

CANTON TOWN BOARD
Organizational Meeting
January 6, 2021
6:00pm
Via Zoom

Present

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council Members Bob Washo, Tim Danehy, and James Smith

Also in Attendance

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Karin Blackburn, Historian Linda Casserly, Attorney Eric Gustafson
Members of the Public: Heather Newcombe, John Taillon, Heidi Smith, Linda Soulia, Dan Soulia, Martha Foley-Smith, Brandon Kelley, Heidi Smith, Adam Atkinson, Ellis Giacomelli, Susan Huntly

Absent

Assessor Cindy Brand, Highway Superintendent Calvin Rose, Town Justice Michael Morgan, Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez, Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Murray, John Gray

A. Call to Order

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order at order: 6:01pm
Moment of Silence to think about what is happening in our capitol today.

B. Public Comment

John Taillon: Brief statement: "I've known some of you Board members for quite some time and I'm very disappointed in your lack of transparency and obvious ramrodding of your own agendas, and not listening to the people who voted you into office. For example, during last week's vote to appoint the Town Clerk, it was obvious you were in such a hurry, I thought you already knew how the vote was going to go, you didn't take the time to clarify councilman Smith's vote. Everyone on that meeting would have like to have been clear on what his vote was. That brings us to tonight. You are appointing a new Board member. Once again, no transparency. You did not provide any interested people the opportunity to submit a letter of interest and qualifications. On December 21, when I heard about the opening, I reached out to the Supervisor and Deputy Supervisor asking the question, or what needed to happen to be considered for that spot. The response I received was, 'I'm not able to answer your question, at this is time. The board will need to discuss this at a future date.' Well, to this date, there's been no public outreach by the Board looking for interested persons. So, it's pretty obvious you already had someone lined up on the resignation that previous person submitted. The people of Canton deserve better. Thank you for your time."

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley thanked John for his comments.

C. Roemer, Wallens & Meneaux Labor Services Agreement

Approving the Supervisor to enter into an agreement, on behalf of the Board, with Roemer, Wallens, and Menaux for labor services – extend for a one-year contract. Motion to have the Supervisor enter into an agreement on the behalf of the Town for one year made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Jim Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Town Board Member Appointment through 12/31/21

The Board was approached by four individuals, and the Board took this into consideration. Selected someone to fill the seat until the end of the year. Martha Foley Smith is willing to serve for the year. The Board appreciates this.

Mary Ann Ashley gave a brief review of Martha's history and career.

Motion to appoint Martha Foley Smith as a Town Board Member to fill out the remainder of the year made by Bob, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Comments/Discussion:

Bob appreciates the other three individuals who stepped up, and thanked Martha for stepping up.

Tim Danehy echoed Bob's comments, having someone with Martha's experience and knowledge of regional issues is a big win for the Board and everyone in Canton.

Procedural for this term there will be an election to finish out the last two years.

Appointment is through the end of 2021, and the election is to serve 2022 and 2023.

Comments by Martha:

"Honored to be here. Happy to be able to participate in this little government system. Hopes to be an asset and not a deficit."

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley thanked Martha for her willingness to serve, and the three other Board members for serving.

Bob did say that Martha hasn't been sworn in yet - keep that in mind.

E. Supervisor Appointments

1. Deputy Supervisor – Bob Washo

Served in this role for three years. Graciously accepting this appointment.

Bob accepts appointment.

2. Historian – Linda Casserly

Linda has been around a long time. Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley said the Board appreciates her service and would like to continue this appointment.

Linda Casserly accepts appointment.

3. Fire Warden(s) – Jeff Murray – Town of Canton, and Eric Johnson – Pyrites

Same appointments as last year.

4. Board Committee Assignments

16 committees, subject to change.

Audit: Smith/Open Seat (Odd), Danehy/Washo (Even)
 BOA: Danehy/Open Seat
 Economic Development: Danehy/Open Seat (Shared Town and Village)
 Highway: Smith/Washo
 Insurance: Ashley/Open Seat
 Justice: Danehy/Smith
 Negotiations: Ashley/Smith
 Policy: Ashley/Smith
 Recreation: Danehy/Open Seat (Shared Town and Village)
 Shared Services: Danehy/Open Seat (Shared Town and Village)
 Solar: Smith/Washo
 Sustainability: Washo (Shared Town and Village)
 Trails/Complete Streets: Washo (Shared Town and Village)
 Waterfront Advisory: Smith/Washo (Shared Town and Village)
 Technology & Communications: Washo/Open Seat (Shared Town and Village)
 Zoning/Code Audit: Smith/Washo
 This list has been reviewed and now that Martha has joined there will likely be possible changes.

F. Board Appointments

1. Dog Control Officer
 Motion to enter into an agreement with James Pipher for the year 2021 made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Jim Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.
Comments/Discussion:
 Bob: please thank Jim for his years of service.
2. Dog Kennel Contract
 Continuation of contract with Dan Moyer out of Gouverneur. Motion to enter into an agreement with Dan Moyer for Dog Kennel Services made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.
3. Planning Board Member/Alternate(s) 5-Year Appointment(s) 12/31/25
 Planning Board Member Appointment: Joel Howie has declined to be appointed again. He served 2 terms (10 years) Betsy Hodge, who has an agriculture background, has agreed to step up, the appointment ends 12/31/25. Motion to appoint Betsy Hodge as a voting member of the Planning Board for a five-year appointment made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Jim Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.
Comments/Discussion:
 Bob – Joel was serving his seat as an agriculture representative. Town Law encourages municipalities with Agriculture Districts within their Township to have at least one, if not two, agriculture producers on their Planning Board. Joel served very well in that capacity, but with him stepping aside, Betsy has offered to step up. Betsy operates a farm on the Finnegan Road, she has been a regional

agricultural educator, and comes with a wealth of experience.

Planning Board Alternate: Two people interested in serving as alternates: Bill Myers – he has been on Town and Village Sustainability Committee for the last three years, and Nicole Hayes, recommended by Joel to serve. She currently works in the real estate world in Canton, born and raised here. Joint motion to appoint Bill Myers and Nicole Hayes to the Planning Board as Alternates made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.

Comments/Discussion:

Bob Washo is grateful that people are willing to step up and serve.

4. Board of Assessment Review 5-Year Term Appointments

Collin Mackey's term is up and he is willing to serve another 5 years. The Board appreciates his willingness. Motion to appoint Collin Mackey to another 5-year term until September 2025 made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.

G. Rules and Procedures

1. Set dates/times/place for 2021 regular Board meetings:

2nd Thursday of the month via Zoom at 6pm.

Works for the Board Members, and both Martha Foley-Smith and Eric Gustafson.

2. Proposed dates for joint T/V Meeting for 2021:

1/27; 4/28; 7/28; 10/27 (All Wednesdays at 6pm)

Works for the Board.

3. Designation of the official Newspaper(s)

Utilized Watertown Daily Times and St. Plaindealer for years.

New proposal to use North Country This Week and name them as an official newspaper. Circulation and reader numbers are impressive.

Comments/Discussion:

Danehy: We can have multiple official newspapers, correct?

Smith: Multiple newspapers have been used in the past. We can move forward using Watertown Daily Times and North Country This Week.

Danehy: It is in the best interest for the Town to designate Watertown Daily Times and North Country This Week for 2021, for a smooth transition.

Washo: Agrees, and the Village did as well.

Ashley: Reminded the Board that there will be additional costs.

Motion to designate Watertown Daily Times and North Country this Week as the official newspapers for the Town made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.

4. Official Depository

The Town has used Community Bank for years.

Motion that Community Bank be the Town's official depository made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Mileage Allowance

Currently paying \$.575 per mile for 2020.

\$.56 per mile for 2021 (Federal)

Motion to continue to stick with Federal mileage reimbursement made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.

6. Review and Discuss Procurement Policy

Additional discussion about what should and shouldn't be in the Procurement Policy. Mary Ann would like to hear from the Board.

Washo: For the professional services that currently exist, maybe every three years – going into the final year (match it with the Supervisor's opening – 4th year of a Supervisor's term) –have a new RFP sent out. Right now, there is no language telling us when to do it. Canvas for the sake of the process.

Ashley: This policy hasn't been reviewed since 2013. It's healthy to review.

Washo: Every four years – keeps everyone honest.

Smith: Good idea to review – ready to move the procurement policy. He and Mary Ann can review and insert the suggestions from the other Board members, and then bring it back to the Board to review.

Motion to continue editing the current policy until the new one is proposed made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carried.

Danehy: agrees to extend what's on the books now.

Ashley's hope is to have a draft for next week's meeting, if not then the February meeting.

Ashley asked Eric if there's anything that the Board should be looking at in particular. Eric asked to see the draft and then he will send his comments.

7. Terminate the Temporary Highway Position

Created at the end of last year – it was needed because there was a person that retired at the end of this year. Calvin selected someone, because of the weather they needed to train someone else. Going on record to terminate that position.

Washo: had someone who retired from the job while still on the books. The person who was on the books is now officially retired. That position is no longer necessary.

Motion to terminate made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carried.

H. 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) H the proposed acquisition, sale or lease of real property and F matters pertaining to medical, financial, credit employment history of a particular person or corporation or matters, leading to the appointment employment

promotion demotion discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

1. 6:37pm Council Member Jim Smith made a motion to go into Executive Session, 2nd by Council Member Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. 7:20pm Clerk Blackburn left Executive Session.
3. 7:42pm Council Member Bob Washo made a motion to come out of Executive Session, 2nd by Tim Danehy. All in favor. Motion carried.
4. 7:44pm Council Member Tim Danehy made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karin Blackburn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Karin Blackburn
Town Clerk