

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: July 20, 2022

Board Present:

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

Others Present:

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney
Cindy Brand, Assessor
James Santimaw, Chief
Tim Nolan, Code Officer

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
Tim Bacon, Superintendent
Leigh Rodriguez, Economic Developer

The meeting was held on Wednesday, July 20, 2022 at 6:30pm in the Court Room of the Municipal Building at 60 Main Street Canton, NY 13617. The meeting was also made available to the public via the use of Zoom video-conference.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes** – There were no minutes to approve

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Superintendent Report – Trustee Sorensen asked about the Golf Course mapping. Supt. Bacon responded the GIS is completed but not uploaded yet. He is still waiting for Skip for an actual physical paper map. There also needs to be more discussion about moving back to spring and fall pickup.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw added that he has requested a meeting with the school Superintendent and president of the school board about the possibility of an SRO he has not heard anything. He also added that all members of the Canton PD attended an active shooter drill hosted by the Sherriff's department. Also all members will be taking a tour of Canton Central School this week. They will also be taking a tour of the new methadone clinic the same day. The three new officers are not familiar with the SLU campus. They are going to do a ride along on their shifts to get to know the campus better.

Assessor Report- Assessor Brand thanked the SLC tax office for all the work they do and all the help they provide. She included in her report information about valid and invalid sales.

Recreation Report – Meghan submitted her written report. She is tied up with programs tonight. Pickle ball resurfacing will begin on Monday. The Fire Department is helping with that.

Historian Report- Historian Casserly submitted her report she is not here tonight.

Animal Control- A written Animal Control Report was submitted.

Treasurer Report- Treasurer Noble informed the Board that we received our second half of the ARPA funds in the amount of \$333,127.19. The Clerk's office is also working on getting the zoom recordings on YouTube so we can delete them from our zoom account.

Golf Report – A written report was submitted.

Code Officer- There was no Code report.

Economic Developer Report- Economic Developer Rodriguez did not submit a written report. Round 6 of Restore NY was announced. There will be a round 7 as well. There is also NY Forward. Klaus brought to her attention the DEC grant for EV fast chargers that would be 10 times faster than our chargers. There was discussion on who would be completing the application.

Trustee Sorensen asked if the CDBG Cares was still moving along. Leigh responded that the consultation form had to be resubmitted and that was done a few weeks ago. She has not heard back. She will follow up on that.

Trustee Pynchon said that a guy from NYSERDA working with the sustainability committee to run a code enforcement training program. It would be for 20 – 25 code enforcement officers from surrounding municipalities. It will be on a Wednesday or Thursday, an all-day long training with an hour for lunch. It will be hosted by us on the 13th or 20th of October.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the Department Heads Report. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recreation Committee – The Mayor reported the Recreation Committee met to go over the LWRP proposal. There is lots of programming in progress. The bike safety program was successful. Taylor Park has been busy with the heat. The Rec Committee is recommending to move forward with the LWRP.

Economic Development Committee- Trustee Sorensen spoke briefly about the CGI Digital Video marketing campaign that the joint Town/Village ED committee is proposing. It is on the agenda for next week. They work with us to develop and produce five videos between 30 and 90 seconds. They will showcase different themes of our community. The themes would be things like economic development perhaps, recreation. This is a free program for municipalities. They research the businesses and organizations in the community. They embed that list for us and when they do they approach those businesses and organizations with offers to assist them with marketing.

Trustee Pynchon added one additional item from the ED Committee. This will also be on the agenda for the joint meeting. It is the development of a comprehensive plan oversight committee. That was an action and a goal recommended in the Comp Plan that was adopted in October 2019. It will be an annual review of the Comp Plan.

Community Choice Energy venture - Trustee Proemm said we are at a point where we have some options. We've recently had discussions with the Village and Town of Potsdam and the Town of Canton. We can move ahead now which we are ready to do or we can hold off and

potentially be joined by the Village and Town of Potsdam and the Town of Canton. Then do a joint venture. By joining together there would be some potential additional savings by having a larger group. In a week we will have a more discussions with Joule and have a more definite information about those options so we can decide how we would like to proceed. His hunch is that we should go on our own because it will take up to a year for the others to get caught up. Trustee Pynchon felt that we might get more public interest if we go with other municipalities. We definitely need more public education.

One other thing is that we are having a meeting next Tuesday the 26th at 5:00 PM. Clarkson will be giving us their preliminary data including recommendations. After that we will get the final report. The study is to see how we can improve pedestrian and bike safety. It is an informational meeting only.

Communication and Technology Committee- Trustee Pynchon stated they have not met.

Shared Services - Trustee Pynchon stated they have not met. They are waiting for the Town Supervisor for the right policy to be formulated so that we can move forward on the Rec shared services agreement. They have a change of personnel, Bob Washo is off and their replacement is John Taillon.

