

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: March 16, 2022

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, 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

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:00 PM. The purpose of the public hearing is to take public comments on the Village's community development needs to discuss the possible submission of one or more Community Development Block Grant applications. The Mayor has not received any public comments. At this point he turned the meeting over to Leigh Rodriguez, Director of Economic Development. They did send out a survey and have received 13 responses so far.

Leigh read a statement containing detailed information about the program before it was opened for public comment.

Leigh said she had some information from the fire department and some from the wastewater treatment facility but is waiting on more. A survey has also been done of small businesses to get input on what the needs are there. The Mayor asked how many small businesses have expressed interest. Leigh responded right now 2. Last year they had 14. They have also received some information from United Helpers for mental health support. Their total project is estimated over a million dollars and the other businesses are likely to apply for \$500,000 and then we're still waiting on the numbers for the other two, but maybe in the neighborhood of \$100,000 or less.

Trustee Sorensen asked so those that responded, to the survey, the majority of them were commenting on both of those projects. Leigh replied yes, the survey that we released recently more of them were just general comments, there were 2 businesses.

Leigh added we do still have to submit a consultation and have a phone consultation with the state and be invited to do the application. We have to make sure we meet the national objective of serving the low to moderate income. The state provided a link to demographic information and the village was at 49%. So, it is very close. It is worth having a conversation with them. The Fire Department serves our communities that may change the demographics a little bit.

Trustee Sorensen added she had been approached by Anna Summer to provide input on something that may or may not be related. Anna read the email she received. She has seen the corrosive effects of workplace tension and anxiety in some of her volunteer work. She wondered if there might be funding for things like employee satisfaction surveys for employers

and then consultants to help follow up on those surveys? Is that something if folks are interested in that would be, seems like it could be COVID related. Leigh said it could be either part of small business assistance or part of mental health. Trustee Sorensen said she thinks that is something we should consider.

There were no other comments or questions. The deadline is June 30th.

The Mayor closed the public hearing and opened the meeting at 6:27 PM.

We do have a special presentation but she isn't here yet so we'll get started and then when she gets here we will move to that.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of February 16, 2022-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2022. A motion was seconded by Trustee Proemm. The Mayor added one correction. On the last page as "instructed by the Comptroller". All voted in favor with that correction. The motion passes.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw said that the dispatcher project is essentially wrapped up. They also have the drug take back kiosk provided at no charge. There is a company out of NYC that provides the container and the boxes. It works just like a mailbox.

Treasurer Report – Clerk Noble added a thank you to Megan. She is doing a lot of extra work right now. She is thanked every day for coming to work. Sally also added that she has been talking to our IT provider and insurance company about providing cyber liability coverage. Trustee Sorensen asked if this is something we have been requested to do or is just a proactive stance. What kinds of things does it cover? Clerk Noble replied things such as malware and ransomware and we are being proactive.

Trustee Sorensen had a few budget questions. She noticed gas and oil expenses seem to have increased. Clerk Noble responded that she has been coding invoices. It has been distributed differently than the person that was doing that before. Trustee Sorensen also asked about the insurance recovery line item. Clerk Noble explained that those were for insurance claims we filed for such things as accidents with our vehicles or storm damage.

Recreation Director – Meghan reported that springtime is really here. The ice was removed this morning. The highway department brought over the skid steer and it was all done by 11:30. She has contacted a company that will come in and do a proper shut down and show us the proper steps. They are going to also clean our pipe system so we have a fresh start in the fall. The staff went out to in the parks to look at winter damage and pick up the trash. She is keeping an eye on the water level.

Meghan also spoke about the insurance claim on the roof. She was also able to finally get another person to look at the front door for a quote. She did want to get the Board's permission to sell the inoperable ice resurfacers. Her second new item was that Bobby Helms received an amazing opportunity to be a head guide in Alaska. He has requested a leave of absence from the

Village of 2 ½ months. Trustee Larrabee made a motion to allow the electric Zamboni to be sold as surplus equipment by auction. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen said she saw that the advisory committee was talking about summer programs. She was interested in what those plans might be. Meghan replied that they think they have found instructors for swim lessons. They also talked about kayak water safety course and they talked about a gardening class. They talked about activities that could use the outdoor rink. Pickle ball is being worked on. She has the materials for resurfacing the court. Dance classes, karate, tennis and self-defense classes were also talked about.

Economic Development – Leigh said she did not have anything else to add to her report. There were no questions for Leigh.

Historian – submitted an extensive written report. Her office is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10 to 4 and Thursday and Friday by appointment only.

A written report was sent by the **animal control officer** and the **Fire Chief**.

Assessor – Assessor submitted her written report and is observing on-line.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report and is observing on-line.

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

The Mayor introduced Doreen Radway. Doreen approached the Mayor about doing a presentation to the Board about a walking tour proposal. The information was in the Google Drive for everyone. Doreen visited her son in Bristol Virginia/Tennessee. The city offered a scavenger hunt/ walking tour. It was a great experience and she thought maybe we could do something like that here. They do something similar in Greenville South Carolina and they call it mouse on Main Street. She thought it would be a fun way for people to come to Canton and promote our downtown. It would be an on-going permanently hands on program with potential for special events such as geocaching scavenger hunts.

The thought was to look at a kickoff maybe a year from this summer, early fall of 2023. They did their project in 2008 and it cost around \$5,000 with an inflation calculator it came out to \$7,000. They had a spruce up project in 2018. The bottom line is it would be the choosing a separate book, choosing a sculptor, copywrite to the book and illustration. Yearly maintenance would include waxing and buffing statues. The funding of this project would include group fundraising. The group has already discussed a few books. They are thinking Brown Bear Brown Bear. The fundraising they were looking at is maybe \$20,000. Alex at the library is already working on a potential grant from Corning and Sweetgrass and different service groups. She has contacted a sculptor. Emily and Doreen as well as Valerie the children's librarian would to a walking tour themselves first to try to determine the length and where to put these sculptures.

They would like to set up a committee and get together as soon as next week if they get the Village's blessing tonight. They would start at the Village offices and end in the library where they could get the book.

The Mayor said the Village Board will be very supportive.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Golf – Trustee Larrabee said she and Trustee Pynchon met with Karen and Raymond and talked about the concession contract. Beth will be connecting with the Mayor to discuss but she wanted everyone to know those conversations have started.

Recreation – Trustee Larrabee met with Meghan met on the 28th and talked about the ice resurfacers and summer programming which you already got the updates on.

The Mayor added that as we move forward with golf and recreation we will have the need to hire part-time employees. We will get the list distributed as soon as we can for approval.

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm said we are getting close to getting a few more EV chargers. We are narrowing down locations. He would like to get together with Jim, Mike and Anna and look at Hodskin street. We could expand that charger station there. Also looking at a few other locations.

We have been meeting with the school on safety. He has some quotes on crossing signals and caution signals. He will get that out to everyone in the next day or so. got a start working on that. We also continue to work on Judson and the raised crossing at Farmer. We have to do some investigation on storm drainage and figure out the logistics of that.

Complete Streets will be meeting with Eric Backus soon to discuss the Park Street, Court Street study and to figure out the details of that. Trustee Sorensen asked if part of the quote getting for that has to do with trying to get the access to the Health Initiative grant money and do those quotes fall within that amount? Klaus responded not quite that is what we have to discuss. We have to figure out which ones we want most.

Infrastructure Committee – Trustee Sorensen reported the committee met with the Town highway to talk about the Stiles Ave grant project. At this point I think the work for us is to figure out the whole survey and the paper street and then finishing the work plan.

Economic Development – Trustee said she felt Leigh's report covered everything. They have met to talk about CBDG said we are continuing the conversation about the housing strategic plan. There has been a drop off in the participation in the working for that. It is important to develop a strategic plan for housing so we can use the data in a wise way moving forward. Especially as we make decisions about funding priorities.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen reported that we did not meet because the clerk's met to set up the owl on the cart.

Broadband – Trustee Sorensen asked if anyone had a chance to look at the binder in the office. It really comes down to we have an inventory of the residential service providers and the type of service they provide. The Village is served in the sense that we have 2 providers. However, we only have 1 provider that provides service at the asymmetrical upload/download speed that is considered to be standard at this point. The town has 245 not serviced at all. The data suggests that we need more information. There are a lot of unanswered questions. They are going to meet with some other folks from other communities, out of state who have been grappling with this.

Our goal as committee is to ask more questions and then make a proposal. Likely we will need some feasibility studies. We would be grateful for you to look at the report and send us your questions.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update**- legislator was not present.
- b. The Mayor has not received any communications.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **CDBG CARES ACT** – The Mayor said he put this on the agenda to see if the Board had anything else they wanted to talk about or discuss. There was no further discussion.
- b. **64 Main Street** – Attorney Ducharme said there have been a few emails with the Attorney for McDonalds regarding mediation. He says he is still waiting to hear back.
- c. **Discuss residency requirement for Superintendent** – The Mayor said once we make a decision on a hire we can consider the concerns on forcing someone to move into the village, then, based on those concerns, we can create a waiver for a good cause shown.
- d. **Discuss Purchase of the Olympia Ice Resurfacers** – The Mayor said we had approved that purchase but as you know there was a mistake on the quote. They forgot to add in the duty and brokerage fee and shipping and handling. There is an additional \$4,765. The Mayor needs permission to sign it and the Town Supervisor will have to go back to her board also. The Actual purchase price is \$121,690. Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve the total purchase with a 50/50 split with the Town. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. The motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Mayor added under new business item E. request for a leave of absence

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # **10 of 2021-2022**. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$198,180.19	Golf Course	\$ 6,788.24
Water Fund	\$23,820.07	Joint Activity	\$42,383.14
Sewer Fund	\$29,273.07		

- b. Approve Fire Department Members** – The Mayor read the names of the proposed new members; Corbin Ladison, Brendan Wade and Ryan Tenora. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the new members. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. Discuss “Caterpillar Crawl” walking tour proposal** – Mayor Dalton asked if there was anything else to add other than the Boards full support. There were no other questions.
- d. Discuss Non-Contract Employee Policy** – The Mayor had distributed a draft of the policy. That has been worked on with the Finance Committee. The one question that remains deals with Juneteenth. Juneteenth is a federal holiday. The other item is Matt Ryan is working on a grievance procedure. The board consensus was to add Juneteenth and keep the ½ day for Good Friday.
- e. Request for leave of absence** – Robert Helms has requested an annual leave of absence from June 25 to September 10. He will be going to Alaska. He has been an important piece of the ice program. Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve the leave of absence. The motion was seconded by Trustee Proemm. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

Trustee Larrabee added she wanted to thank the Fire Department for their actions on the big fire on the Mead Rd the other day and also to DPW and the Mayor for dealing with the water main break.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:30 PM for the purposes (H) the proposed acquisition, sale of lease of real property and (F) matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion or demotion of and individual. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:47 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to hire an appraiser for a price not to exceed \$2,500. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 PM. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk