

# Village of Canton, New York

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: May 19, 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  
Marty Miller, Superintendent  
Leigh Rodriguez, Economic Developer  
Tim Nolan, Code Officer

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer  
Cindy Brand, Assessor  
James Santimaw, Chief  
Tim Nolan, Code Officer

The meeting was conducted by use of Zoom video-conference, as authorized by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 202.15 and subsequent extensions including Executive Order 202.106.

Mayor Dalton added the following under New Business:

- o. New Fire Department Member
- p. Approve Bidding for Trash Hauling.

Mayor Dalton welcomed Paul Mitchell as reported for North Country Now.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- a. **Approve minutes of April 8, 14, 21 and April 28, 2021-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes of April 8, 14, 21 and April 28, 2021; seconded by Trustee Proemm. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

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

**Treasurer Report-** Treasurer Noble added the sales tax check received in this fiscal year put the Village over \$47,632 over last year's collection.

Trustee Pynchon asked what Treasurer Noble meant by loading the new budget? Treasurer Noble stated it meant loading into the program.

Trustee Pynchon asked if there was anything to report on the AUD? Treasurer Noble stated that she spoke with Kevin to give him more information and are very close with having the first on completed.

**Historian Report-** Historian Casserly was not in attendance.

**Economic Developer Report-** Economic Developer Rodriguez highlighted the first item on her report about the release of the CFA Grant process, everything is due at the end of July. The Resource Guide has been released; she hopes that everyone will have a chance to look it over before the meeting next week.

Trustee Pynchon suggested that people talk with the committees that they work with or reach out to others to try to gather up as many ideas as possible that fit with the CFA and what fits with other grants.

**Assessor Report-** Assessor Brand stated that the Grievance Day is next Tuesday. She stated that they will meet with the Public and there are a few stipulations. She stated that they only have one person coming in for Grievance.

Trustee Sorensen wanted to acknowledge Assessor Brand's hard work and extra time spent.

Assessor Brand stated that she had to put in for extra hours, since she is part time. It is mandated by the State that they meet with the public on a Saturday, Wednesday Morning and during Office Hours.

She stated after the Grievance is completed, they will go back to data collection, they have done 780 parcels out of the 3,999 parcels.

**Police Report-** Chief Santimaw added that the Body Cameras have been installed. The Representative from Watch Guard was in on April 19 and the cameras were active the next day. All of the Officers had them on by May 5, 2021. There was one minor glitch for about three days but they have been rectified, the Officers were still able to record. He stated that it all has been positive.

**Superintendent Report-** Trustee Pynchon asked Superintendent Miller about where he will be publicizing the road closings? Superintendent Miller stated that he will be notifying 911 Dispatch and 99.3 radio station. He notified the transportation department at the School and the information will be put on the Village Website. Trustee Pynchon suggested sending it to North Country Now. He stated that they will be doing Miner Street on Friday and Judson Street next week, weather permitting. Superintendent Miller informed the Board that the County completed striping on State Street, Riverside Drive and Judson Street. He stated that he has some apprehension about Maple Street fog lines due to the road not being consistent in width. He stated he was going to think about the issue and let the County know. He asked the Board if they had an opinion.

**Code Report-** Code Officer Nolan was not in attendance at this time.

**Animal Control Report-** Report received.

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

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Recreation Committee-** Trustee Pynchon stated that the Director search is underway, the Civil Service list was incomplete but still needed to canvas, one person will be applying and the other will not. The deadline for the applications is May 28<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Pynchon informed the Board that the Town of Canton appointed Dave Nelson to fill the empty seat on the Town Board. Mr. Nelson will be joining the Recreation Committee. Trustee Pynchon stated thanked Superintendent Miller and the recreation crew for their hard working on getting things ready for summer. Trustee Larrabee has been working hard getting the Beach Plan together for Department of Health. Lifeguards were interviewed over the weekend and they are in the process of receiving their certifications. Beach will be open up to 50% on Memorial Day and hopefully to full capacity by 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Trustee Pynchon stated that they are waiting on the guidance to be released on swim lessons.

Trustee Pynchon asked Superintendent Miller about Priest Field? Superintendent Miller stated that they put the pickleball nets up and supplies are coming next week and then the lines will be painted. Superintendent Miller stated that they will be setting up the pickle ball in the parking lot at the pavilion and prepare the Priest Field. Trustee Pynchon is going to look at Priest Field with Superintendent Miller to figure out what to do with the fields.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Committee will be meeting tomorrow putting together the advisory Committee from the recommendation of the Reimaging Group. They will be discussing who would be good representatives across various recreation realms to create the Committee and set up the framework.

**Sustainability Committee-** Trustee Proemm will be sending out a Doodle poll to set up a Special Meeting in June for the CCA Community Aggregation Meeting.

**Communication and Technology Committee-** Trustee Sorensen stated that the Committee postponed their meeting this month. The Committee will be figuring out the placement of the projector and screen and the processes soon. She stated that they are working on a virtual signup system for meeting spaces within the Municipal building to streamline the process. Trustee Sorensen informed that Board that Dave Nelson will be joining the Communications and Technology Committee as a Town Representative.

**Economic Development Committee-** Trustee Sorensen stated that they have been meeting with Economic Developer Rodriguez to discuss grant opportunities. She stated that Economic Developer Rodriguez, Part-time Clerk Reed, Trustee Pynchon, Lenore VanderZee and herself met to review the DRI proposal to prepare them for the process.

Trustee Pynchon added that Mayor Dalton is hosting the Consortium Meeting tomorrow afternoon. This will be the last meeting with St. Lawrence University President Fox and she hopes the new St. Lawrence University President will be as enthusiastic. The MOU is ready for the meeting.

Mayor Dalton stated that this will be the last meeting with President Fox and Stephen Knight from United Helpers.

**Infrastructure-** Mayor Dalton added that infrastructure is starting to come to the surface. He stated that the bonding for upland water is coming to an end. Mayor Dalton said that early next

year will be the perfect timing to start to move forward on water system improvements. He stated that he has asked the engineer to update the preliminary engineering reports to include the work that has been done and the work on Tallman property. He stated that there is a lot that needs to be done on infrastructure and is so important to Economic Development with growth and sustainability in our community. Mayor Dalton stated that there are several million dollars of work that needs to be done.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:**

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

Mayor Dalton stated he received an email from the Arts Council regarding events in the Park every year. Remington Arts Festival will be October 2. There will be another event in the park on June 12, that was approved by Rev. Mike.

Mayor Dalton stated he received an email from Chuck Bolesh regarding moving a chair around on the island. He might have some interest in how the island is developed. Mr. Bolesh was at the island for canoe weekend.

Code Officer Nolan joined the meeting.

Trustee Pynchon stated that she was delighted to read in Assessor Brand's report that things are going well with Village Code Officer Nolan and Town Code Officer Corbine with them working together with Assessor Brand.

Mayor Dalton asked Code Officer Nolan if the support from Rusty Lawrence should continue?

Code Officer Nolan stated that he reaches out to Rusty Lawrence from time to time for questions and tech support on the software. He stated having Rusty available is good

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Zoning Revision Update-** Mayor Dalton informed the Board that they are meeting regularly with Monica to review the zoning. He stated that they are very close to having a draft of the complete revision. Mayor Dalton said that there will be several levels of review that will include the Board, Planning and Zoning Boards. There will be a Public Hearing and public input. After the input the final draft will come forward for a Public Hearing and then the code will be adopted.

Attorney Ducharme stated that Monica is considering one or more open houses. The timeline to have this before the public and a public hearing is in August. The draft will be sent to the County Planning Board. The entire law will be sent to the Department of Justice to make sure that they are even handed across the board and there are no questions.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Sustainability Committee, Complete Streets and Trail Committee are interested at looking at the draft.

- b. American Rescue Plan Act-** Mayor Dalton stated the guidance is out. No money has been received. Mayor Dalton drilled down on the guidance, replace lost revenue, provide premium pay to essential workers, invest in broadband and water and sewer infrastructure. He stated that conversations will continue.

Trustee Pynchon asked when the money comes in do the decisions have to be approved? Mayor Dalton stated it has to be spent on specific categories and the expense has to be justified. The final guidance will come along with the money. Mayor Dalton stated that the Village has things that we can spend it on and will have to be prioritized and make some decisions. He suggested the Board members read through the information that he sent to them.

- c. Update on Water and Sewer Re-Levy-** Mayor Dalton stated he sent guidance out to the Board from NYCOM regarding a law that was passed by the Governor not allowing to relevel water bills. The water and sewer bills are tied together, the relevel was reversed. Not allow to relevel until the end of the year.

Treasurer Noble stated that the we thought the Village was going to relevel this year but then the Governor signed the law. The relevel was lower this year at around \$40,000. She explained that the outstanding balances are added back onto the customers bills. Information regarding the relevel reversal will be added to the website and information will go in North Country Now through Paul.

- d. Audit Update-** Treasurer Noble stated that they are currently testing and asking questions. She stated that they are nearing the end.

- e. Housing Authority Update-** Mayor Dalton gave an update on the Housing Authority. The following have been appointed to the Housing Authority Board, Keith Zimmerman, Desiree LeBoeuf, Breyne Moskowitz, Tricia Pethic. They are currently looking for the fifth member. Mayor Dalton stated that there are Housing Authority members on Zoom, he wanted them to know that the Board has appointed the Housing Authority Board.

Trustee Pynchon shared that he spoke with Keith Zimmerman, they are trying to get a meeting set up with the Director. She stated that the Director was not available until the last two weeks of the month. They have requested a tour of the facility, the bylaws to be reviewed and updated, calendar to better understand the governance schedule and fiscal year and they have done the HUD training and they anticipate in accordance with the bylaws that they will be adding tenant representatives to the Board. They are hoping to hear from the Director soon to set up a meeting.

Mayor Dalton asked if anyone from the Community would like to comment and let the Board know their thoughts?

Trustee Pynchon stated it was an important reminder that the Board is deeply concerned but the authority of the Village Board is assigning the new Board. She stated that they are happy to hear about the issues but the new Board will need to make things happen.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # **12 of 2020-2021**. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$175,292.00	Golf Course	\$28,144.87
Water Fund	\$18,391.09	Joint Activity	\$9,619.17
Sewer Fund	\$24,655.05		

- b. **Discuss and Approve the MOA between the Village and the United Steelworkers-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the MOA between the Village and the United Steelworkers. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- c. **Approve Recreation Hires for Taylor Park-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the following recreation hires for Taylor Park. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Returning for 3rd Year Full-time \$13.00  
Brock Francis

Returning for 2nd Year Full-time at \$12.75  
Ashton Cloce  
Emalyn Martin  
Julianna Richardson  
Mia Mousaw

1st Year Full-time at \$12.50  
Cameron Sipher  
Brooke Larrabee  
Ethan Furnia  
Sydnee Francis

Sub List: 1st Year at \$12.50  
Amelia Rodee  
Emily Wentworth  
Luke Wentworth  
Tyler Scott  
Mason White  
Kayla Larrabee (sub list upon 16th birthday on August 10)

- d. **Discuss and Approve Contract Modification with Manfred Construction-** Mayor Dalton stated that they are trying to get an extension on the water supply. He stated that there is interest in purchasing lots on Tallman and this will benefit everyone if the water can be extended. He stated that they want to be able to utilize the percentage grants that are available. He stated that the way the bids came in they can not utilize the full amount of the

grant unless the Village spends more money and will give the opportunity to get more work done.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the contract modification with Manfred Construction. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- e. **Discuss NYS DOT RT 11-** Mayor Dalton stated that they need to have more conversations as the accidents continue to happen. He stated that he intended to talk about the Home Rule Legislation for the Senate and Assembly Representatives to put forth the legislation that would allow the change in speed. He stated that last July it was approved in the Senate but never moved forward in the Assembly. He stated that a Resolution is required authorizing the Home Rule Legislation. Mayor Dalton informed the Board that he spoke with the Town Supervisor, she suggested that they wait to do the Resolution at the Joint Meeting next week. Mayor Dalton tabled the topic.

Trustee Sorensen stated that this is something that a lot of people in the Community are concerned about the stretch of road. She stated that she circulated a draft of a Letter to the Editor to the Board in hopes that the Village Board would sign. Also, asking the residents of the Community to write letters/emails in support of enhanced traffic safety measures along that stretch of road. She suggested seeing if the Town wanted to sign the letter too. Trustee Sorensen stated that she is interested to hear people's opinions and talk about it at the Joint Meeting on Wednesday.

Chief Santimaw stated that he suggested adding the number of accidents listed in the letter date back to January 1, 2021.

Trustee Sorensen added that there have been five accidents involving thirteen vehicles that have left seven folks needing medical attention and one person deceased.

After further Board discussion the Board agreed to circulate the letter to the Town Board for approval together.

- f. **Discuss and Approve Home Rule Legislation-** Tabled for Joint Meeting.
- g. **Add David Murphy to the Complete Streets Task Force-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to add David Murphy to the Complete Streets Task Force. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- h. **Add Herb Bullock and Pamela Thacher to the Tree Committee-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to add Herb Bullock and Pamela Thacher to the Tree Committee. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- i. **Discuss the New Marijuana Laws in NYS-** Mayor Dalton stated that it is time to start the conversation, the Board and Community are going to have some decisions to make. He stated that the Community needs to have input. He stated that the Village would have to either opt in or opt out, the issue would be the sales tax revenues that the Community would lose for any sales if they opt out. He stated that the Board would need to think about where

the dispensary would be located within the Community and what limitations would be put on them.

Trustee Sorensen shared that if the Town were to opt out, they would not share in the Sales Tax revenue but if they do not opt out then they would agree to an amount or automatically share 50/50 sales tax revenue.

Trustee Pynchon stated that it is a 50/50 or an agreed upon division. Trustee Pynchon suggested some sort of a survey that would be put on the website, for people to share their thoughts and maybe an open meeting for people to come in and share their thoughts.

Trustee Sorensen thought it was important for people to know that if the Village and Town opt out, they are opting out of retail and onsite consumption. If opting in and regulating this in the way that would work for our community. If opting out, cannabis is still going to be legal, but we will not get sales tax revenue from the Community and decide whether or not to have onsite consumption locations. Trustee Sorensen stated that she is in favor of opting in and working with the Community and important stakeholders to develop policies that make sense for the Community.

Trustee Proemm agreed that it would benefit Canton.

Mayor Dalton stated that it comes down to the sales tax. He stated that he would like to continue to have Board discussion but Trustee Larrabee was not in the meeting and figure out a way for in person comment.

Trustee Pynchon agreed to an open forum and a confidential survey.

After further Board discussion they agreed to continue the conversation and figure out a way for community input.

- j. Planning for in Person Meetings-** Mayor Dalton stated that the first in person meeting will be held next week with the Joint Meeting between the Town and Village. He stated that he believes the June meeting will be in person. He stated that the staff that normally attends a meeting is going to be required to be in person but with certain exceptions. He stated that the meetings will be downstairs with some rules that are going to have to be discussed.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the challenge is capacity. She stated that the huge piece is public engagement. Meetings will be streamed for the public to observe it.

- k. Grant Discussion-** Mayor Dalton stated that the Town is focused on sand/salt storage and roads, Municipal Building and Broadband.

Mayor Dalton stated that the Village focus is on water infrastructure is a big piece and the Canton Island Park is moving forward. He asked the Board what they would like to make a priority?

Trustee Pynchon added housing at a different level, child care, capital needs and maintenance for recreation, recreation needs which is great for economic development. She



suggested looking at some proposal for the BOA, what might be appropriate with the CFA and CDBG. She supports the broadband.

Trustee Sorensen agreed to the water infrastructure, housing and child care. She added a Micro Enterprise program for the need for a business in the Community. She stated yes to broadband which is a much bigger Town and Regional issue. She stated she wants to make sure that the Village especially with the areas covered by the Housing Authority has full accessibility.

Mayor Dalton stated it would be nice to have some options and competition available.

Trustee Sorensen stated she is interested in conversation about the Municipal Building and should move higher in the priority list.

Mayor Dalton stated that grant money might not be available for the Municipal Building.

Trustee Proemm added a way to save money on heating cost by doing geothermal heating and cooling for the Village buildings. He wanted to see if there are any upcoming grant opportunities and then do an assessment for one or more of the Village Buildings.

Economic Developer Rodriguez added records management, generator for the Municipal Building, recreation (Pavilion and Taylor Park) and plotter for Code Officer Nolan.

Mayor Dalton stated that the priorities need to be ranked and matching the grant that fits the opportunity.

Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that the Resource Guide for the Consolidated Funding Application is out. She suggested looking through the index section to see if there are opportunities that match the priorities.

- l. Broad band Committee-** Trustee Pynchon stated that they are waiting on the survey results from DANC. She stated that they need to come up with the Committee list, a person from the School, Boces, Colleges, Village, Town Board and Toby Irven. Trustee Sorensen stated that she was interested in being on the committee from the Village. Trustee Pynchon will discuss the topic at the Consortium meeting.
- m. Joint Meeting Reminder-** Joint Meeting on May 26, 2021 at 6:00pm.
- n. Set Year-End Meeting-** The Board set the Year-End Meeting for May 28, 2021 at 8:00am via Zoom.
- o. New Fire Department Member-** Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve new Fire Department Member Jake Caldwell. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.
- p. Approve Bidding for Trash Hauling-** The Board approved Clerk Noble to send out the bid for Trash Hauling.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Trustee Pynchon stated the following “Would like to address the talk that I’ve been hearing in Town and the news we’ve been reading in the paper about the toxic climate in the municipal building. I’ve had conversations with some of you and I know we all have different perceptions of the situation but I know what I have experienced and observed, and I know what others have said, that they’ve experienced so I feel compelled to say something. I have always enjoyed good working relationships with the Village staff and Board Members in my eight years of elected services and even before that. I’ve been known to brag about how well the Village and the Town work together and I believe that was absolutely true and genuine. I am committed to treating everyone, staff, fellow elected offices, residents, visitors with courtesy, professionalism and respect. I expect nothing less of all of my colleagues and friends in the building, we must ensure an environment of camaraderie, mutual respect and kindness. I thank you all each and everyone one of you, for helping make this a priority.”

Trustee Sorensen, Trustee Proemm and Trustee Larrabee agreed with Trustee Pynchon’s statement.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:23pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(h). Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:47pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Larrabee. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47pm. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Adams  
Deputy Clerk