Students will be coming in from around the world. St. Lawrence University is going to run a three-semester academic year, so a two semester in person can be offered. 1700 students will be attending St. Lawrence University with 250 remote and 40 commuters. Fox stated that fall sports are going to be very well missed, as sports is a big part of St. Lawrence's life.

St. Lawrence has a great relationship with St. Lawrence Health System and Health Department. Everyone on campus will be tested.

Lisa Cania stated that the students will be retested a second time after two weeks of arrival. Cania added that they are working very hard to be observant of our students and employees.

Lenore Vanderzee stated that it has been a pleasure working with St. Lawrence University and Ben Dixon on best practices on the same goal of keeping everyone healthy.

Ben Dixon stated that it's important to recognize the five universities that have been working together with tremendous collaboration with the municipalities, Public Health and the St. Lawrence County Health System. Dixon added that the Law Enforcement agencies and the County Legislators have played a big role in reopening of Colleges.

Zvi Szafran added to Dixon's acknowledgement of both the Town and Villages boards help in this difficult time. Szafran stated that he has never seen anything like this anywhere else he has been and thanked everyone.

Council member Tim Danehy thanked everyone for their information and looks forward to the students returning to Canton. Danehy is looking forward to making this work for the community and the students.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley note that SUNY Canton hosted a food give away earlier in the day and everything went very well. It was very well attended. The event was sponsored by the American Dairy Association and SUNY Canton was the host.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley congratulated Dr. Fox on his retirement date of summer 2021

Leigh Rodriguez added that the College reopening plans are on the Website Town and Village.

C. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates: none

D. Public Comment: none

E. Approval of Minutes

Joint Meeting 6/29/2020
Regular Meeting 7/8/2020
Special Meeting 7/31/2020

Motion to approve minutes made by Council member Tim Danehy, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carries.

F. Supervisor Report:

John Gray of Gray and Gray read over the monthly report of the Supervisors Office, which was sent to the Town Council prior to the meeting. Questions and answers were received, and fund balances were discussed. Gray read over the report. A copy of this report is filed in the Town Clerks Office.

Gray added that the AUD has been filed with the State and accepted. Supervisor added that this is the last year that a separate AUD will have to be filed for the Joint account, as the Joint account was moved to the A account.

Supervisor Ashley added that the spending freeze will remain in effect for another month.

G. Correspondence:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted correspondences:

A resolution was passed for the St Rt 68 paving project asking for support of the Complete Streets recommendations and unfortunately, they are not able to help with those recommendations. They stated that it would require a capital project. Council member Bob Washo stated that he is very disappointed in this response. Washo will encourage the Complete Streets committee to send a follow up letter regarding the center line groove proposal.

SLIC Network Solutions filed a Notice of Petition, as well as to the Board of Assessment Review. SLIC feels their assessment is excessive, therefore they are taking us to Court. Attorney Eric Gustafson is aware of this filing.

St. Lawrence Hotels Ventures has also filed a Notice of Petition against the Board of Assessment Review and the Assessor for the Town of Canton and that is going to Supreme Court. Attorney Gustafson also is aware of this.

H. Audit Committee:

A: \$30,051.66
B: \$5,884.58
SL: \$0
TA: \$15,751.15
DA: \$9,238.13
DB: \$169,249.79
SF: \$12,596.00

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

I. Acceptance of Department Reports:

Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez stated that she and staff are back in the office. Rodriguez went over items in her report. Dairy Queen is under new construction. Rodriguez added that she is plugging away on the grants and is in the process of submitting a number of reimbursement requests. Rodriguez is working with Dairy Queen on their job hiring process. The Village Park Fountain is moving along nicely and looking great. The Regional Economic Development Council will not be doing the CFA process this year but was to be expected with what is going on this year with the COVID. Surveys have gone out by the REDC. Signage is going out to welcome students back to the community.

Council member Bob Washo asked Rodriguez about the Farmers market and how busy it has been. Rodriguez stated that it has been quite busy per the Market Manager. Rodriguez to look into the face to face contact of how it is going at the market and report back.

Recreation Director Jim Putman stated that he has nothing to add to his written report. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley asked about the Beach and Kayak rentals. Putman stated numbers are down.

Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray stated that Dairy Queen should be opening in September. Construction permits are higher than the Village for the first time noted Murray. Still garbage complaints but working on them.

Clerk Lisa Hammond stated that things are going well. Hammond noted that Mike Shaw replaced her plastic wrap with Polly glass in the framework on her counter. Both Deputy Clerk Heidi Smith and Hammond did the training on Discrimination and Harassment in the workplace. Highway Superintendent Terry Billings also took the training with the help of Deputy Heidi Smith. Hunting sales have started. The public continues being respectful due to the COVID. School taxes will be mailed the last day of August and collection will begin the first week of September. School has delivered supplies.

Assessor Cindy Brand noted that the State sent notice on about fifteen Canton residents to remove their STAR status due to taxes not being paid for over one year. Residents will have until September 30th, 2020 to pay or they will lose their STAR status. Brand stated she has been on St. Lawrence University collecting data.

Historian Linda Casserly stated that she met with the New County Historian Nancy Lefavroe and enjoyed it very much. Casserly to volunteer to work with her on new exhibits. Casserly continues to field phone calls.

Motion made by Council member Karin Blackburn to accept department reports as presented, seconded by Council member Bob Washo, all voted in favor. Motion carries.

J. Committee Reports:

Council member Bob Washo stated that Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, himself, Mayor Michael Dalton and Carol Pyncheon are going to look at the committees, and really look at identifying

which ones are standing committees and which ones are appointed to elevate confusion about the process.

Bob Washo Lead Liaison for the Complete Street Task Force would like to nominate Phil Lamarche to serve on that committee.

Washo added that the Waterfront Advisory Committee has been reconstituted with Tom Lang as the Chair. Washo has been attending those meetings as board liaison and they have three names that they want to move forward to fill out that committee. Keith Zimmerman, John Danis and Jacob Morley. All three are interested in serving.

Bob Washo reported that Highway Superintendent Terry Billings has been working with Star Carter of DANC. 50% of the roads have been marked where culverts are. Billings has also offered to help identify where some of these assets are on the gravel roads.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated she supports the committee names and thanked them for their willingness to step up.

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to appoint Phil Lamarche to the Complete Streets Task Force, seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to appoint Keith Zimmerman, John Danis and Jacob Morley to the Waterfront Advisory Committee, seconded by Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Tim Danehy talked with the Court and the court reopening has gone smoothly. Court attendance is way down at this time.

Danehy added that the Economic Development sent out a number of application forms for the recovery program.

K. Old Business:

1. Ethics Law:

The Town and Village Law calls for a creation of an Ethics Board. Council member Bob Washo stated that he is favor of moving forward with the Town and Village Board nominations. Washo added that the Village of Canton is also in agreement. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley asked who would be doing the leg work? Ashley wants to be clear and suggested Labor Attorney Romers Office for doing this. After a lengthy conversation was held by the Town Board members and Village of Canton Trustee Carol Pynchon, Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley recapped this "it looks like we are moving forward to create our own Town and Village Ethics Board. The Town needs to come up with two nominees.

2. Consider NYPA Easement Agreement:

Council Member Bob Washo stated that the Town is working on an easement on Town Property where there is nonresidential properties.

Clerk Lisa Hammond noted that a resident from another municipality called about

Bob Washo made a motion to enter into an agreement with NYPA and the Town of Canton, Town owned property, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

3. Consider Setting Public Hearing Date for Energy Storage Law:

Planning Board Chair Mike Morgan stated that he has met several times with both Bob Washo and Jim Smith along with Matilda from the County Planning Office. A rather robust email exchange occurred. We passed on our model to the Planning Board at the County with a bunch of suggestions. The Town Planning Board did add one caveat that if the project was to big and over our heads, we would have the right to hire a firm that could handle it better.

Attorney Eric Gustafson added that he wants to meet with Jim Smith, Bob Washo and Mike Morgan and go over some of the language. Gustafson noted that the Town is coming near to needing to extend the Moratorium or probably set a Public Hearing, which both would require a Public Hearing.

L. New Business:

1. Highway Committee recommendation of Road Projects:

Council member Bob Washo stated that seven proposals for road work had been circulated to the board members for their consideration. Washo added that there is still \$75,000 in CHIPS and another \$95,000 or so out there for emergency weather and Pave NY. The Town is waiting to hear from the State. Washo went over project list noting that the Village of Rensselaer Falls project is income generating. \$147,000 already received in reimbursement from the State this year.

Council member Bob Washo made a motion to approve the projects as presented, seconded by Council member Jim Smith. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Council member Jim Smith noted that he and Council member Bob Washo monitor closely the expenditures of these projects. Smith added that the brakes will come on if we should not have the money to cover the projects and Highway Superintendent Terry Billings is aware of this fact. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley wants a written agreement with the Village of Rensselaer Falls on the project.

See attached proposal

2. Consider updated Anti-Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Policy:

Council member Jim Smith made a motion to approve Anti-Discrimination/Sexual Harassment Policy, seconded by Council member Karin Blackburn. All Voted in favor. Motions carries.

See attached Policy

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted that a few employees are still in need of training.

3. Shared Services Agreement Town of Lisbon Highway: Discussion was held on agreements with other Municipalities that the Town of Canton works with. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted that we have a shared services agreement with the County, but do not have a reciprocal one back even though she has requested it. Discussion was held on the process of moving forward with agreement with municipalities. Council member Bob Washo suggested having an agreement to plow in the Village of Rensselaer Falls. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley asked the highway committee to get a list of municipalities and bring it back to the board. Attorney Eric Gustafson noted that many municipalities do not use agreements, but it would not hurt to have them in place going forward.

4. Charter Communications Agreement:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley stated for informational purposes that Charter Communication agreement needs to be discussed and reviewed as the current agreement is up in September of 2021. This is a 15-year agreement. Ashley noted that the Town Board sets the rate for taxes and right now were at 5% franchise tax.

5. 2021 Budget Calendar:

A budget work session will be held on September 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

M. Public Comment: Toby Irven thanked the board members for their work on matters and stated that he respects that fact. Irven also expressed his concerns about the process and reminded the board that the Complete Streets Task Force is not merely a frivolous exercise in writing resolutions that don't go anywhere. Discussion was held back and forth between Council member Bob Washo and Irven. Irven expressed his dislike of not being informed that the committee would be bringing recommendation to the Board at this meeting. Council member Bob Washo stated that the Complete Streets Task Force on the Minor State Road has been heavily engaged, adding that the Town has funding issues and stated that we are putting band aids on our roads. Washo stated that he is always thinking about pedestrian safety and where we could do that. Washo stated that he is committed to road projects and is doing everything he can to help be the liaison in the process. Irven stated he is not finding fault with Washo, but fault with Planning.

8:00 PM Council member Jim Smith made a motion to go into 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) f, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carries.

9:19 PM Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Council member Karin Blackburn. All in favor. Motion carries.

9:20 PM Council member Tim Danehy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa A. Hammond - Town Clerk