

# Village of Canton, New York

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: July 21, 2021

### ***Board Present:***

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee  
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

### ***Others Present:***

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney  
Cindy Brand, Assessor  
James Santimaw, Chief

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer  
Marty Miller, Superintendent  
Meghan Richardson, Rec Director

The meeting was held on Wednesday, July 21, 2021 at 6:30pm in the Court Room of the Municipal Building at 60 Main Street Canton, NY 13617. The meeting was also made available to the public via the use of Zoom video-conference.

Mayor Dalton added the following under Old Business:

e. Community Choice Aggregation Discussion

Mayor Dalton added the following to New Business:

n. Resignation of a Police Officer

Mayor Dalton moved the follow from New Business up to under Approval of Minutes:

Jeremy Lynch - Bird E scooters  
Jennifer Perry – NYSERDA

No public comment was received by email or by letter

Mayor Dalton introduced the new Recreation Director, Meghan Richardson

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

- a. **Approve minutes of June 16 and July 7, 2021-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the minutes of June 16 and July 7, 2021; seconded by Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**Bird E – Scooter presentation by Jeremy Lynch** – founded in 2017. Information can be found on <https://bird.co>. People join via the APP on the APP store. You need to be 18 to join, have a drivers license or state issued ID. It is paid for by credit or debit card. You would need to go through a safety tutorial. It is \$1 to get on and 39 cents a minute. There are also ride and no ride zones. A local fleet manager is hired by Bird. There is no cost the Village. It is a seasonal business. There were several questions. The Board thanked Jeremy for his presentation and said they would review and get back to Jeremy soon.

**New Business:**

**ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Police Chief Report-** Chief Santimaw added that Officer Coffey, who was the school resource officer, did one bike event at the Banford school. We also did one at the pavilion. There was not a large attendance. They are planning another one and hopefully it will be better attended.

**Treasurer Report-** Treasurer Noble informed the Board that she received notice from the assessor that Thorntree is petitioning to have their assessment reduced. It is currently assessed at \$2,900,000 and they would like it to be lowered to \$290,000. That would be approximately \$27,000 reduction in taxes. Also bids from Casella were received which were a decrease in what we are currently paying. Casella was the only bid received.

**Assessor Report-** Assessor Brand was having some technical difficulties and will join later. The Mayor spoke to the Assessor earlier this morning regarding our equalization rate. Our equalization rate is in the 80's now. It is becoming more apparent that we need the Town to move forward on a revaluation. There is quite a disparity between new sales and assessed values. We are going to have to talk to the Town about doing that. The time for doing that is now as their budget year is coming up.

**Superintendent Report-** There was not a lot of damage from the storm in the Village. There was some discussion of storm sewers. As far as paving, they finished Rushton today, they started some T & L on Harrison. Tomorrow morning, they will finish Harrison and Church. That will complete phase one. Then depending on the weather next Tuesday doing the milling of Mildon from Farmer for 150' back and then doing the milling in the parking lot behind the post office. By using Suit Kote we saved money that we will use milling Pearl Street and putting a 2" binder and a 1 1/2" of top back in.

**Economic Developer Report-** Economic Developer Rodriguez had nothing to add to her report. There are a few things later on the agenda.

**Animal Control-** Mayor Dalton read the Animal Control Report.

**Code Officer-** Code Officer Nolan is on vacation. The Mayor reported that he and Trustee Pynchon wanted to make sure that Tim will be reviewing and commenting on the proposed code update.

**Historian Report-** Historian Casserly was not available tonight.

**Assessor** – The BAR met and finished the corrections to the roll and those have been submitted to the county. Data collection has started up again.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to accept the Department Head reports. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communication and Technology Committee-** Trustee Sorenson stated that the committee is continuing to trouble shoot our challenges. Looking for feedback from those attending by zoom. We are starting to talk about an internal website for documents.

**Complete Streets** – met today with Marty. They are working on intervillage connections, how to connect the 2 sides of Main Street safely. Toby added the Canton Central School project is alive and well. Trustee Larrabee and Proemm will be on that committee.

**Recreation Committee-** Trustee Pynchon reported that Taylor Park Beach is open Anita Frances is doing a good job directing the life guards. Trustee Pynchon announced that they are moving forward with swimming lessons, Elizabeth Burke is coordinating. They are working on the outdoor rink. The Rec advisory committee had their first meeting. Mark McKenna who is on the committee has been very enthusiastic and working hard to bring some proposals to the committee to add an ADA accessible ramp at Taylor Park.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:**

- a. **County Legislator Update-** was not in attendance.
- b. The Mayor has received nothing outside of what is on the agenda

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Zoning Revision Update-** Mayor Dalton stated that they have gotten feedback from the planning board, Carol has been hard at work editing the document. Attorney Ducharme added the SLC Planning Office took time to look through it. They have had the draft for about a month. They seemed to do a thorough job. This the first step it is not the formal review. Once we make our final changes it goes back to the Counties planning office again for its formal review and then they'll give us their recommendation. You want to keep in mind the moratorium is due to expire September 30.

Trustee Pynchon mentioned the importance of Tim not just looking at but really reviewing the code. We need to be sure Tim is giving the time and finds the time for a careful review. He needs to make sure he can live with and needs to be able to enforce and we just need to be sure there's nothing that jumps out at him as inconsistent.

- b. **American Rescue Plan Act -** Mayor Dalton said we have not received funds yet. Trustee Pynchon added how it is important to plan on how to spend this money. She recommends setting up a committee to decide how to use the money.
- c. **Housing Authority Update** – Mayor did receive an email from one of the Housing Authority Board members saying that their meeting last night was canceled because of weather.
- d. **Discuss the Marijuana Laws in NYS-** Mayor Dalton asked to set a public hearing on marijuana laws. We need public input on where we head with this. The decision is whether we opt out or not. The other piece of that is if we take it to a referendum. The community can do a petition to force a referendum. Attorney Ducharme stated that a Local Law would need to be passed by December 31, 2021. If it was subject to

permissive referendum 20% of registered voters would need to sign a petition. Trustee Larrabee suggested holding a public hearing at 6:00 pm on September 22, 2021. The Board all agreed.

- e. **Community Choice Aggregation** – Klaus spoke with Lewis County Planning Office and they recommended Joule Power. He added that Joule Power is certified for the solar credit through NYSEERDA. They are the only company that has that certification. He recommends we proceed with Joule Power. Trustee Sorensen said that just because we are proceeding with Joule doesn't mean that we have agreed to anything. Trustee Proemm made the motion to proceed with Community Choice Aggregation with Joule Power, Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Proemm made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # 2 of 2021-2022. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$97,494.20	Golf Course	\$48,858.53
Water Fund	\$15,378.59	Joint Activity	\$6,472.64
Sewer Fund	\$22,883.05		

- b. **Approve Fire Department Member: Aseman Bagheri Sheshde (Sky)-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve the new Fire Department Member. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- c. **Appoint Police Officer Joshua Vine** - Trustee Larrabee made a motion to appoint Joshua Vine as a Police Officer. Mayor Dalton added he will be transferring from the City of Ogdensburg. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- d. **Appointment to Recreation Advisory Committee** - Trustee Pynchon stated they would like to add one more member to the Advisory Committee, Dan Dominie. He has a lot of interest in serving on the committee. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.
- e. **Discuss single use plastics request** – Mayor Dalton said the Board had a request to look at single use plastics. There is a possibility we could ban their use in our community. Attorney Ducharme said we could investigate it. Mayor Dalton said it is a recommendation from the Sustainability Committee to investigate a ban. Trustee Pynchon said that if we were interested in it Kathleen Stein would be glad to come and give a presentation. It has also been sent to the Town. She added that one of the things she found interesting was that the eateries and restaurants are not opposed to it. It would be a cost savings to them. She would like to pursue this. Attorney Ducharme will investigate a Local Law.
- f. **Approve MOU with the Town of Canton for Grant #C1001636 Miner Street Bike/Pedestrian Trail and Willow Island/Canton Island Park Enhancement** – The Town passed it at their meeting. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the MOU with the Town. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- g. **E-Scooters Presentation** – discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

- h. Approve Bid for trash removal** – Trustee Proemm made a motion to accept the bid from Casella for trash removal. The new rates will be effective beginning August 1. It is a 3-year agreement. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- i. Resolution supporting Town of Canton grant application to the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. The consultants from C & S will be helping out with this application.
- j. Resolution supporting Town of Canton grant application to the Local Government Efficiency Program** - Trustee Larrabee made a motion to pass the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor. The motion carries. This is looking at the property the Town is purchasing later this year. It is looking at a shared facility for a shared facility for the Town Highway and the Village DPW, including a shared salt/sand facility and fuel depot. This grant would be for architectural plans.
- k. Acceptance of bid for Community Forest Management Plan** – This is a professional service. Three bids were received. LBS Ecological was the most qualified for what the committee was looking for. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to accept the bid of LBS. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. Trustee Pynchon said she was grateful for the work of the tree committee.
- l. Acceptance of bid for NY Main Street Program, Program Delivery** – There were two bids. It was the requirement of the program that the lowest bidder is chosen. The low bidder is C.W. Augustine, Inc. They will do the work for \$2,900/project. The other bid was Inside Architects at \$4,172/project. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the bid of C.W. Augustine. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- m. Accept resignation of Officer Lindsey Landphere** – Trustee Pynchon made the motion with regret and gratitude for her time here. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. The Mayor said as a side note staffing was discussed last month and we will move forward looking for her replacement.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Toby Irven would like to request the Village Board consider contacting DANC and the SLC Legislature. It has been 2 months. Mayor Dalton will make that request.

His second comment is that the park of the imagination has had a donation in the form of a very valuable statue produced by Terry McKendree. He wanted to go on record that it has been installed and being used.

Chief Santimaw wanted to publicly thank Officer Landphere. She has been a very impressive officer and he is sorry to see her go.

Attorney Ducharme asked the Mayor if he would consider changing the August Board meeting. It was decided to change the meeting to August 17<sup>th</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:12pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(f). Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:20 pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Proemm. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to increase Megan Mousaw's hourly rate to \$24.20/hr immediately and that in addition she be paid \$2,500 for the extra work she has done with the resignation of the Deputy Clerk. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 pm. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble  
Village Clerk