

# Village of Canton, New York

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## JOINT VILLAGE TOWN BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: January 26, 2022

### Village Board Present:

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee  
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

### Town Board Present:

Mary Ann Ashley, Supervisor  
Bob Santamoor, Councilman  
John Taillon, Councilman

Bob Washo, Councilman  
James Smith, Councilman

### Others Present:

Sally Noble, Village Clerk  
Leigh Rodriguez, ED  
Linda Casserly, Historian

Heidi Smith, Town Clerk  
Cindy Brand, Assessor  
Michael Morgan, Town Justice

**ORDER OF BUSINESS: Mayor Dalton opened the Special Meeting up at 6:00pm via Zoom.** He reminded everyone that closed captioning is available. There were no comments submitted to the Mayor or Supervisor prior to the meeting.

- 1. CDBG CARES Act Grant Application/ Discussion of a Public Hearing** – Supervisor Ashley asked ED Rodriguez to give an update and brief historical perspective of what has been done. Leigh said this is a funding source. It's part of the community development block grant program. It's specific to the coronavirus. Municipalities are eligible to apply for funding for various things such as small business assistance, public service, including broadband connectivity, vaccine education and outreach, improvement of facilities and things like that. Each municipality can apply for up to \$2 million. Last year we held a joint public hearing and proposed submitting an application for small business assistance. One of the primary concerns that came up in our public hearing was childcare. We wanted to assist some of the childcare facilities with expenses. We were proposing to do a grant program for small businesses. You have to achieve a national objective. All funds are primarily to benefit persons of low to moderate income.

Housing is another thing you can apply for through this one, it was for temporary housing for people that may have been displaced because of the virus. We did a survey of the business community. It was our intention to submit an application, the original deadline was, August 27, 2021 and then it was extended beyond that date because there were funds still available. Because of other workload, the downtown revitalization initiative concert in

the consolidated funding applications and other things we hadn't submitted an application yet. The discussion was internally, that the town, would be the most probable, the best choice to be the applicant because if only the Village applied it would limit the businesses that could be assisted to only those within the village boundaries.

A new notice of funding came out at the beginning of the year. Since it is a new fiscal year, we need to do a new public hearing.

Mary Ann said she had a meeting with Leigh and Jeni. This was talked about. She does not believe the town board formally voted to be the applicant at that time. She thinks it was discussed at the committee level but it didn't move forward. Does either municipality want to be the applicant? Do we have the capacity, the labor? Who has \$500,000 to front load? Her opinion the town is not in the position. Councilman Santamoor agreed with Mary Ann regarding capacity. He also questioned the local share.

Leigh Rodriguez responded that last time essentially part of the consultation process is that you create a program design plan for the program you're proposing to create. We were proposing to provide grants to small businesses. There's an existing Micro Enterprise program and in that program typically the business owner is required to do a 10% match, we were thinking something much smaller like 1%. So that match would be coming from the business owner, not from the town.

Councilman Smith asked what was the breakdown between town and village from those interested before? Leigh didn't have that info in front of her but she believed that most of them were in the Village.

Trustee Larrabee asked what the deadline was. Leigh responded in June or until the funds are run out. She then asked in terms of the ED committee, is there a recommendation to go after this? \$500,000 is a good chunk of change that could help a lot of people but she understands there is a balancing act. Do we have to front that money? Leigh answered that is a question that would need to be made internally. This program, as long as you have all your documentation, they are really quick to respond. The turn around time is within three weeks.

Mayor Dalton said if the Town feels they don't have the capacity to work on this then it becomes an internal issue for us the Village. The Village ED committee would have to explore and make some decisions how they would like to proceed. Leigh responded that ultimately there's zero match from the municipality. The other thing she would like to throw out there is that in the past the Town was the applicant. She feels she would hate to limit the geography. Leigh's office would do the administration. The thought was to hold another public hearing which is required and have people give feedback about what they would like to see. They could do another survey. Not everyone is going to reply to a survey. We would have a process if we get the grant. There was a committee last time with a scoring rubric. This a one-shot deal.

Councilman Washo wanted to know if ARPA funds could be used as leverage for that.

Leigh said she did not have that answer. Trustee Pynchon said to speak to the capacity question that in the past we have had outside people help with the administration and management. The Housing Council did that for us with a CDBG grant. Her feelings are this a one-time money that's coming across. She would like us to avail ourselves of those funds if we can find a way to make it work.

Councilman Santamoor wants to make sure Leigh is confident that our ED can administer this grant. Leigh responded that we have a great relationship with the DOS. It will be a lot of work. She will make it happen because she feels it is that important. Trustee Larrabee said she would like to advocate for that because there are people in this community who could use that money. Councilman Smith asked if the Town March board meeting is too late for an answer. He added it makes a difference how many businesses outside would be involved if it is 90% Village he doesn't know if it's worth it. Leigh said she would be more comfortable if it were February but we need enough time for a public hearing. Councilman Washo asked if the Town was the lead on paper but we had an MOU that said it was essentially your grant. This would keep the door open for Town businesses.

The Mayor said he would not be opposed to that idea but it would be up to the Town if they want to approach it that way. Supervisor Ashley said we currently have the agreement for the BOA which is almost done. She doesn't think they have the capacity in their office she has her own responsibilities and is still waiting to hear from the housing grant. She is going on record saying they can't take any more in her office. The Mayor said we can talk about it on the Village side to see if we're going to go it alone. Councilman Washo asked Leigh to just follow up to find out if ARPA funds would be available and then the breakdown of respondents to the survey and even stepping back from all the programs we've done in the last 5 years and what's been the breakdown Village vs Town outside. Leigh added that one of the Microenterprise businesses was a town outside that moved to the Village to be eligible.

2. **Assessment Revaluation** – Mayor Dalton said he was asked to put this on the agenda to talk about an assessment revaluation. A couple of our Board members have been watching Cindy's reports and seeing how our evaluations are changing. There has been some interest in a revaluation. Trustee Sorensen said she has had some conversations with Cindy. She asked Cindy to fill the Board in whether it is going to be 80 or 85%.

Cindy said that it will be 80 – 85%. She is not sure until the numbers are finalized in February. Over the last year, the residential sales have increase by 3%, the vacant land sales have gone up 8-10% and the waterfront has gone up 16% overall about 8% for the Town of Canton. She can't do this piecemeal it has to be done all at the same time. The only problem is the market has been so good. She talked to the County director and he said it was not a good time to do a revaluation. The advice he is giving us is to wait until things level out. She will get the files in order and get the data together. She wants to do this right. Trustee Larrabee said she thinks we should take Cindy's lead on this and wait. Councilman Santamoor agreed with Trustee Larrabee. He imagines that all the other Towns and Villages are in the same situation. Trustee Sorensen agreed and thanked Cindy for the recommendation.

- 3. Government Efficiency Grant – Town Highway/Stiles Ave/Village DPW –** Councilman Washo asked for this to be on the agenda. He wanted to know if there's anything to discuss at this point. Supervisor Ashley said we are waiting for the contract. It is \$50,000 and then \$25,000 reimbursement. We need to do an MOU with the Village. Councilman Washo wanted to clarify one point. It's money to develop a plan on how to best utilize that property on Stiles Ave. and share a portion of it with the Village in order to help clean up the DPW yard along the Grasse River currently between Atlantic Testing and the pavilion. The Mayor added we were also focused on sand/salt storage.

Councilman Smith said storage may be more difficult for the Village as the County is building their satellite stations. Washo said the latest update the Town got was the County's intention is to have zero salt storage at the Park Street location. The Mayor said he has spoken to Don Chambers about it and it's not going to happen immediately. We are not going to be out in the cold. Bob Santamoor asked the time frame. Bob Washo responded five years. Trustee Sorensen said the infrastructure committee's perspective is they are ready to discuss it. Leigh said that right now we have a draft of the contract and we are putting together a work plan which is going to define what we do and what we need to provide as documentation for the project. It would be good if there's going to be a committee to get together to look at the work plan and get that put together to be incorporated into the contract. Bob said he was not aware there was a work plan. Leigh will distribute it to the committee.

- 4. COVID Safety Plan –** Supervisor Ashley asked for this to be put on the agenda. She said so much has changed. She thinks we need to look at it to find out if we have to resubmit. She wanted to document that for the record and would recommend they go back to the building committee to review and rewrite it. Councilman Santamoor said he has not seen anything saying we are required to rewrite that plan. The Mayor agreed there is nothing that says the State is asking us to rewrite our plan. Supervisor would like the building committee to review it one more time.
- 5. Current Municipal Building Space Needs –** Supervisor Ashley asked to put this on the agenda because they have some construction coming up. The JCAP grant calls for construction upstairs along the Court wall and also looking to put in a new code door. She and Mayor Dalton are having a meeting with the Justices tomorrow. We need to look at the entire space for now. We did a building study back in 2019. She wanted to go on record saying that we're looking at that and if you look at the departments they are so crunched upstairs. They will be reporting back after the Justice meeting. Mayor Dalton said we are all tight and there are very few solutions to the problem.
- 6. 64 Main Street –** The Mayor said the extension to the purchase contract was signed last week for 30 more days. We are waiting on how McDonald's will move forward on the cleanup of the site. We did our Phase I and II testing. We discovered there was some contamination. McDonald's sent their own engineer to look at it. We are waiting to hear back from McDonald's what it is they are going to do and when they are going to do it. The

indication was that it would happen pretty quick.

**Executive Session** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session for purposes of employment at 7:08 PM, Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. Councilman Smith made a motion for the Town of Canton, Councilman Santamoor seconded the motion for the Town. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to come out of executive session at 7:40PM, Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. Councilman Washo made a motion to come out of executive session for the Town, Councilman Smith seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes. Councilman Smith made the motion for the Town, seconded by Councilman Santamoor. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble  
Village Clerk