

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes: February 17, 2021

Board Present:

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Others Present:

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney
Cara Adams, Deputy Clerk
Cindy Brand, Assessor
James Santimaw, Chief

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
Leigh Rodriguez, Economic Developer
Marty Miller, Superintendent
Linda Casserly, Historian

PUBLIC HEARING: Mayor Dalton opened the Public Hearing at 6:02pm and read the following:

Each public hearing and the Board's regular monthly meeting will be conducted by use of Zoom video-conference, as authorized by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Orders 202.1 and 202.15 and subsequent extensions including Executive Order 202.92.

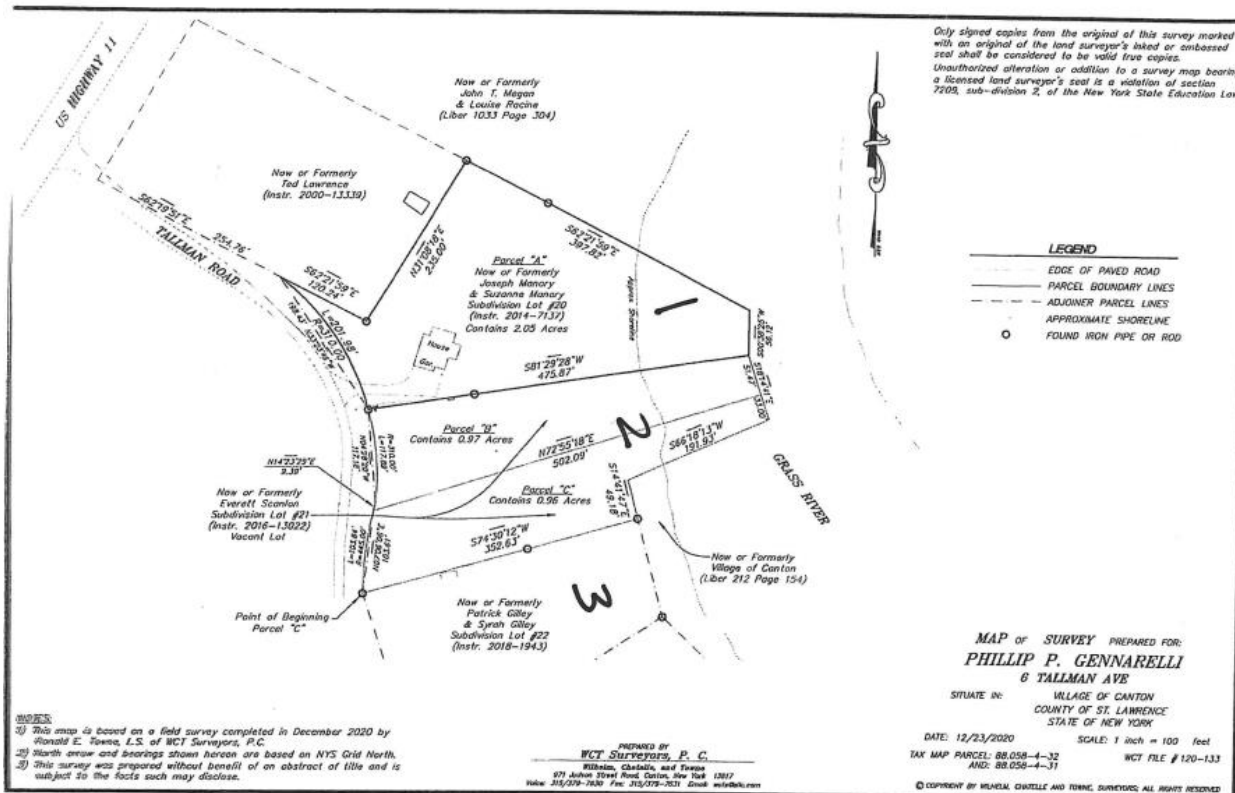
A. The first public hearing will commence at 6:00pm to consider a proposed subdivision of property located on Tallman Road in the Village of Canton (*Tax Map #88.058-4-31*). The property is located in the R-2 zone, and is described as Subdivision Lot #21 (*Instrument #2016-13022*), comprising approximately 1.93 acres of land. The applicant proposes to divide the property in half. Public comment will be received concerning the subdivision proposal, and possible environmental impacts, if any.

Attorney Ducharme referenced the memo that was sent to the Board explaining the subdivision:

- A. The lot labeled #1 is Subdivision Lot #20 on Tallman Road. It is listed on the map as owned by Joseph and Suzanne Manory. They conveyed title to Alessandra J. Parker, as Trustee of the Gennarelli Revocable Trust, by deed dated 12/10/2020 and recorded with the St. Lawrence County Clerk on 12/23/2020 at Instrument #2020-14173.

- B. The lot labeled #2 is Subdivision Lot #21 on Tallman Road. It is listed on the map as owned by Everett Scanlon. Mr. Scanlon conveyed title to Alessandra J. Parker, as Trustee of the Gennarelli Revocable Trust, by deed dated 12/15/2020 and recorded with the St. Lawrence County Clerk on 01/04/2021 at Instrument #2021-0004.

- C. The lot labeled #3 is Subdivision Lot #22 on Tallman Road. It is listed on the map as owned by Patrick and Syrah Gilley. I believe they still own this property.
- D. The request for subdivision was made by Attorney Dan Ramsay, on behalf of the Gennarelli Revocable Trust. The request is to divide Subdivision Lot #21 (*lot labeled #2 on the attached*), with the Trust owning Lot #20 and the northern half of Lot #21. I understand is it the Trust's intention to convey the southern half of Lot #21 to Mr. and Mrs. Gilley, who own adjoining Lot #22



Attorney Ducharme stated that the short form of the SEQR was completed and will to be approved.

Mayor Dalton opened for Public Comment. No comment was received.

Public Hearing A closed at 6:09pm.

- B. Mayor Dalton opened the second Public Hearing at 6:10pm. He read the following to consider a proposed local law that that would place a moratorium on solar energy system development and on the installation and use of battery energy storage systems in the Village of Canton, New York through August 31, 2021. The local law prohibits the construction or establishment of any solar energy system, and the installation or use of any battery energy storage system within the Village of Canton during the duration of the moratorium, and directs that neither the Village Planning Board nor Zoning Board of Appeals may process, review, render any determination, or grant

any approval or variance of any kind with respect to any solar energy system or battery energy storage system within the Village of Canton during the duration of the moratorium.

Mayor Dalton added that the Board has had a lot of discussion from Monica who is working on the Zoning. He stated that he and Attorney Ducharme have had extensive conversations regarding this with the County Planning Board. He stated that the first step is a moratorium but there needs to be additional changes before they move forward with the moratorium.

Mayor Dalton asked if there was any Public Comment on the Moratorium or Solar or Battery Storage?

Mayor Dalton stated that there was some concern by Monica on how it was worded and the County Planning Board has some suggestions too. He stated that the Moratorium will need to be sent to the County Planning Board for their comment. Attorney Ducharme and Mayor Dalton hope to have the Moratorium in final form before the March meeting.

Attorney Ducharme stated that they have been in touch with the County Planning Board and they provided some useful information. He stated that they gave a model law regarding battery storage to Monica for her review. The County Planning Board has reviewed that and has made some suggestions of its own, suggesting that the Village consider before incorporating any new zoning regulations that the Board adopt.

Mayor Dalton added that the Village Board is not interested in hurting the residential market or putting any extra burden on the residential market. He said the decision will be made as they go through the Zoning process and review the laws, the moratorium is designed to make sure everything is in order for the future.

Trustee Sorensen asked if the County Planning Board needs to approve this or provide feedback?

Attorney Ducharme stated that they need to review it and provide feedback, they can make suggestions or return it for local action.

Trustee Pynchon asked if there will need to be another Public Hearing when there are changes made or if this Public Hearing is sufficient with notice of the changes?

Attorney Ducharme said that he would advise to have another Public Hearing if the changes are substantial to the draft based on comments received from Monica or the Planning Board. He stated it would not be a bad idea to have another Public Hearing just before the Board makes a vote.

Mayor Dalton wanted it noted that the draft of the Moratorium is restrictive, so if the Board lessens the restrictions to accommodate some things that the Board thinks is important it will not be restricted then a Public Hearing is not going to be an issue.

Trustee Larrabee asked that since the moratorium was suggested to be until August 31, would it be adjusted a month? Attorney Ducharme stated that the date does not

have to be adjusted, August 31st is the day they were anticipating that there will be good progress on the zoning update. He stated that it can be extended out to a true six-month moratorium from March until the end of September. He stated that the Board can check with Monica to see where the progress of the draft of the overall zoning code is and then figure out the timing of the Public Hearings.

Trustee Pynchon stated if they do the Moratorium until September and the zoning is complete, can the moratorium end? Attorney Ducharme stated that it can end with the Board passing another Local Law or do it as part of the process of adopting the Zoning Changes.

Mayor Dalton stated that the battery storage piece has been added in at the advice of others that are currently going through this right now. The Town of Canton did a moratorium on solar and then discovered that they did not take care of the battery storage piece. He stated that the Village Board is not after the local homeowner residential system. There are some large commercial solar that should be a concern to everyone.

Mayor Dalton closed the Public Hearing at 6:19pm.

- C. Mayor Dalton opened the third public hearing at 6:20pm for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Village of Canton's current Community Development Block Grant (*CDBG*) project: 175ED927-19, Assistance to Dairy Queen in the amount of \$300,000. The *CDBG* program is administered by the New York State Office of Community Renewal (*OCR*), and provides resources to eligible local governments for housing, economic development, public facilities, public infrastructure, and planning activities, with the principal purpose of benefitting low/moderate income persons. The hearing will provide further information about the progress of the ongoing *CDBG* project. Comments related to the effectiveness of administration of the *CDBG* project will also be received at this time. The hearing is being conducted pursuant to Section 570.486, Subpart I of the *CFR* and in compliance with the requirements of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended.

Mayor Dalton stated that this was the final Public Hearing for Dairy Queen to close out the grant. Dairy Queen has met the standards that were needed in terms of employment.

Trustee Larrabee stated that she appreciates moving forward with this and Dairy Queen is flourishing, she stated that this is what the local economy needs and they have provided jobs. She stated it has been a highlight.

No public comment.

Mayor Dalton closed the Public Hearing at 6:25pm.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of January 20, 2021** - Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes of January 20, 2021; seconded by Trustee Proemm. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Animal Control- Mayor Daltons stated that no dogs were seized.

Historian Report- Historian Casserly stated that it has been a busy month with genealogy requests. She informed the Board that she will be putting information on her Facebook page for Black History Month from author Carl Witherbee and will be doing Women Suffrage next month.

Superintendent Report- Trustee Pynchon asked who owns the driveway behind the Post Office. Superintendent Miller stated he will need to go into the system to see who owns what part. He stated that the money for the repair will need to come out of tax payers' dollars. He stated that he will do his due diligence to see how much the Village owns and then a decision that will need to be made with which part will be repaired.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Electronic Maintenance management system sounds like a good system. Superintendent Miller stated he would like to set up a Zoom meeting with the company called iWorks for tracking. He referenced the suggestion from the DANC report from 2017 to have a software installed to track inventory, repairs on the vehicles, spending, depreciation and rates the streets. He stated that the system seems to be the most affordable. Mayor Dalton said that there will be more to follow on this system.

Trustee Sorensen asked about the uncertainty about funding and what criteria do you use to make a priority list for the planning of sidewalks and streets? Superintendent Miller explained the scoring of the streets and when the work was last done on the street. He stated that the State will only fund streets when they haven't been repaired in 10 years. He stated that a 15-year cycle should be set up on all of the streets.

Superintendent Miller informed the Board that he had a meeting with Marcus from St. Lawrence University to finalize Miner Street and make sure that the Village and SLU are on the same page for the raised crosswalk. The same materials will be used and be more pliable and flexible. He stated that the next thing will be the color pallet.

Code Officer Report- Code Officer Murray was not in attendance.

Economic Developer Report- Economic Developer Rodriguez apologized for missing the Public Hearing. She stated that she wanted to state that the press release that went out erroneously stated that the grant amount was \$300,000 but the amount was actually \$195,000.

Economic Developer Rodriguez summarized her February Report.

Treasurer Report- Treasurer Noble sent the Board an updated spreadsheet on the Sales Tax revenue. She stated that the revenue was slightly up. She stated with the gas prices going up the sales tax monies will be increasing. Treasurer Noble stated that she has been working with the Mayor with cleaning the building two times per week. She informed the Board that she contacted Dan Fay via email to let him know about the meeting. She has been working with the Mayor on Code Enforcement and that the budget requests have started.

Police Report- Chief Santimaw wanted to thank Trustee Larrabee and Trustee Sorensen for the tremendous work with the Executive Order 203.

Mayor Dalton added that they held a Department Head meeting on the second week in January. He stated that the Department Head Meetings will continue as a regular event.

Assessor Report- Assessor Brand stated that they are still collecting data and have collected over 700 parcels and have updated the property record cards. She stated that she has 25% left to collect on the building permits. She stated that a lot has been done. She stated that she sent the spreadsheet with the people in the Town and Village that receive the Solar Exemptions which includes 85 people. She stated that the sales analysis report came in at 87%, which dropped down from 90%. The State allows a 5% gap leeway, she spoke with her CRM and they agreed to keep at the 90% equalization rate and the residential assessment ration seem to match. Sales are still coming in over the assessed values and finding a lot on the MLS that she does not have in their records.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the Department Heads Report. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communication & Technology Committee- Trustee Sorensen stated that the Committee is focusing on the digital discoveries about how things can be done and how to move forward with when meetings can be partially or fully in person and how to make the meetings more accessible to the Public. She stated that the Town and Village purchased the meeting Owl and it has been tested. She stated that they believe it will in fact work for the purpose. She informed the Board that the Committee had a meeting with the Town and Village Clerk's Office and will be meeting more regularly. She stated that the Communications and Technology, requires the input and affects what the Clerk's offices does. She stated that they are trying to get input and how the incorporation of these new technologies is impacting the offices, what resources might be needed and what standard operating procedures that will need to be put into place. She said that they are tracking time spent doing various tasks with Zoom, website, social media, etc. to have good data on what the Clerk's Office is doing with the time and what resources are needed.

Trustee Pynchon added the time assessment includes what the Trustees and Council people are doing on the Website and Zoom, she stated that this is not a reasonable long-term expectation and how is this managed on an ongoing basis.

Trustee Sorensen stated just acknowledging that the technology we will continue to incorporate as things move forward, that this will phase out some of the ways that things were done before, but will add to and what the additional workload is and how it will be organized.

Trustee Pynchon stated she is excited and that it is a shared effort between the Town and Village.

Recreation Committee- Trustee Pynchon shared that the rink is currently open. She stated that the Minor Hockey and Figure Skating have been diligent about compliance with the protocols and rules. The pilot groups have done very well. She stated with Superintendent Miller's help the adult leagues are now playing. She stated that they met with a representative from each group and all the rules need to be followed with the health screenings and masks. The rink has

been opened for a couple of slots on Saturday and Sunday evenings for Public Skating. The limit is 30 people in at a time, people will call ahead to the Recreation Department to sign up for 45 minutes. Public Skating times have been opened up during the week for School Break. Health Screening, waiver form and temperature check would need to be done. Skate rentals will not be available. Trustee Pynchon added that they have permitted Minor Hockey teams to have games, with limited number of people in the building and on the ice.

Trustee Larrabee thanked Superintendent Miller for everything he has done and has gone above and beyond and they appreciate his expertise.

Golf Committee- Mayor Dalton reminded the Committee that the golf season is right around the corner.

Trustee Larrabee added that she has been in contact with Karen. Trustee Pynchon and Trustee Larrabee will be working on this.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update-** was not in attendance.

Mayor Dalton stated that he received a request from Michels for a landing zone for their helicopter. Michels is doing the construction on the highline work between Massena and Croghan. He stated that they have requested to land in the cul de sac off Commerce Lane. They are currently renting half of the IDA building. He spoke with the Sheriff, IDA and Landowner, TeRiele's and everyone is in agreement to accommodate them in a safe place for the small helicopter. The only contingency is the Sheriff does not want them to fly over the jail. An agreement will be completed between everyone involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Discuss and Take Action on a Moratorium on Solar-** Mayor Dalton stated that they will not be taking any action on this tonight. He asked the Board if they had anything else to discuss regarding the Moratorium. He stated that the Board recognizes the information received from the consultant and the County Planning Board.

Attorney Ducharme informed the Board that Matilda from the County Planning Board sent a memo with enclosures that he will send to the Mayor. Matilda sent over information primarily on the battery storage issue in the draft moratorium local law that was taken from the model law which was promulgated by NYSERDA. The County Planning Board has some tweaks to the look of the model law. Monica suggested to look into if the tier one needs to be included in the Moratorium.

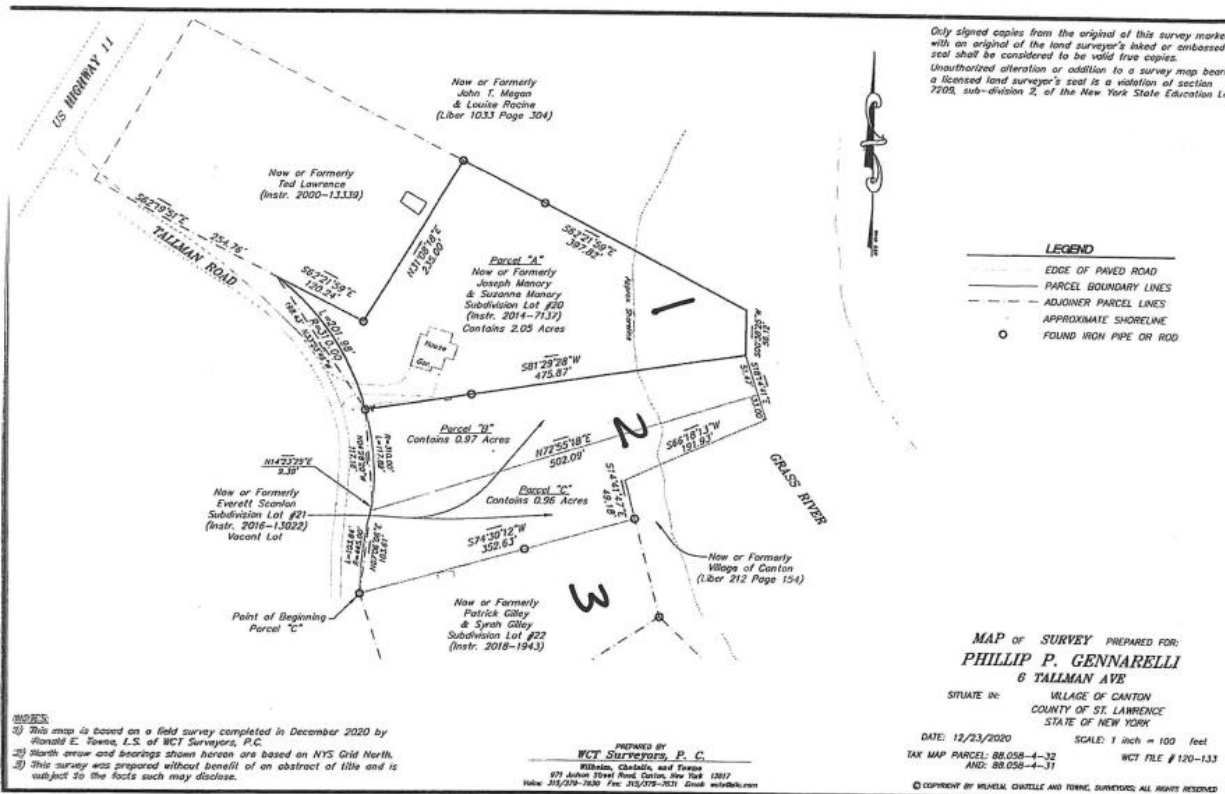
After further Board discussion the Board decided to schedule another Public Hearing on the Moratorium for March 17, 2021 at 6:25pm.

Mayor Dalton wants to make it clear that the Board is not looking to stifle residential systems. Few opportunities for large commercial systems and want to make sure everything is in order.

b. Discuss and Take Action on a Subdivision Request on Tallman Rd- Mayor Dalton reviewed the SEQRA.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve that that there is no significant adverse environmental impacts for the Subdivision Request on Tallman Rd. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the Subdivision Request on Tallman Rd. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.



c. Executive Order 203 Update- Mayor Dalton thanked Trustee Larrabee and Trustee Sorensen for the outstanding job on the Executive Order 203.

Trustee Sorensen stated that the Advisory Committee developed eighteen recommendations that were desirous for the public input. Press Releases were sent out for Public Community Forum by Zoom on February 10th and February 21, 2021. Chief of Police and Mayor Dalton have received paper copies for recommendations along with the survey. The paper copies have been delivered to Canton Manor and Law Lane. Campus Forums and another Public Forum will be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 3:00pm, and presented at the School Board Meeting on February 11th. She stated that they are encouraging folks to go to the website to look at the recommendations. They are hoping to put a recording of the presentation of the recommendations up soon and to complete a short survey. She stated that they are excited to be receiving the feedback. The Committee is hoping to have the process wrapped up by the end of the month and they will meet on March 3 & March 10th. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the

feedback and integrate the feedback into the final report. A Public Hearing will need to be set up for the Public to have one last opportunity to speak to those recommendations and the final report will be brought before the Village Board on March 17th for ratification.

Trustee Larrabee gave kudos to the Advisory Committee and the 15 members that have been amazing to work with and have very thoughtful.

After further discussion, Public Hearing has been set for March 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.

- d. Reimaging Recreation Update-** Trustee Pynchon stated that they had a meeting in February to explore other models from the Parks and Rec Director from Malone and Trey Smutz who is the Recreation Director from Potsdam to discuss the models, programs and budgets. The Recreation Committee has formed a draft of recommendations that have been shared with the Committee and will be reviewed. The Recommendations are broad based on the goals are, partners, strategy and structure but not real specific. The Committee is planning for Public input by survey or a response for the recommendations. Trustee Pynchon thanked Superintendent Miller and support staff; they have a handle on how things will look for summer. The Committee should have something to bring forward in March, April or May.

Trustee Larrabee added that the Committee has worked hard and there are over 20 Community Members on the committee. A lot of work is going into it and taking one step at a time.

- e. Zoning Revision Update-** Attorney Ducharme stated that Monica is working on the draft that will be sent to him and Trustee Pynchon to review. Mayor Dalton stated it will be a comprehensive package.

Trustee Pynchon added that Barry Walch, Chair of the Planning Board and Conrad Stuntz, ZBA Chair have been fully engaged in the process.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Soresen made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # **9 of 2020-2021**. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$89,360.76	Golf Course	\$8,926.00
Water Fund	\$13,052.94	Joint Activity	\$6,527.38
Sewer Fund	\$13,520.41		

- b. Appoint New Fire Department Members: Camden Ladison & Benjamin Lashomb-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to appoint new Fire Department Members, Camden Ladison and Benjamin Lashomb. Trustee Soresen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- c. **Community Choice Solar Discussion-** Trustee Proemm stated he spoke with an expert from NYSEERDA who will be sending him some solid information. Trustee Proemm will report back soon on Community Choice Solar.

- d. **Discuss Charge Point MOU –** Trustee Proemm informed the Board that Stewarts beat the Village to it and they are going to be installing an EV charger. He stated that he received a call from Apex who works closely with Charge Point, they have two level two charger available. He stated that there was no rush and this could be discussed over the next month. Trustee Proemm said that the two charges are being used but have not been a busy operation, there has only been \$20.00 in electricity used in a month, which is one or two charges a week. He stated that it is not booming due to the pandemic and limit on travel. He stated that since they are not getting overused, he is not in a huge hurry to add two more chargers right away.

Trustee Pynchon asked about the two chargers that are available? Trustee Proemm stated that it is the medium/fast charger it will take four hours to charge to go 150 miles. The chargers that will be at Stewarts are 10-minute chargers, which is great for people traveling through the town.

- e. **Discuss Code Enforcement Position-** Mayor Dalton informed the Board that the Village Code Enforcement Position has been approved by the County for the position. Letters have been sent out to the two people that were on the list to gauge their interest. The list is the same list for the Town of Canton. He suggested advertising for the position and entertain transfers. He stated that there will be a lot to discuss as they move forward. He stated that the next plan is to advertised in conjunction to the canvas letters that were sent out.

- f. **Appoint ZBA Member Barb Beekman-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to appoint ZBA Member Barb Beekman. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- g. **Approve Hold Harmless for St. Lawrence County for 2021-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the Annual SLC Hold Harmless Agreement. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- h. **Black History Month Resolution-** Trustee Pynchon made the motion to approve the Resolution Recognizing February as Black History Month in the Nation and Village of Canton. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH
IN THE NATION AND VILLAGE OF CANTON
February 17, 2021**

WHEREAS, the Village of Canton has publicly affirmed our wish to welcome and include people of all races and ethnicities and to create a community where everyone can thrive; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in 1915 and initiated Black History Week in 1926, commemorating the birthdays of two great Americans who played a prominent role in shaping history, Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and encouraging the public to extend their study of Black history and recognize the heritage and achievement of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, President Gerald R. Ford officially recognized Black History Month in 1976, calling upon the public to “seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected,” and ten years later in 1986, which was also the first year of the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday as a national holiday, the U.S. Congress, in a joint resolution of the House and Senate, designated the month of February as “National Black History Month,” issuing a proclamation that “the foremost purpose of Black History Month is to make all Americans aware of this struggle for freedom and equal opportunity”; and

WHEREAS, since 1976, every President has adopted the month of February as Black History Month, an annual celebration of Black American achievements and roles in U.S. history; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month is a time to reflect on the burdens of racial prejudice and explore, understand, and appreciate the identities and cultures of Black Americans; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the injustices that Black Americans have endured and commend the Black American community for the continuous pursuit of overcoming those injustices and changing the course and nature of history; and

WHEREAS, we honor the prominent leaders and activists who have paved the way for equality and justice, calling our state and nation’s attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build an equitable society.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Canton recognizes February 2021 as Black History Month and honors the contributions and sacrifices made in building pride in Black history and educating all Americans, as well as the many achievements and contributions made by Black Americans to our economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees encourages everyone join them in learning more about the past to better understand the experiences of Black Americans and how they have shaped our nation, using this occasion to raise awareness of the hardships Black Americans have endured, celebrate the milestones that have been achieved, and continue the unrelenting pursuit of equality and justice for all.

Information adapted from the Association for the Study of American Life and History (<https://asalh.org/>) and the statement from Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham 2021 ASALH National President welcoming participants to the 2021 Black History Month Virtual Festival.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Proemm made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:48pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(f) €. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:51 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:52pm. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Adams
Deputy Clerk