

Town of Canton Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 8, 2022
Hybrid-In Person & Zoom (view only) @ 6:00 PM
Minutes

Present: Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council Members Jim Smith, John Taillon, and Bob Santamoor

Absent: Council Member Bob Washo, Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez

Also Present: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Heidi Smith, Assessor Cindy Brand, Code Enforcement Officer Michael McQuade, Highway Superintendent Steven Smith, Recreation Director Meghan Richardson, Attorney Eric Gustafson, CPA John Gray, Economic Developer Assistant Jeni Reed (zoom)

Public Attendance: John Vose, Beth Larrabee, Anna Sorenson, Toby Irven, Bill Myers, North Country This Week Paul Mitchell, Watertown Daily Times Tom Graser

A. Call Meeting to Order

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley at 6:02 pm.

B. Public Comment

John Vose, Judson Street, spoke against the solar project going in on 310 next to his property. Concerns of the location, solar panels being 300-400 ft from his home, security, property line and tree line use of pesticides. Mr. Vose would like to have seen a local law to allow where solar projects should be. This is like the California Gold Rush. Council Member Jim Smith added that this solar project went before the County Planning Board and was denied.

C. County Legislator Representative(s) Update(s)

Supervisor Ashley read out loud an email sent from County Legislator Kevin Acres with an update from the county. The county has put an approved ARPA plan in place for the spending of \$20.9 million. Of particular interest to the Town of Canton, three million in funding have been set aside for water and sewer projects. The SLC Planning Department will be contacting all municipalities within the county to make them aware of the funding.

D. Approval of Minutes

Tabled Regular Board Meeting minutes for May 11, 2022. Not available at this time.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to approve the Special Board Meeting May 10, 2022 minutes.

All in favor. Motion carried.

E. Correspondence

1. NYSIRTA sent a letter informing the Town of all the State Projects that have been approved for solar.
2. Alexia Lamb sent an email regarding the Community Choice Aggregation Program and was wondering if the board would want her to come and give a presentation. The board is interested in getting an update.
3. Ag & Markets sent a report on the Shelter Inspection, passed with satisfactory.
4. NYSDOT sent an official letter on the POP (Pave our Potholes) funds.

F. Town Finances Report

John Gray, Gray & Gray read over the highlights of the May 2022 Town Financial Report. Financial report was sent to the Town Council prior to this meeting.

John Gray, Gray & Gray read over the Town Clerk's financial report for the month of May 2022. The Town Clerk's Report was sent to Town Clerk Smith and Town Council prior to the monthly meeting.

G. Audit Committee

A General - \$47,957.82
B Town Outside - \$37,295.48
DA Town Wide Highway - \$20,711.08
DB Highway - \$31,548.33
"SF" Special Fire - \$3,958.00
"SL" Special Lighting - \$263.28
"TA" Trust & Agency - \$20,364.25

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor for the approval of the expenditures.

All in favor. Motion carried.

H. Acceptance of Department Reports

Assessor Cindy Brand reported that grievance is done and now waiting for the County to finalize the tax roll. Cindy added to her report that there is going to be a 2022 Homeowner Tax Rebate Credit sent to residents, some may have already received it. *It was shared on the screen during the meeting.*

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Heidi Smith reported that May was a busy month, the clerk's office continues to deal with issues with online payments.

Recreation Director Meghan Richardson reported summer program in-person payments have started. Swim lessons will run three weeks in the pool and one week at

Taylor Park. Busy with field trips from schools at Taylor Park. Submitting an RFP for New Youth Sport Education Grant through the SLC Youth Bureau, hoping to use those expenses for summer programs.

Highway Superintendent Steven Smith reported they are finished with spring cleanup from winter flowing, started in with roadside mowing. Cemeteries were mowed for Memorial Day weekend. Road construction is underway. Seven projects with Village of Rensselaer Falls waiting on an MOU.

Code Enforcement Officer Michael McQuade reported twelve new permits, one commercial permit, and two occupancy permits.

Historian Linda Casserly reported May was a busy month. Recognized Ester Gushea Village of Rensselaer Falls Clerk that passed away.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to accept department reports as presented.
All in favor. Motion carried.

I. Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee-Bob Santamoor reported two new businesses in the Village of Canton, Riverside Market and Riverside Tobacco Shop. The Main Street Grant has awarded some funding for the library ramp. The committee is looking for bike stations throughout the Village. Willow Island received an updated proposal and the Miner Street Projects – Tisdale and Associates have completed the final drawings.

Sustainability Committee-Bob Santamoor reported they have met Community Choice Aggregation. Second session meeting is going to be June 16th via zoom at 6:00 pm. Looking for CFA Grant for the Community Compost Program. The goal is to remove 100% food waste from an organization to a community compost area. Court Street Study to make it safer for cyclists on Court Street. Public Transportation is back in full. There are two sunflower planting sessions taking place in Canton.

Zoning Committee-Jim Smith reported that there is meeting scheduled with Monica in July hoping to have a draft to look at.

Solar Committee-Jim Smith reported they will be getting busy soon with solar projects.

Highway Committee-Jim Smith reported they have met with Brookes Washburn and Tisdale on draining plan on Miner Street Project.

Recreation Committee-John Taillon reported looking into getting a new lifeguard shack and possibly have it moved to a different location.

Communication and Technology Committee-John Taillon reported that the Town approved to put in another Wi-Fi access point in the court room at a cost of \$125.00.

J. Old Business

1. Discussion of use of Herbicides under 765 KV Line

Bill Myers brought this to the last meeting with concerns with use of chemicals by using herbicides. Myers asked the Town Board to consider a local ordinance to use an organic or mechanical method such as cutting, planting, mowing to minimize the use of herbicides. Council Member Bob Santamoor will do some research on what is out there, and Eric Gustafson will draft up a local law.

2. St. Lawrence County Hazard Mitigation Plan-Pyrites Boat Launch

The County has updated their Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Town took part. This plan went to the State and the State is concerned about the Pyrites Boat Launch regarding flooding. Direction from the board is to work on the language in the plan regarding the Pyrites Boat Launch to satisfy the concerns. Supervisor Ashley will follow up with Greta to have a conversation with State. Being part of the plan helps the Town if a disaster were to occur. This could allow for FEMA funding.

3. Follow Up-Broadband Presentation

The Town received a revised proposal from John McAdoo, MC Fiber. The next step to take is at the price of \$15,000 spread over the terms of six-months to continue to move forward with broadband. The Broadband Committees recommendation is to do all the steps – look a possible legal problem, RFP potential vendors, and consideration for Municipal Network. The board referred this to Eric for counsel.

4. LWRP Application-Grasse River Recreation Assessment, Feasibility and Strategic Plan

This was discussed at the Special Joint Town/Village Meeting, after getting additional information from the Economic Developer and better understanding of submission of application. The Town will take the lead on the grant. The grant will be split between the Town and Village, an MOU needs to be done and a resolution will need to be passed. This is providing that the Economic Developer have a draft application to the board for the July meeting.

5. 2022 Budget Amendment 2022 POP (Pave Our Potholes) Highway Funds \$50,892.12

A motion was made by Council member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to amend the 2022 budget with a new revenue line DB-3500-

3501-3 POP \$50,892.12.
All in favor. Motion carried.

See attached Resolution.

K. New Business

1. Algonquin Power, LLC/Old Dekalb Road Escrow Account Set Up

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith allowing the Supervisor to set up an escrow account for Algonquin Power, LLC/Old Dekalb Road.
All in favor. Motion carried.

See attached Resolution.

2. Set Public Hearing for Posting Roads

A motion was made to Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to set a Public Hearing on June 13, 2022, at 5:50 pm for Posting Roads.
All in favor. Motion carried.

3. 2023 Budget Calendar

Supervisor Ashley submitted a 2023 Town Budget Development Process (subject to change) to the board prior to the board meeting. These steps need to be taken to adopt the 2023 budget by November 18.

4. Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected & Appointed Officials

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith to pass the Standard Workday and Reporting Resolution for Elected & Appointed Officials.
All in favor. Motion carried.

5. Proposed Amendment to Canton Central School District Cooperative Agreement
Tabled

6. Village of Rensselaer Falls Project Request/MOU of Town Highway Department

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to approve Village of Rensselaer Falls Project Request/MOU of Town Highway Department.
All in favor. Motion carried.

7. Draft Joint T/V Recreation Community Based Proposal Policy
Tabled

8 NYS Department of Transportation Emergency Shared Services Agreement

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith to continue a two-year emergency shared service agreement with the NYS Department of Transportation.

All in favor. Motion carried.

L. Public Comment

None

Executive Session: Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss any of the issues identifies as proper by Public Officers Law 105(1)

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to go into executive session for [D] litigation, [E] contract negotiations and [H] the proposed acquisition of lease real property.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to come out of executive session at 8:47 pm.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to adjourn meeting at 8:48 pm.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heidi L. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Heidi" being more prominent.

Heidi L. Smith, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 12

COPY

DATED: June 8, 2022

**NEW HIGHWAY STATE FUNDING
PAVE OUR POTHOLES (POP) PROGRAM
2022 Budget Amendment**

WHEREAS, the Town of Canton has received an official letter from the New York State Department of Transportation announcing new highway repair state funding labeled as 2022 Pave Our Potholes (POP) to support the repair, rehabilitation, and modernization of local roads; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Canton 22/23 apportionment for POP funding is \$50,892.12; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Canton budgeted \$550,000 for Highway Repair in the 2022 Budget; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Canton amend the 2022 budget with a new revenue line as follows:

REVENUE: DB-3500-3501-3 POP	-add \$50,892.12
Total	\$50,892.12

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Canton hereby approves additional costs to be covered from the highway fund balance.

6/8/2022
Date

[Signature]
Canton Town Clerk

COPY

TOWN OF CANTON
RESOLUTION 13

June 8, 2022

2022 BUDGET AMENDMENT
ESTABLISHING AN ESCROW ACCOUNT FOR
ALGONQUIN POWER, LLC/OLD DEKALB ROAD SOLAR PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Town of Canton passed local law three (3) of 2019 regulating solar energy facilities within the Town, and

WHEREAS, SECTION 1: Chapter 71 of the Town Code of the Town of Canton is created to add the following section: Solar Energy Facilities for the purpose to promote the accommodation of solar energy systems and equipment and the provision for adequate sunlight and convenience of access necessary therefore, and to balance the potential impact on neighbors when solar collectors may be installed near their property while preserving the rights of property owners to install solar energy systems without excess regulation. In particular, this legislation is intended to apply to free standing; ground or pole mounted and roof mounted solar energy system installations based upon certain placement. This legislation is not intended to override agricultural exemptions that are currently in place, and

WHEREAS, the Applicant for either state or local siting approval shall deliver to the Town Board, along with its application if local approval is sought, and concurrent with the filing of an Article 10 Application, if applicable, an amount equal to one percent (1%) of the estimated cost of the project (the "Initial Deposit"). This sum shall be held by the Town in a non-interest-bearing account, and these funds shall be available to the Town to pay consultants and attorneys engaged the Town to assist in application review if a local permit is sought, and to pay consultants and attorneys engaged by the Town to assist in review of an Article 10 Application should awarded intervenor funds be insufficient to fully participate in the Article 10 Process or should intervenor funds be otherwise exhausted. Following the grant or denial of the state or local application, the Town shall return to the Applicant any excess remaining in escrow. of the escrow account has been depleted prior to grant or denial of the application, the Applicant shall deposit such funds necessary for the Town to pay any outstanding fees to said consultants, and

WHEREAS, the Town Supervisor, as Chief Fiscal Officer, would set up the proper escrow account and audit tracking systems; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Canton Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to create an escrow account for authorized expenditures related to the ALGONQUIN POWER, LLC/OLD DEKALB ROAD SOLAR PROJECT.

12/8/2022
Date

Heidi R. Smith
Canton Town Clerk