

Town of Canton Special Joint Town/Village Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 25, 2022
Hybrid-In Person & Zoom (view only) @ 6:00 PM
Minutes

Present: Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley, Council Members Jim Smith, John Taillon, and Bob Washo (zoom). Village Mayor Mike Dalton, Trustees Carol Pynchon, Anna Sorensen, Klaus Proemm and Beth Larrabee (Zoom)

Absent: Council Member Bob Santamoor

Also Present: Town Clerk/Tax Collector Heidi Smith, Deputy Town Clerk Leanna Moquin (zoom), Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez (zoom)

Public Attendance: North Country This Week Paul Mitchell (zoom), Watertown Daily Times Tom Graser, Toby Irven, MC Fibers John McAdoo

A. Call Meeting to Order

Special Joint Town/Village board meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley.

B. MC Fibers John McAdoo Broadband Study Presentation

John McAdoo presented the broadband study that MC Fibers put together of the Town and Village of Canton. The study focused on **residential** service provider inventory, identified unserved addresses and municipal network ownership overview. The number one priority of the study was to find out the number of unserved addresses in the Town and Village Canton with a total of 245 unserved residential addresses. There are four services providers Spectrum, Verizon, SLIC, and TDS. One of the options to get these addresses served is to submit a formal RFP to the four service providers asking the following questions pricing details, what addresses they would be willing to serve, will they be using fiber or coax service to the home, routing details, payment terms and estimate schedule to complete. With this RFP it would help to find out what their requirements would be and what they would want for this. If the Town would like to go down the path for Municipal Networking the first thing that is recommended is to have an attorney look over everything and obtain National Grid and Verizon license agreement for pole rentals. There could be possible funding through grants.

John McAdoo recommends that the first step is to speak with legal and the chief financial officer. Then submit an RFP for the unserved addresses and get the National Grid and Verizon agreements.

The broadband committee's recommendation is to proceed with both options at once and getting the 245 people service should be the priority. There is an opportunity to be forward thinking about this, the Town already has some sense what is coming. If the Town could proceed with both paths, decisions can be made looking further down the road and decide what paths to follow. There needs to be more research and data gathered for Municipal Networking to know how it works and find out if this is a risk that the Town and Village are willing to take.

C. Consider Resubmission of LWRP Application-Grasse River Recreation Assessment, Feasibility and Strategic Plan

Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez recommended that the Town and Village boards consider resubmission of the LWRP Application. At the last joint meeting it was asked that the plan be sent to the Recreation Committee and the Economic Development Committee to consider resubmission. The Economic Development Committee supports the resubmission of the application. The Recreation Committee has questions about the application and does not recommend resubmitting at this time. The other question is will the Village or Town be the lead for the grant. Discussion was had amongst the two boards. The recreation committee would like to have further discussion with Leigh to answer questions before making any decisions. The Town would also like to see something in writing from Leigh.

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

A motion was made by Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Town Council Member Jim Smith for the Town to go into executive session for [E] collective negotiations and [H] the proposed acquisition of lease real property.
All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Carol Pynchon and seconded by Village Trustee Anna Sorenson to adjourn the Village meeting at 7:30 pm.
All if favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith to adjourn executive session at 8:22 pm
All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Jim Smith to adjourn the Town meeting at 8:23 pm.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi L. Smith, Town Clerk