Finance Committee – The committee met last week. Sally has been working with the two deputies on who's doing what. Things are beginning to fall into place. The plan is to hire a part-time clerk to provide some support for the office and to relaunch the treasurer position in the fall.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update-** was not in attendance.
- b. **Canton Housing Authority** – The Mayor had invited the Housing Authority Director. He thought Amanda was going to be here this evening. Something must have come up. He did receive a set of minutes today. He will share those with the Board.
- c. **Pearl Street** – He did receive a verbal request for a block party on Pearl Street. That has not been firmed up. He has not received anything in writing just a verbal request. We have some rules that have to be abided by. He has also contacted the Sheriff's office because of their driveway.
- d. **90 Judson Street** – The Mayor received late yesterday a request for lead agency designation for a solar project at 90 Judson Street. It is located in the Town of Canton. We were asked if we would allow them to designate the town planning board as lead agency. There was a consensus to have the Mayor sign the paper allowing that to happen.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street Update** - Mayor Dalton stated there is another 60-day extension.
- b. **Verizon Town Lease** – We are waiting for the amendment from Verizon
- c. **Appraisal for Riverside Drive Property** – We are dealing with this later on the agenda.

- d. **Discuss a Change to Open Meetings Law, Video Conferencing-** We spoke about this last month. Attorney Ducharme has distributed information. Attny Ducharme informed the Board this is not a requirement but he recommends it. You still need to have a forum. After discussion a public hearing was scheduled for August 17th at 6:25 PM.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # 2 of 2022-2023. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$103,410.48	Golf Course	\$32,669.52
Water Fund	\$17,805.60	Joint Activity	\$2,785.60
Sewer Fund	\$29,735.89		

- b. **Approve Fire Department Members Seamus O’Brien-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve the new Fire Department Member Seamus O’Brien. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

- c. **Recreation Policy for Community Projects-** This was worked on by the Joint Recreation Committee. The Town presented it at their board meeting and approved it. This is the process for a constituent request for community-based proposal. There were questions raised on a number of issues such as the request form is not attached, should be more specific about parameters and guidelines. It is worded that it is strictly the purview of the Rec Director. How will this mesh with the comprehensive plan? Not sure this policy would help the public know how to best do what may be allowed to package a proposal. It would be great to have links to the comp plan. It needs some parameters. Trustee Larrabee made the suggestion to table it and take it back to the recreation committee to reframe and take all these things into consideration. They have a meeting on the 25th. The Board does support the idea 100%. Comments should be sent to Beth so they can be incorporated.

- d. **Resolution to Sell Property on Riverside Drive** – The property has been appraised at \$15,000. The appraisal fee was about \$1,000. The minimal bid will be \$16,000. It will be advertised. We can take action at our next meeting. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to sell the surplus property on Riverside Dr. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- e. **Resolution for Green Innovation Grant Program-** This is to apply for a grant that would help us replace water meters. There is a 25% management fee. Trustee Proemm made the motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- f. **Resolution for the LWRP Grant** - This resolution allows us to move forward on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program. There will be a MOU that goes along with this. Trustee Pynchon made the motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- g. **Approve Willow Island Design Contract-** Leigh had questions that have been clarified. The survey is included. There will be public informational meetings. There are stakeholders

meetings also. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the contract. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- h. Discuss Expected Retirement of Henry (Skip) Wason** – We have nothing in writing yet. He has verbally said he would like to retire August 18th. The Mayor would like permission to start a search for a replacement. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to start a search. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- i. Community Composting Update-** Trustee Pynchon shared that there are some people in the community and in the region that belong to a group called Compost for Good. They are trying hard to get ahead of legislation coming down that will require composting. These people are interested in applying for a grant to get a food hauling and a waste diversion program going. Applications need to come from a municipality.

Supt. Bacon said we have forms up for an actual concrete pad and we will be building a structure on top of that, placing the container in there and will be rigging up some sort of system again to help people access it. We will be using more wood chips now which are right next to the dumpster.

Trustee Pynchon said there needs to be a public awareness campaign. She just wants us to know the opportunity is out there. She is very wary right now about capacity. She feels this should be a town grant. She would like to continue the conversation with the Town and Tim has offered to be part of those conversations.

- j. Joint Village/Town Board meeting, July 27 at 6 PM** – A reminder of the Joint Town/Village meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mark McKenna said the concept plan was advertised as a master plan. He had a concern about busy Main Street. No one has done a traffic study yet. It's not a good location the best location is at the Bend-In-The-River Park. He also commented on the drainage problems on Court Street. He also felt the Village should purchase a stream gauge.

Frank Palumbo was concerned about the safety of the community regarding a bandstand on Willow Island. He wants to see Bend-In-The-River Park developed. That is a better place.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Proemm made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:00pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(h) for issuing contract and personnel. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:42pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Larrabee. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk