

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: August 17, 2022

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Anna Sorensen, Trustee
Carol Pynchon, 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

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:25 PM. The purpose of the public hearing is to take public comments on the proposed Local Law that would authorize the Board of Trustees to conduct its meetings using videoconferencing technology. The Mayor did not received any public comments by mail or by email.

There were no public comments.

The Mayor closed the public hearing and opened the meeting at 6:25 PM.

The Mayor added item J under new business. Schedule a public hearing for a Restore New York grant.

Reverend Mike Catanzaro asked to give a final report on the tree grant that was completed in the park. Michelle Higgins the grant administrator from the DEC was on the zoom meeting and Steve Sherwood was here from the local office. There are inoculations that need to happen every other year for the first 10 years. From year 11 -20 we will need to fund somehow. It is about \$2,500 for that to happen.

Steve Sherwood added there are five or six trees that are cabled. They will need to be checked on regularly. Michelle said she was very pleased with everyone. Steve did a really good job. He went above and beyond. Reverend Mike was a pleasure to work with. Leigh has done two projects one for tree maintenance and one for tree inventory.

Reverend Mike added the third phase was the \$100,000 for sidewalks. That money is not in the Community. The fountain and the trees needed to be done. They raised about \$215,000 for the fountain, tree work, benches, tables, trash cans and the handicap patio, which is used all the time. There is an additional \$10,000 in an account at NY Community Foundation for maintenance of the fountain. We are also looking at an additional \$9,500 from Daisy Marquis Jones foundation in Rochester. This will raise the total to \$234,475 for the whole project. All the money in the account will be spent. Reverend Mike added a big thank you to the Village DPW employees that did a lot of work and coordination with the contractor. Paul Mitchell also

did a great job of fund raising. He added if there was a key to the park, he would give it to David Ragan for all he did on the project.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of March 7 and April 20, 2022-** Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was seconded by Trustee Pynchon. Trustee had one correction to the March 7 minutes. On the last page Trustee Pynchon was replaced by Mayor Dalton. All voted in favor with that correction. The motion passes.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Recreation Director – Swimming lessons were completed last week. The courts at Priest Field have all been resurfaces. We now have 4 pickle ball courts and we have lines for two tennis courts. Buck Street playground equipment has all been repainted. Taylor Park equipment is almost all repainted. They are getting ready for the Rock & Mineral Show. The new front door at the Pavilion will be replaced after the Rock & Mineral show. The hours at Taylor Park will change starting August 29th. They are currently searching for a part-time laborer.

Police Chief Report- added to his report that on July 26 they were inspected by NYS Corrections for our holding cell in our juvenile area. We received two separate letters saying everything looks good.

Historian – She is scanning photos for the new Pomeroy marker. It's going to be on the St. Lawrence County fair.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report and is attending by zoom.

Golf – Kevin submitted a written report.

Economic Development – Leigh was not here yet. She is going to try to attend.

Treasurer Report – Clerk Noble submitted a written report and is attending by zoom.

Assessor – Assessor submitted her written report. Those receiving a basic star and turning 65 by December 31, 2023 should come in and apply for the enhanced exemption. Cindy will leave blank applications in the Town Clerk's office and there will be a big sign on their window as they will be collecting taxes beginning September 1.

Village Superintendent – The Kimco dumpster is still an issue. Even with the new signage we continue to get garbage. We have some line striping that needs to be done. We have the flashers up by the school that are going on State St. He is waiting for approval on where to locate them. Trustee Pynchon has had compliments on the flowers on Main Street. A lot of work on sidewalks on Harrison Street has been done.

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

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

The Mayor reminded everyone that Henry (Skip) Wason is retiring. His last work day will be August 19th. Also on our agenda is the hiring of a new greens keeper for Partridge Run. Scott Nickerson is here tonight so everyone can see who he is. Scott will be provisional. The salary will remain at the same rate of \$57,008.24. There are other details to be worked out. Trustee Pynchon welcomed Scott. Scott said he was very excited about the opportunity. Golf has been his passion for 35 years. He met with Skip today. He thinks Skip has done an excellent job. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to hire Scott Nickerson provisionally at a salary of \$57,008.24 effective 8/17/22. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm said Eric Backus will have the Clarkson study ready in September and we need to decide whether we want them to come and present at a regular meeting or set up a special meeting. The presentation will be about 45 minutes. Trustee Pynchon asked for a written report in advance. Trustee Proemm will ask for that electronically. All agreed a separate meeting would be better. The date of September 28 at 6:00 PM was set for the meeting.

Community Choice Aggregation – Trustee Proemm said we are on hold for a little bit because Potsdam is very interested and the Town of Canton is thinking about it. Joule Power is recommending that if we have neighboring communities that are close to deciding we should come together. It might be confusing if we have neighboring communities that have different rates. The town of Potsdam has decided to move forward but they have to go through the process. So, it will be months for them.

Trustee Pynchon wanted to know how that plays for the Village of Canton. So, if the Town of Canton and Village of Potsdam are out do should we really be waiting for the Town of Potsdam? Proemm responding we are not going to wait real long. The Village is still thinking about it. We are just giving them a few months and we'll stay in touch. The Town of Waddington and the Town of Fowler are also thinking about it. Trustee Sorensen asked about Joule's outreach program. Trustee Proemm will check on that.

Sustainability – Trustee Pynchon reported the committee continues to have conversations with folks who are interested in doing an DEC application for a proposed venture. Their expectations of us are somewhat unclear. So, we're just going to sit until they're able to give us a little more information. The sustainability committee asked her to share a recommendation. They are aware of the town board is considering a vehicle to be shared by the assessor and the code officer. The sustainability committee strongly suggests the boards purchase electric vehicles whenever a new vehicle is needed. They also suggest that equipment such as lawnmowers and trimmers be replaced with electric equipment. They further recommend that the town install a level 2 charging station. There are 8-10 young new community members who've gotten involved in the sustainability committee.

Finance - Carol, Mike and Sally continue to meet monthly to address the recommendations that are corrective actions after the audit. We are making great progress on that. Really checking things off. The next step will be to work those all into written policies. The search for a treasurer continues. We understand across the state this is an issue.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen reported that one of the things we discovered is that we have 3 internet lines coming into the building, one for court and one for each the town and village. We can save some money by cutting down to one line for the town and village. The town has agreed to this.

Economic Development – Trustee Sorensen said grants have been taking up the meeting time. Both of the CFS are in. The LWRP for the town and the Green Innovation grant for the water meters are in. The RESTORE NY has been released again. There are two rounds of this. There is also the DRI. We fit both the DRI and the NY FORWARD. A letter of intent has gone in for both. For both of the letters of intent this year communities were asked to put forward the names of stakeholders and community members who might potentially server on the local planning committee when these grants and awarded. Of the 16 people that were asked to serve they have a positive response from 14.

Recreation – Trustee Larrabee said the community projects policy is on the agenda for later.

Community Engagement Committee – has been on a break this summer but is getting back up to start meeting again in the fall with some community-based events.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street** – An email went out about the possibility that the parking lot will be closed for more testing. They will need to excavate additional test holes and would need to keep the parking lot closed. No specific date yet.
- b. **Tower Lease** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the lease amendment. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes.
- c. **Approve the Sale of 30 Riverside Drive to the high bidder** – The Mayor reported we received 2 bids. One from Tasha Akins for \$20,000 and the second from Denis Walsh in the amount of \$20,115.67. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to accept the high bid from Denis Walsh of \$20,115.67. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- d. **Discuss and possibly take action on the Video Conferencing Law** – We had no public comment today. Trustee Proemm made a motion to pass the local law. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes.
- e. **Recreation Policy for Community Projects** – The Mayor kept this here under old business because he wanted to keep us focused on it.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # 3 of 2022-2023. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$129,067.25	Sewer Fund	\$29,557.21
Water Fund	\$ 9,848.56	Golf Course	\$ 41,385.84

- b. **Accept resignation of Police Officer Joshua Rose** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to accept the resignation of Officer Rose. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. Trustee Larrabee wanted to comment that she very much appreciated his resignation letter. It is one of the best she has seen in her 7 years as a trustee. She also wanted to send her gratitude to him being a stellar officer and we appreciate his service wishing him the best in his new endeavor and he will be missed. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. **Approve the search for a police officer** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the search. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- d. **Accept the resignation of Dispatcher DeniAnne Kilgore** – Trustee Pynchon made the motion to accept the resignation with thanks and gratitude. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. The Mayor asked for permission to search for a part-time dispatcher. Trustee Larrabee made the motion to approve the search. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- e. **Approve CPA for AUD and Audit Services** – The Mayor felt this is especially important because we are having trouble finding a treasurer as discussed in our finance committee meetings. Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve both agreements, Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. Trustee Sorensen said that she definitely agrees with contracting with them. Her question is about the length of time. The Mayor had concerns about consistency. After discussion the Mayor will go back to them and ask for a possibility of a 3 year contract.
- f. **Approve 2nd Notice Fee** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to set the fee at \$0.00. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- g. **Set a public hearing for a RESTORE NY grant** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to set the public hearing for 6:15 PM on 9/21/22 at the request of Leigh. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Sorensen made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:00 PM for the purposes (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 8:41 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to hire Henry Wason as a consultant at \$50/hour for a maximum of 20 hours per week for up to 4 weeks. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk