

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: December 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
Meghan Richardson, Rec Director
Cindy Brand, Assessor
Leigh Rodriguez, ED

Public Hearings:

6:20 – Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project – Project 175PF149-18, Canton Housing Authority Grasse Apartment Elevator project in the amount of \$300,000. There were no public comments. The hearing was closed at 6:25 PM.

6:25 – Proposed resolution to prohibit vehicular parking on the east side of Court Street in the Village of Canton, from the intersection of Court Street and Main Street and continuing in a northerly direction along the east side of Court Street until the entrance to the North Country Savings Bank parking lot. Excepted from this parking prohibition would be the two metered parking spots situated in front of the building at 16 Court Street. – There were no public comments. The hearing was closed at 6:28.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of November 17, 2021-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes of November 17, 2021, seconded by Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

5c. **Introduce and Swear in New Police Officers** – The Mayor introduced the two newest police officers, Joshua Vine and James Gibson. Chief Santimaw said he was pleased we were able to hire the officers. The officers were sworn in by Clerk Noble.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Recreation Director – Meghan had a few things to add to her report. We continue to get more and more donations for the kayak launch. Meghan also spoke with the groomer at the Best Western. He is willing to volunteer his time, however the equipment is owned by SLU. He would have to get that cleared by them. The application to Canton Central about the possibility

of using their pool and gymnasium for community hours was turned down. They are not opening it up because of the uptick of COVID cases.

High School hockey is in full swing, we hosted the boys varsity tournament this past weekend. We had Potsdam, Cicero, North Syracuse and Pennfield. The new part-time seasonal job has been posted. The Boards for the outdoor court have arrived.

Meghan has been contacted about a recreation column in the new Plaindealer. We did have some storm damage on Saturday. We did have a tree that hit the building. She is getting quotes for repairs. DPW helped with storm cleanup. The wind also damaged the front door of the pavilion.

Code Enforcement – Trustee Pynchon asked that the Board receive some updates on day-to-day issues. Are you dealing with any code enforcement issues? Tim said he will be more explicit next month.

Treasurer Report – Clerk Noble reported that the CSEA insurance meeting went well and was well attended. That insurance change will take effect January 1. The front door openers have been installed and are working well. The office is currently working on water/sewer readings for quarterly billings. We will be starting our calendar year end items. Our first Finance Committee meeting was held. We have a good starting spot. Clerk Noble will share the insurance power point with all the Board members.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw said that several of his staff including himself have been handing out posters and magnets and things like that from New York State See Something Say Something in preparation of the World Games coming up in early 2023. Having hotels, convenience stores and hardware stores keep an eye out for any suspicious activity. We are going to have a lo of hockey players and their families and spectators in the area. We just want to make sure the information is out there.

Trustee Pynchon congratulations on the nice article in the police chief's journal.

Assessor – Assessor Brand mailed out the aged Senior low-income exemptions today. She has asked that they make an appointment. Trustee Sorensen asked Cindy about her sales web information. How would this be useful to the general public. After some discussion Trustee Sorensen will meet with Assessor Brand to discuss.

Economic Development – There are some updates to her report. They have released the downtown revitalization initiative award winners which were Massena and Tupper Lake. She is going to try to follow up with Steve Hunt to see if he can provide any feedback for us on our application.

As far as the brownfield opportunity areas step two of the nomination package is being prepared to submit to the State to formally request the designation of the brownfield opportunity area. C & S is helping us with that. We submitted an application to the EPA again for more brownfield money to do a community wide testing program. We have submitted it 3 times now and have been close every time. We are hoping maybe this time we'll have some more money to do phase one and phase two testing.

The housing task force continues to meet and discuss a strategic plan for housing and how to approach the housing gaps in the community. We are hoping to have a plan put together by spring. The NYS Main Street project is moving along. The Dairy Queen grant was closed out with no findings. The Housing Authority grant is wrapping up. The final report has been submitted. The two tree projects are progressing. The Town was awarded a \$25,000 local government efficiency grant to study the consolidation of services for the town and village.

Historian – It's been a rough couple of weeks with losing the people we have in the community. Including Charlie Alexander, Bob Wells and Sigi Barr's husband.

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

The Mayor added that we are making an effort to get these reports and resolutions publicized before our meeting. There is a link on calendar and on the agenda page where you can access that information.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communication and Technology – already covered

Public Safety – we are working towards an event during Winterfest. The event will be publicized when the details have been worked out.

Broadband – Trustee Sorensen reported the committee has been meeting. They have met with the County Planning Office. They have read the DANC report. They feel they got the message from the County that the County is appreciative and welcoming of collaborating with us. I think we also got the message that as a town and a village we should move ahead on our own, to see what can be done rather than waiting. Trustee Sorensen feels that right now is a really important time for us to do this because there is a lot of money coming down the pipeline. We want to be able to know exactly what we want to do and what it's going to cost. We expect that at our January meeting they will be presenting the Board with a proposal to contract with a professional service to provide us a plan. They are expecting this to be in the \$4,000 range. This would be split with the Town of course.

Infrastructure Committee – Trustee Proemm came across an opportunity for some sidewalk funding. We could get \$16,000 worth of materials for sidewalks for work we do next summer or possibly get reimbursed for work we've already done. Also, there is a plan for a raised intersection at Judson and Farmer Street that we want to keep going. He will be talking to Eric from Clarkson to make sure that plan keeps going. Klaus will get a rough cost estimate. There is also the water tower on Judson will be very expensive to replace. We are going to work on doing the necessary repairs and painting.

There was also some storm draining on Judson Street that Clarkson will help with some x-ray equipment to figure out what needs to be done.

Recreation – Trustee Pynchon said that Dan Dominie has requested to have his name withdrawn from the recreation advisory committee.

Shared Services – Trustee Pynchon said there were no substantive changes in any of the shared agreements. Do you want to take time to review them or are you fine with the committee recommendation? The Board agreed to move forward. We'll get them signed by the Town.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update**- was not in attendance. He has stopped in to speak with the Mayor a few times.
- b. **NYMIR inspection** – we will get a written report soon.
- c. The Mayor wanted to make sure the Board knew that Bob Wells passed away. He served three terms as Village Mayor. He was a beloved member of our community.
- d. **Housing Authority** – We are still looking for a Board member.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Discuss SEQRA for the Zoning Revision** – Everyone has received all the documents. The first thing that has to be done is to do a SEQRA review. Attorney Ducharme said that it's been suggested that the answers are to primarily be no significant adverse impact. They are left blank for you to discuss to make those determinations. This was a type one action so it is a longer form. The form was reviewed section by section. It was determined that there is not significant environmental impact. Trustee Proemm made a motion to declare a negative declaration regarding Local Law #3. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

You are authorizing the Mayor to check box A on page 2 of part three of the assessment form. The resolution will be part of the record.

- b. **Zoning Revision** – There are 3 local laws that were put forward. Local Law #325 and by replacing the same with a new Chapter #325. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to repeal Chapter 325 and replace it with a new Chapter 325. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Local Law #4, repealing chapter 280, Subdivision of Land and replacing with a new chapter 280, Subdivision of Land. The big change here is the Planning Board will be dealing with subdivisions. Trustee Sorensen made the motion to repeal Chapter 280 and replace it with a new Chapter 280. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Local Law #5 amends the Canton Village Code by repealing Chapter 264 called Signs. Signs is now part of Chapter 325. Trustee Proemm made a motion to repeal Chapter 264, Signs. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

The Board thanked Monica Ryan for her assistance on this process.

- c. **Introduce and Swear in Police Officers** – This was addressed earlier in the meeting
- d. **Discuss Court Street Parking** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to restrict parking on Court Street between Main Street and the parking lot for North Country Savings with the exception of the two metered spots. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- e. **Discuss Draft Complete Streets Code** - Trustee Pynchon said we have been looking at this. The Complete Streets Task Force has recommended an addition to our code. Anna raised some good questions. We have asked Monica to take another run at some clarification about the task force compositions and practicalities of how it operates. We are getting a lot closer. She suggested we schedule a public hearing for January. It needs to be in complete form 10 days before the 19th. It will be its own chapter. The time will be 6:20 PM.

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 # **7 of 2021-2022**. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$130,481.15	Golf Course	\$7,429.20
Water Fund	\$17,927.58	Joint Activity	\$15,634.78
Sewer Fund	\$18,835.16		

- b. **Approval for Mayor to sign Annual Fire Contract with Town** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. **Agreement for Dog Pound Services** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement with Dan Moyer. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- d. **Schedule Joint Meetings with Town 1-26, 4-27, 7-27, 10-26-2022** – The Mayor put this on the agenda so everyone could include this on their schedules. The dates are flexible.
- e. **Accept resignation of Marty Miller, Village Superintendent** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to accept the resignation effective 12/20/2021. The Mayor added that Friday will be his last day worked. She said she wanted to say thank you to Marty for the short time he was here. He brought a fresh perspective to the infrastructure context. He had a lot of ideas on how to do things more efficiently. He jumped in with Complete Streets. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- f. The Mayor apologized to Mark McKenna. Mark wants to talk about the ADA dock. Mark thanked the Board for the opportunity to talk about it. Mark gave a time line of what has happened to date. By November 30 over half the money had been raised. The manufacturer needs ½ of the cost to be sent as a down payment by December 16. He asked for the support of the Village and Town in case they fall short in their fundraising efforts. A video was shared of the launch. Mark said he had a \$10,00 pledge and another \$5,000 pledge from Brookfield power.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chief Santimaw added a thank you to Marty for everything he’s done. He has been fun and easy to work with. He wishes him the best.

Trustee Larrabee added to the comments regarding Dr. Wells. He was an amazing mentor. He contributed so much to the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Pynchon made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:01PM for the purposes of personnel. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:08 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk