

Town of Canton
June 10, 2021
6:00pm
Board Meeting Minutes
In-Person / Zoom Live Stream

Present

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley (in person), Council Members Bob Washo (in person), James Smith (in person), Martha Foley Smith (in person), and David Nelson (in person)

Also in Attendance

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Karin Blackburn (in person), Assessor Cindy Brand (in person), Code Enforcement Officer Miranda Corbine (in person), Economic Development Director Leigh Rodriguez (in person), Highway Superintendent Calvin Rose (in person), Historian Linda Casserly (via Live Stream), Angela Gray (in person)

Members of the Public: Jim Gibson, Dan Huntley, Karen McAuliffe, Heidi Smith

A. Call to Order

- Mary Ann Ashley opened the meeting at 6:00 pm.
- Board introductions, gratitude to the Town and Village Clerks offices and Communication and Technology Committee for their work on the return of in-person meetings, and an explanation of Zoom live streaming.

B. Public Comment

- **Brian Washburn, 625 Judson Street Road**

Mr. Washburn spoke about the lack of codification for hydronic boilers (outdoor wood boilers). He sent a letter to the Board prior to the Board meeting.

He believes these boilers are worst thing on the planet earth for the production of heat, and very dangerous. He lives on Judson Street Road, the rural zone. He built a house there in 1978 and there are now 15 total residences. In between the residences is the Ames Road. The barn on the Ames Road has not been in production for over a decade and the Ames brothers have methodically been selling off some of the lots. He is adamantly opposed to any code that allows the operation of hydronic boilers during the late spring to early fall months for the purpose of domestic hot water production. Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (nescaum.org) – there is a 92 page document on everything you need to know on hydronic boilers, which includes the studies that have been done. His recommendation is to visit the website and come up with some guidelines for these boilers.

Councilmember Bob Washo thanked Mr. Washburn for his comments and stated that they were very timely. Bob stated that his comments would be added to the

list of items that need to be researched.

Mr. Washburn also shared his gratitude for the 30 mile an hour signs that were put up on Judson Street Road.

C. County Legislature Representative(s) Updates

- None.

D. Approval of Minutes

- Regular Board Meeting 5/13/2021

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

E. Supervisor Report

- Angela Gray read over the May 2021 monthly report which was sent to the Town Council prior to the monthly meeting.
- American Rescue Plan Update
Angela Gray gave an update on the Plan:
 - Passed in March 2021.
 - Allocated \$195.3 billion to Government to assist with Corona Virus relief
 - Canton falls within the category of Non-Entitlement Unit (Government that has less than 50,000 people in population).
 - 19 billion went to the NEU category.
 - US Treasury has sent this money to NYS, and NYS will be distributing the funds.
 - Canton should be seeing their funds in late July or early August.
 - The funds should be spent by December 2024.
 - The Town of Canton will apply for the funds through NYS.
 - Four or five main categories to spend these funds on:
 - Public health expenditures related to COVID 19
 - Small businesses
 - Invest in water/sewer
 - Loss of revenue
 - Pay premiums to essential workers
 - Recommended ways to plan for this money:
 - Collaboration with other governmental units – get the biggest bang for your buck in your community.
 - Start a committee and do a needs assessment.
 - Prioritize the funding.

- Mary Ann confirmed that Canton is expecting to receive \$1.2 million. A portion of that \$1.2 million will also go to the Village of Canton and the Village of Rensselaer Falls. The details of how the funds will go to the two Villages are still unclear. There will also be a required audit of the funds involved.

F. Correspondence

- Washburn Letter Re: Hydronic Boilers
- Letter from North Country Events Re: Bassmaster's Elite Event (July 15th – July 18th)
- NYMIR coming to do an appraisal of Municipal Building, Highway Barn, and Taylor Park next week.
- Health Insurance (Excellus) Notification – potential 9.84% Increase for 2022

G. Audit Committee

Approval of Expenditures

- A Fund: \$36,551.64
- B Fund: \$11,782.77
- DA Fund: \$10,340.89
- DB Fund: \$30,046.83
- SF Fund: \$3,750.00
- SL Fund: \$275.87
- TA Fund: \$18,053.21

Motion to approve the expenditures made by Martha Foley Smith, 2nd by Smith.
All in favor. Motion carried.

H. Acceptance of Department Reports

Cindy Brand, Assessor:

- Corrections and updates have been sent to the County.
- The State is sending down corrections for items put into the exemption code – about 8 of them in the file. She will have to report to the State what is being done with them and a notification will need to be sent to the property owner.
- STAR exemption corrections will be coming from the County, some applications have information missing, Cindy will need to get a hold of property owners.

- Jim Smith asked how many grievances there were. Cindy confirmed there were a total of 5.

Calvin Rose, Highway Superintendent:

- Blasting is all done and cleaned up.
- Gravel roads have been graded and dust control applied.
- Patching is being done as weather permits.
- Midland Asphalt was here May 26 and 27 for grinding on the Rice Road and CR 21. Done and ready for black top.
- Cory Wagner and Leaman Anson both passed their road tests and moved to Class A drivers.
- Roadside mowing started on 5/26 with a single pass for the first time around.
- Mary Ann confirmed that the change in title for Cory and Leaman is per contract.
- Mary Ann confirmed that the reimbursement for CHIPs has been submitted.

Leigh Rodriguez, Economic Development:

- Looking at grant priorities for this coming year.
- Met a number of times and zeroed in what is going to be done for the July 30th deadline.
- A group of people have started to meet for the anticipated Downtown Revitalization initiative of the \$10 million contest. There will be some public sessions and projects included in the proposal.
- NY Main Street Grant – pre-selected projects and submitted the application. Looking to get started on the 8 individual renovation projects and 3 street scape projects as well.
- Tree Maintenance Grant - \$32,000 award out of a \$40,000 budget for Village Park and Fountain restorations.
- Funds to do a Community Forest Management Plan for the Eastern side of the Village and Bend in the River Park.
- Loan fund recently supported Tyler Clark Chiropractic.
- Still have two Waterfront Revitalization Grants still open. One of them is an older one that will be closing at the end of this month. Two projects are being worked on with that one: Grass River Marketing Plan (will be uploaded on the STL Trails website) and part one of the Oswegatchie Revitalization Plan. The newer grant includes the Miner Street Road Project removing poles and the Willow Island enhancement piece.
- Wrapping up the Dairy Queen grant this month.
- The Housing Authority Elevator Project is underway.

- The NC Symposium is holding two virtual sessions.

Miranda Corbine, Code Enforcement Officer:

- Updated the fee schedule to reflect solar panels as discussed at the last meeting. Karin was able to upload that on the website as well.
- The Department of Environmental Conservation has withdrawn the burn ban, so the Code office is starting to issue Burn Permits again. Last month there were about 16 or 17 burn permits issued. Residents are asked to notify the fire department before they start to burn.
- There are still some concerns about the expense and availability of materials, however she still issued about 11 permits this month. That is for new homes and roofs.
- Enforcement actions: there are about six properties that she issued advisories to.

Karin Blackburn, Town Clerk:

- Worked with Miranda to update the building permit fee schedule.
- Worked with Miranda, Tim Nolan, and Sally to update the shared Code Enforcement webpage to streamline the information presented.
- Participated in NYMIR Online University Administrators webinar. This will be helpful in administering training for Town Board members and staff members.
- Notary exam was 5/18/2021.
- At the end of May, 93% of the Tax Warrant had been collected. As of June 1st, those payments are no longer being collected by this office.

Motion to accept Department Reports made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Martha Foley Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.

I. Committee Reports

Economic Development, Bob Washo:

- Met a few times to pinpoint the wish list that came from the joint meeting. The Sand/Salt storage is still a priority, as well as the recreation assessment. Bob talked about next steps and timing that came out of the committee meetings.
- Waterfront Revitalization Grant / Miner Street Road Project – the poles are about 95% done. Now reaching out to Spectrum to do their part.

Highway Committee, Bob Washo:

- Reached out to Brooks Washburn about a water study on Miner Street – complicated wet area. The problems won't go away just by paving it.

- Connecting the Village to Taylor Park – striping has been done just past Appleton Arena to include pathways for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Highway Committee met with Calvin and Brooks Washburn for the design work on the new Sand/Salt Storage facility. First draft has been circulated.

Recreation Committee, Martha Foley Smith:

- Taylor Park is open.
- Still waiting to hear from the State about swim lessons – plans are in place but need the State okay.
- The Recreation Director search is moving along. Interviews scheduled for next week.

Old Business

- Charter Communications Agreement Update
Eric and a colleague are reviewing the old and new agreement. This will need to be taken care of before September.
- Set Public Hearing for Battery Storage Energy Law
Mary Ann's recommendation is to do it before the July meeting. 5:45pm before the July meeting (July 13th, see New Business)
- Oswegatchie River LWRP Public Workshops June 15th
Leigh mentioned these – for the public to participate
- Village of Canton Tree Grant
Clerk Blackburn shared and read the Resolution on the screen for meeting participants for Town Board Support of the Village of Canton Tree Grant in the amount of \$8,000 from the A fund balance. Motion made by Bob Washo to approve this resolution, 2nd by Martha Foley Smith. Discussion confirmed that the \$8,000 should come from the B fund balance. All in favor. Motion carried.

J. New Business

- Acknowledge CCRC Board Resignation
Acknowledging Paul Mitchell's resignation with gratitude for his service.
- Appointment of Part-Time Deputy Town Clerk
Clerk Blackburn confirmed that effective 6/7/2021 Jeni Reed was appointed as part-time, temporary Deputy Town Clerk position. Already does a phenomenal job for the Planning Board and ZBA, already knows everyone in the building, and is already catching on quickly.
Mary Ann Ashley stated that this position is part-time at \$20/hour, 19 hours/week.

- Discuss July 8th Meeting
Moving the regular monthly Board meeting to Tuesday, July 13th

K. Public Comment

- Dan Huntley addressed a document that contained comments published by Councilmember Bob Washo on a social media post using an analogy to explain the hiring of the new Town Clerk. Dan Huntley explained his disagreement with Councilmember Washo's comments.

L. Executive Session

Upon 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) (F) matters pertaining to a particular person and (H) the proposed acquisition of property.

1. Motion to go into Executive Session at 7:17 pm made by Jim Smith, 2nd by Martha Foley Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.
2. Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:35 pm made by Mary Ann Ashley, 2nd by Bob Washo. All in favor. Motion carried.

Acknowledge the resignation of Susan Huntley, Confidential Secretary, effective June 8, 2021, with gratitude for her service.

3. Motion to adjourn at 8:35 pm made by Bob Washo, 2nd by Martha Foley Smith. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Karin Blackburn
Town Clerk