

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING Meeting Minutes: October 19, 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
Leigh Rodríguez, ED Director
Scott Nickerson, Grounds Keeper

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
James Santimaw, Chief
Kevin Maginn, Golf Manager

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6:30 PM. One item was added to the agenda under new business; H – approve Suna Stone-McMasters as the Climate Smart Community Coordinator.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of September 21, 2022-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Proemm. Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor with those corrections. The motion passes.

5. d. Appoint new Police Officer Fisher Tiernan – Clerk Noble swore in new Police Officer Fisher Tiernan. His first day will be October 26, 2022. His pay is outlined in the contract. The Board welcomed him.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Treasurer – Clerk Noble reported that she had contact with General Code this week and the update is being digitized this week. So, it should be ready very soon. She has also been working on getting all the zoom recordings uploaded. Trustee Sorensen asked about what 20% of our heating costs would look like. Clerk Noble said she would get that information for the Board.

Recreation Director – Meghan submitted her report. Not at the meeting. The Mayor added that the fountain and bottle filler were nice additions at the pavilion. They were donated and have made a big difference. Trustee Pynchon asked about the ice resurfacer. The Mayor answered right now delivery is scheduled for December.

Historian – A written report was submitted. She has moved to her new office. She does not have a date when it will be formally opened. Rachel will start working on Mondays. Renice has been working to help her unpack boxes. Trustee Pynchon asked who will be putting up a sign.

Golf – Kevin submitted a written report. We had a great year. Scott Nickerson added that he and Kevin have been working well together. The Mayor asked Scott if he had started his pesticide certification yet. Scott said he would be starting this week. Trustee Pynchon asked about the

difference in Kevin's numbers and ours. The difference is Kevin is giving calendar year numbers and ours are fiscal year numbers.

Economic Development – Leigh highlighted her written report. She did a DRI tour on Monday with very positive feedback. Trustee Pynchon added that she felt Leigh did a really good job and we got really good feedback. This is not in lieu of a presentation.

Assessor – Assessor submitted her written report. About 15 of the 30 sales in September need to be reviewed. She is finding a lot of inventory might be missing. Sales are still coming in. She is also checking permit information with Tim.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw has an officer in training this week.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report. He had a slow month. He will start moving into fire inspections.

Village Superintendent – A written report was submitted. He had a conflict today and can not attend.

Animal Control Officer - A written report was submitted.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Communications and Technology – Trustee Pynchon mentioned that we are working on a social media policy for the Village and the Town.

Finance - Carol, Mike and Sally met. There has been some interest in both the treasurer and the part-time clerk positions.

Public Safety Committee – Trustee Sorensen participated in the interview process for our new police officer.

Infrastructure – Trustee Sorensen said they participated in the Court Street study. They also met with the Superintendent for General updates and discussion. They are working on a capital improvement plan to better roadmap our projects and equipment needs for budget purposes. They also had a chance to meet with some residents about sign placement.

Community Choice Aggregation – Trustee Proemm spoke with one of the managers at Joule Energy who deals with the buying part of it. We are still waiting to hear from Waddington and Potsdam that may potentially join us in the energy purchase. There are some things going on in the Hudson Valley that are looking troublesome but they are dealing with it. The representative was confident that everything will continue. One of the energy companies backed out of their deal with Joule. The same thing happened in Rochester also. There is a big lawsuit.

Klaus is keeping in touch with all the places where this is happening and we are monitoring it. Late winter/spring there will be another round of education. The Town of Canton has not

decided yet neither has Potsdam. Anna said she felt that a lot of hesitation from Potsdam has to do with the lawsuit. Klaus said he would continue to stay in touch with the people in Hudson Valley and Rochester.

Klaus gave an update on the fast charger not working. Charge Point has sent the modem upgrade kit we are just waiting for an installation date. All the electronic parts are backed up.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street** – Not much to report The Mayor's last contact with DEC is that McDonalds is being told they must clean up the contamination. The Mayor will send another email asking the status.
- b. **Discuss Draft Agreement for the Provision of PSAP Service with SLC** – Attorney Ducharme will touch base with the County Attorney.
- c. **Discuss Solar Array on State Street next to Nursing Home** – The Mayor reported the site plan information was distributed. He is looking for some guidance from the Board how they would like to proceed. Trustee Sorensen went to our comp plan. There are two of the guiding principals that seem relevant. One is economic growth and the other is resiliency and sustainability. The recommendations for the town with respect to economic growth are that the town should promote redevelopment of existing properties and buildings to retain a compact development pattern and support downtown. It is also recommended that the town provide a diversity of housing options that support the community.

Under resiliency and sustainability, it is recommended that the town preserve smart growth techniques, including preserving, specifically preserving open space, farmland, natural beauty as well as once again mentioning the idea of taking advantage of a compact design. Which gets to the point of not building out but building up and taking advantage of existing infrastructure instead of building new. Her way of thinking is that this does not preserve open space for farmland and it is right on the Village line where we have water and sewer access should someone want to provide housing. To remove that property from those possibilities also violates the principals of the compact development pattern.

Trustee Pynchon agreed. It has immediate access to water and sewer. She thinks that is the ideal housing spot. Trustee Proemm agreed.

After discussion it was agreed the Mayor would write a letter to the Town Planning Board stating that we concur with the County Planning Board and state our reasons in terms of the planning documents that we made together.

- d. Appoint new Police Officer Fisher Tiernan** – was moved up on the agenda

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract 5 of 2022-2023. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$184,505.88	Sewer Fund	\$34,929.42
Water Fund	\$30,480.24	Golf Course	\$51,054.23

- b. Approve Fire Department member Nolan Bombard** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to approve Nolan Bombard for Fire Department membership. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. Approve Skate Guards Brandon O’Shea, Megan Martin, Bowen Rodriguez** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the proposed skate guards at minimum wage. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- d. Authorize sending Unpaid Taxes to SLC** – Trustee Sorensen made the motion to authorize sending the unpaid taxes to SLC. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- e. Authorize Annual Towing Bids** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to authorize annual towing bids. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- f. Authorize Parking Restriction on Pearl Street for winter snow removal** – The Mayor said the Village Superintendent asked that this be discussed. These parking spots make it very hard for DPW maintenance and snow removal. A public hearing was set for November 16 at 6:20 PM. voted in favor. The motion carries.
- g. Offer of Street Dedication** – St. Lawrence University is offering to dedicate the entire parcel (paper street between Walgreens and the Credit Union) to the Village of Canton. A public hearing was set for November 16th at 6:15 PM. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to pass the resolution that was distributed. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- h. Appointment of Suna Stone-McMasters as Climate Smart Community Coordinator** – Trustee Pynchon heartily made a motion to approve the resolution appointing Suna Stone McMasters as Climate Smart Community Coordinator for the Village of Canton. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen would like to see the Climate Smart Community and their Task Force be added to the website. There should be something about their work and about the certification process. Klaus will write something up and send it to Anna.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There were no public comments

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter executive session at 7:28 PM for the purpose of the proposed acquisition, sale, or lease of real property and medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:40 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk