

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes: September 15, 2021

Board Present:

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Others Present:

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney
Tim Nolan, Code Enforcement
James Santimaw, Chief
Linda Casserly, Historian

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
Marty Miller, Superintendent
Meghan Richardson, Rec Director
Leigh Rodriguez, Ec. Dev.

The meeting was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 6:30pm. The meeting was held via the use of Zoom video-conference.

Mayor Dalton added the following under New Business:

- k. Acceptance of tree bids
- l. Resolution authorizing Mayor to sign documents for the 2019 Urban and Community Forestry Grant

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of August 17, 2021-** Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the minutes of August 17, 2021, seconded by Trustee Proemm with the spelling correction of Wyckoff and Pemrick from Trustee Pynchon. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS:

- a. **Single Use Plastics presentation by Kathy Stein** - The Mayor asked Kathy Stein to give a brief overview of what specifically was discussed in the sustainability committee to be referred to the Village Board. Kathy reported that half of the 300 million tons of plastics that are produced annually goes into single use plastic products such as plastic straws and stirrers and only 9 % of household plastic waste is recycled. Recycling practices themselves are not as effective as we'd like to think they are. What is cheap at the point of production is not so cheap when one takes into account the environmental impact. The vast majority of plastics do not biodegrade, instead they photo decay in sunlight into tiny pellets that enter into the food chain.

Plastic straw and stirrers may seem like a small part of the problem, but as the committee's letter notes we American's use an estimated 500 million single use plastic straws a day. Due to their smallness in size, they are very difficult to

recycle. Federal legislation has been proposed that would limit single use plastics and require manufacturers to invest in the recycling of their plastic products. The legislation would incentivize the development of less toxic and more readily recyclable products. Kathy shared with the sustainability committee the plastic straw legislation before the NYS Assembly and Senate. This will be at least 2 years away. She feels the most appropriate law would be the South Hampton Law.

The Mayor said there is no question in our minds that plastics is a huge problem. He feels this would best be handled on a State level. His biggest question would be how would this be enforced?

Trustee Pynchon said that one of the things she remembers Kathy saying in a sustainability meeting is that restaurant owners like this idea because it actually does save them money, both in purchasing and trash costs. She is very much in favor. It is a small step but an important one. It sounds like one of our next steps is to have a conversation with the health department to see where they are on it.

Kathy was not aware of any contact with the health department but she feels that is the next step. Trustee Pynchon said she would be happy to set up a meeting with the health department. Trustee Proemm said he would like to join also. The Mayor added that the Town is very interested also.

- b. **Zoning Revision Presentation by Monica Ryan** – The Mayor introduced Monica Ryan. Monica said we have a draft done. That has been circulated to the County planning board. That went well. The next step would be to put a draft out for public comment. There is a process you must follow that goes along with a zoning update. Monica gave some roll out options. You could hold open houses where people can come in one at a time and ask questions.

The first step would be to introduce the draft at a board meeting. Then by state law you would have to send that to the County planning department. You could do that at that meeting, they of course have already seen a draft so hopefully we've incorporated a lot of their thoughts, but they do have 30 days to review.

You would also by your local law refer all zoning amendments to the Village planning board. They currently do have copies of the draft. It's been updated somewhat since then. At that point they have 30 days to review. No action is perceived to be a negative in this case. The County also has 30 days to respond. You can proceed if they do not. You could also start the SEQRA. This would be a type I action. The Board would declare themselves lead agency. The next step would be to hold a public hearing. You would need a month for that. You have to notice the hearing for 3 weeks in the paper. If things go well at the public hearing you could proceed with that draft at your next board meeting and complete the SEQRA and adopt the code, if you would like or you could stagger those meetings.

If there are a lot of comments, we might have to hold a second public hearing and potentially send something back to the county.

Monica recommends having a less formal meeting or it can be at a board meeting or by zoom an informational community meeting or presentation to present what is in the draft and the key changes. It is a completely new law in the sense that it is not a track the changes document.

After discussion it was decided to have one zoom session that is recorded and posted on the website. The date for that meeting will be October 4th. There will be two open house sessions in the court room. They will be held on October 18th at 2:30 and 5:30. The Board has to have the final version 10 days before passage.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Treasurer Report – Clerk Noble reported that Sales Tax receipts were up \$87,000 from the same time period last year. We only have \$51,000 left to collect in property taxes with a note that we were not able to add unpaid water/sewer to taxes this year.

Code Officer- Code Officer Nolan reported he issued 11 new permits, 2 CO's and sent a variance request to the ZBA. He also handled a couple complaints.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw said he had nothing to add to his report.

Assessor – Assessor Brand said that a lot of sales are taking place and they are above the assessed value. She also spoke about the confusion on some STAR exemptions. She has been assured by the state that those receiving checks will definitely be mailed soon. They have to be here by September 30th.

Economic Developer Report- Economic Developer Rodriguez said she has a few things on the agenda. She is putting things together for the Housing Task Force. Trustee Pynchon added the DRI was submitted today and asked if the CDBG Cares has been pulled together. Leigh answered she is waiting for information from Gary at the Cascade. The deadline has changed. The deadline has been extended indefinitely.

Recreation Director – Meghan received good feedback from the Rock and Mineral Show. They have verbally committed to returning next year. The docks at Taylor Park were pulled out today. Kate Parker has been volunteering her time to paint. She is working on getting a quote for the elevator repairs. Tim Abplanalp and a volunteer group removed most of the old outside boards last night.

Golf Course – Kevin has nothing to add. He has been working on the increase in membership rates for next year. Trustee Pynchon said there is a golf committee meeting tomorrow morning regarding rates. She asked if the Board would ok the committee moving ahead with the rates they agree on. The Board was in agreement.

Historian Report- Trustee Pynchon asked Linda what kind of software update is needed and what is the cost. Linda replied \$745.00. She is going to apply to the Community Fund for the money. The Pomeroy marker has gone up and Linda would like to thank Marty Miller, Don Doerr, Calvin Rose and Stephen Smith. They did an excellent job. She now has to send the picture. Pyrites is going up next. Next time she will be applying for two.

She would like to paint the inside of the kiosk black. She needs to complete the form required. She is also willing to update the information in the kiosk. She also met with Ruth Doyle last week. They are going through the National Register of Historic Buildings for the old jail house. Randy Crawford of Crawford & Stearns also went through the building.

Superintendent Report – Marty said he didn't have anything to add to his report. Trustee Pynchon asked about the IWORQs program and wondered if the timeline of October 1st was still a go. Marty said yes that is still the plan. He has started with Water/Sewer and invited Meghan to join.

The Mayor said he has been talking to Marty about bulk water rates. We do need to look at them. A public hearing was set for October 20th at 6:25. Marty added that we need to address the repairs that need to be done to both water towers soon. Trustee Sorensen asked about the Tallman Road is that still something that he is pursuing. Marty feels that on his end he is ready but there is some legal work that needs to be done first. NYSDOT said that even if we don't get everything in until after the first of the year, we could still incorporate that into the inventory for CHIPS funding. The Mayor and Attorney Ducharme will discuss this further.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Safety – Trustee Larrabee said one of the recommendations was to create an Advisory Committee in regards to the Executive Order 203. They have advertised and have received a handful of interested people. They are looking to grow the group. The deadline has been extended until September 30th with the hopes of having a meeting by mid-October.

Golf Committee – Trustee Pynchon informed the Board the Golf committee will be meeting tomorrow.

Recreation Committee- Trustee Pynchon reported that Meghan had some questions after she attended the Town meeting about the Recreation budget. Sally is going to meet with Meghan, Beth, Carol and the two town rec committee representatives to just review. The Town is working on their budget so this will hopefully kick start them to be thinking about how this process goes as we've outlined in the shared services agreement.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update-** was not in attendance
- b. **Katrina Hebb** – Katrina is here to talk to us about the issue of handicap access to the municipal building. Katrina recently came to the municipal building to get a handicap parking permit. She is here to bring the issue to the Board's attention. She brought her daughter with her for assistance because you never what's going to happen when you have never been in a building before. There is a handicap spot in front of the building. She felt this was unsafe because of the closeness of the cars on Main St. She said when she was here a couple of weeks ago was filled with sand. The doors do not have door openers. Some nice guy opened the second door for her.

Once she got in, she didn't know where to go. She went to the right which is the town office. She asked where to get a handicap placard. The counters are over her head in the wheel chair. The woman walked around the counter to talk to her. The woman took her form and license to the Police Department. While she was waiting, she did notice there is a lift to the second floor. She applauds the lift however for someone in a wheelchair it is completely ineffective. What would you do once you reach the top?

One of the police officers came down with her placard and said they needed her old placard. Her daughter went back out to the car to get the old placard. It was an incredibly stressful experience. She doubts we have enough money to install an elevator but some small changes would make a difference. Katrina added that Trustee Pynchon mentioned that we are buying McDonald's if you could change the handicapped spot to the side to the building and making space for someone to get their wheelchair out would make a big difference. Trustee Pynchon had also mentioned that we are applying for NYS Revitalization money. She would be delighted to write something up explaining about the current issues with the existing building and maybe get some signatures from other handicapped folks.

Mayor Dalton explained we have been working on some changes. We have reached out to get some numbers for the door openers. The handicap spot was put there by NYS DOT. We are not in a position where we can make changes to that spot. However, as we move forward with the purchase of McDonald's that has always been his intention that we add a couple handicap spots. The Mayor has asked the Village Superintendent to look at what it would take. Absolutely the best way to solve a lot of handicap accessibility problems is with a new building.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Zoning Revision Update-** Mayor Dalton said we have already talked about this so we can go right by this.
- b. **DRI Update** – The DRI has been submitted. I think there were 170 pages. Trustee Pynchon added that contracting with C & S was a great call they really helped up polish it and pull it together. She feels it was a good team effort. It was very helpful having Martha Foley-Smith as a town representative. The decision should be made the end of October or early November.
- c. **CCA Update** – Trustee Proemm said as soon as we hear back from Louise we will be meeting with her and taking the next steps which will be public education.
- d. **American Rescue Plan Act** - Mayor Dalton kept this on here just to remind us we need to decide how to use the money. We have some definite infrastructure needs. We need to start prioritizing some of it.
- e. **Reminder of Marijuana Public Hearing** – The Mayor reminded everyone of our meeting on September 22 at 6:00 PM. He hopes we get good attendance.
- f. **Head Start Lease Contract** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adopt the lease. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # 4 of 2021-2022. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$194,420.37	Golf Course	\$43,407.74
Water Fund	\$ 41,618.34	Joint Activity	\$17,277.99
Sewer Fund	\$ 30,676.14		

- b. **Pandemic Safety** – The Mayor said obviously we have moved to remote meetings again. We will adjust according to what is happening in our community. There have been some conversations about vaccination vs. testing of our employees. There was an opinion by our labor attorney regarding forcing people into a vaccination. The Mayor has been in touch with Health Systems for testing. He has also called Public Health about testing options. Trustee Pynchon feels we should make some decisions as soon as possible. Trustee Sorensen said she supports that approach but there may come a time that she would be less than enthusiastic about paying for testing with tax payers’ dollars. Trustee Proemm said he would support moving ahead with that as soon as possible. Tim Nolan suggested trying to educate some of the people in DPW about the importance of being vaccinated. Mayor Dalton answered we’ve done our best to talk to people about the importance of being vaccinated.
- c. **Discuss and possibly take Appoint Deputy Clerk** – Mayor Dalton said we will not be taking action at this time.
- d. **Appoint Bobbie Snyder as Part-Time Police Dispatcher** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to appoint Bobbie Snyder as Part-Time Police Dispatcher effective immediately. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- e. **Appoint Trustee Sorensen to the Infrastructure Committee** - No motion was needed as it is the Mayor’s appointment.
- f. **Discuss Handicap Access to Municipal Building** – This was discussed earlier in the meeting.
- g. **Resolution to amend the 2021-2022 budget** – We received extra CHIPS money. We need to pass a resolution to adjust the revenues and expenses. Trustee Proemm made a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- h. **Discuss Golf Course Green’s Mower Options** - This is specialized equipment. The two greens mowers we have right now, one is dead and the other is limping along. Marty said we bought a part for one of them, we thought that was going to be the problem. It wasn’t. A lease package was prepared for us. They would come up and pick them up take them back to their shop and they would do the service on them over the winter. They would then bring them back in the spring. It is through source well state bidding. He feels it is a good deal. Trustee Pynchon mentioned a presentation that we had years ago. Marty said Rob is going to come back and look at all our equipment.

Mayor Dalton added that this expense would be on next year's budget so there would be no changes on this budget. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to move forward with the equipment lease and authorize the Mayor to sign the paperwork. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- i. Appointment to CDP Board of Directors** - Trustee Pynchon asked for this to be tabled this month.
- j. Approval of Tyler Grochot for Fire Department membership** - Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve Tyler Grochot for Fire Department membership. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- k. Acceptance of Tree Maintenance Bids** – This was involved with a grant. There were 3 bids. Arbor Care Tree Service came in at \$44,050, TTS came in at \$28,255 and Paradise Valley Tree Service came in at \$27,700. Trustee Proemm made a motion to accept the low bid of \$27,700 with Paradise Valley Tree Service. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- l. Resolution regarding Tree Maintenance** – This resolution authorizes the Mayor to sign the paperwork involved with the grant. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Trustee Pynchon reminded the Board that we need a Housing Authority Board member. The other thing she wanted to point out that Monica recommended that Complete Streets should not be included in the zoning change but its own law. She and Monica have been looking at the draft presented by the complete streets committee, which looks like was just pulled from Massena. Monica gave Carol a couple of others the look at. She will get with the complete streets folks and come up with something because she would love to try to keep it on the same timeline as the zoning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Sorensen made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:52 PM for personnel. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:33 PM. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk