

**TOWN OF CANTON BOARD  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BUDGET WORK SESSION**

September 2, 2020

7:00 PM

Minutes

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

Also, in Attendance: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Lisa Hammond, Town Attorney Eric Gustafson, Deputy Clerk/Deputy Tax Collector Heidi Smith, Historian Linda Casserly, John Gray of Gray & Gray, Susan Huntley, Adam Atkinson of North Country Now, Ellis Giacomelli of the Watertown Times and Toby Irvén

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

B. Consider Setting Public Hearing for Moratorium Extension on Solar Storage Law:

Motion to hold a Public Hearing for the purpose of Extending the Moratorium on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 5:45 by Council member Bob Washo, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor.

C. 2021 Budget Discussion:

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley started out the discussion by thanking Gray and Gray and Susan Huntley for working on this preliminary proposal. Ashley provided binders to the board members with the proposals. COVID played a big part in the proposals of the 2021 Budget by stating a proposed budget of \$2,985,636 remaining under the tax cap of 1.56%. Appropriations for 2020 were 2,838,998. The taxable Assessed property value is at \$387,990,588.00 for 2021. Ashley is proposing a .05 cent tax increase per \$1,000.

A 2.5 % increase in salaries was proposed by Ashley. Council members questioned that Ashley was going on the fact that the Highway Department received this due to their contract negotiations with the Town.

Ashley is proposing discontinuing a previous approved position in the Supervisor's Office, and a part position in the Historians Office. Ashley also proposed cutting the Chamber of Commerce, the VFW and the Senior Citizen funds.

\$32,201.00 was discussed in cuts from the Recreation Department. During discussions it was decided that the Town and Village hold a joint meeting to discuss future funding and

give feed back to the Recreation committee members as the Town and Village share this service.

Council member Bob Washo wants to see CHIPS monies stay in the budget for highway, but not count on PAVENY or EWR due to the uncertainty of weather it will be coming back next year.

Discussion was held on increasing the four fire departments that serve the Town. Council members questioned the distribution of the monies and requested seeing a detailed budget from the Canton Fire Department.

Other proposals from Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley are to increase funding for the part time Court Clerk hours and a part position in the Code Enforcement Officers Office.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley noted that \$825.00 will have to be put in the budget to cover the 1<sup>st</sup> of a 4 year GSI Highway Contract.

Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council will conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identified as proper by Public Officers Law 105(1)

8:18 pm Motion to go into executive session for the purposes of (f) by Council member Tim Danehy, seconded by Council member Karin Blackburn. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

9:13 pm. Motion to come out of executive session by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, seconded by Council member Tim Danehy. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

9:14 pm. Motion to adjourn meeting by Council member Karin Blackburn, seconded by Council member Bob Washo. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted

Lisa Hammond, Town Clerk