

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: September 21, 2022

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Anna Sorensen, Trustee
Carol Pynchon, Trustee

Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Others Present:

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney
Meghan Richardson, Rec Director
Leigh Rodríguez, ED Director

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
James Santimaw, Chief

The Mayor opened the public hearing at 6:15 PM. The purpose of the public hearing is to take public comments on the proposed Restore NY Grant application. Leigh said this is round 6 of Restore NY. The Village was approached by a group that would like to renovate 41 West Main Street. We are recommending submitting an application on their behalf. A public hearing is part of the funding process.

Gary Hammond spoke as a partner in St. Lawrence Suds, LLC. This is a project they have been working on since last spring. They were originally looking at leasing out and doing a brewery but it fell through. They came across the Restore NY program. This is perfect for this project. It will bring a vacant building back into use. He thanked the Board for considering the project. The name will be Bent Barn Brewery. They want to be able to bring great beer and food to Canton. The project will be the restoration of a century old barn. The total project is over \$1,100,000.

They are hoping to close next week. It will be about 4500 sq ft of space. The front will be the brewery and the back will be the restaurant. The building has been vacant for almost 11 years. It was owned by Stillman Foote for about 70 years. In the fifties it housed the Canton Dairy Farm, in the 70's it was the Furniture Barn and then the Mattress Barn. There are some holes in the roof. They did have a structural engineer look at the building and he gave the thumbs up that it is a viable building.

He outlined the in-house budget. They have retained Tisdell Associates to do a preliminary drawing and budget. They are looking at 90% of the \$605,000 from the Restore NY grant. They are looking at a National Grid Restoration Grant. St. Lawrence Suds has put in \$240,000. They also have a commitment letter from NBT bank for \$240,000. They still have a little bit unfunded. They are hoping to be built out and pouring beer in July and then in the fall they will continue into the restaurant. They are also working with SLC IDA.

Gary spoke about potential tax revenue. They are not looking for a PILOT program. He talked about the kinds of beers they would offer. For the restaurant they want to focus on farm to table using local producers.

Mark Brackett spoke in favor of the project. He spoke about the money that is going elsewhere currently. Within a 20-mile radius of Canton millions of dollars are going to other communities to eat and drink. He thanked the Board for allowing them to make this presentation.

There were Board questions on the space allocations, brewing time and shelf life.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:38 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

The Mayor added two items to the agenda under new business; G – approve the hiring of a part-time dispatcher, Carrie Bryant; H – Discuss the Solar Array on State Street next to the nursing home.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of June 15, July 20, July 27, and August 17, 2022-** Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sorensen. Trustee Pynchon had a correction to the August 17 minutes, in the ED section it should read both CFA's. On the 7/27 minutes Bob Santamoor said decisions not discussions and Mary Ann was referring to Jackie Hakes of MJ Engineering. Trustee Sorensen added that her name and Councilman's Washo's name were spelled incorrectly. She also added that she would like to see the 8/17 minutes reflect the committee's name of Public Safety Committee and not Community Engagement Committee. All voted in favor with those corrections. The motion passes.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Recreation Director – They have been working long hours on getting the ice down. They are working on the layering now. She was thankful for the work done by the Village DPW and the Town Highway on the Olympia until the new one can get here. The new outside door at the pavilion has been installed. Barkley's will be installing the ADA door opener.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw is working with the Village Superintendent on a impound area for winter towing. He went to the campus's and talked to the freshman about campus safety.

Historian – A written report was submitted. She is getting ready to move her new office.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report. He will not be attending.

Golf – Kevin submitted a written report.

Economic Development – Leigh highlighted her written report. The St. Lawrence Suds, LLC will need a letter of endorsement from the Board because they are also applying for money from National Grid Main Street Restoration Program. Music on Main is happening tonight. Leigh also reminded everyone of the World University Games that are coming in January. There will be a lot of people in the community.

Trustee Sorensen asked how long do the recipients have to use the Main Street money. Leigh said the deadline right now is March 13, 2023. We are having trouble with lead times on

supplies like windows. We can't request an extension until we are within a month of that. Leigh's office can request students to work with her office through Community Based Learning. They can be assigned to a project for two hours per week between now and Thanksgiving. She has not yet defined a project. There was discussion about renewed interested in the STOMP. This may be a possible project for them.

Treasurer Report – Clerk Noble submitted a written report. Both deputies went to NYCOM training and appreciated the opportunity.

Assessor – Assessor submitted her written report.

Village Superintendent – A written report was submitted. He is attending by zoom. He did meet with Aaron of Tisdell Associates about estimates for the sewer project. He expects them to be completed in 2 – 3 weeks.

Animal Control Officer - A written report was submitted.

Fire Chief – submitted a written report.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development – Trustee Pynchon said there was discussion at the consortium meeting to expand the steering committee to add additional people. Trustee Pynchon also mentioned that a letter of support was needed for the DRI from the Board. The Mayor will sign the letter. Trustee Sorensen added we now have a signed contract with CGI. She will work with them to see what the next steps are.

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm reminded everyone of the date, September 28 at 6:00 PM for the Court Street presentation by Clarkson. The public is welcome.

Sustainability – Trustee Pynchon reported she is working with Tim on some compost issues. There is still an issue with people leaving trash and plastics. It is for food waste only. Trustee Proemm added that the committee is assisting the Village in getting Climate Smart Community status which will be helpful for future grant possibilities. He will have a resolution for that at the October meeting.

Finance - Carol, Mike and Sally continue to meet monthly. The search for a treasurer continues. We understand across the state this is an issue.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen mentioned the Town in talking with their tech folks have run into a potential issue. So that is not moving forward at this point. The other thing is we are working on a social media policy for departments and committees.

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** –The parking lot is closed. No specific date yet when the parking lot may be open again.
- b. **Approve CPA for AUD & Audit Services** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign the agreement. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion passes.
- c. **Discuss Recreation Policy** – The Mayor reported several changes have been made and more information has been added. He recommends we approve and send it to the Town for their approval. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the policy. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds** – Trustee Proemm made a motion to authorize payment of vouchers & transfer of funds for abstract # 4 of 2022-2023. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$100,925.51	Sewer Fund	\$11,907.07
Water Fund	\$ 37,210.51	Golf Course	\$ 31,676.90

- b. **Discuss Draft Agreement for the Provision of PSAP Service with SLC** – The Mayor explained this was sent to him regarding the provisioning of PSAP services. Really what is driving this is Ogdensburg trying to have SLC take over all their dispatching. They are forcing this. The memorandum memorializes what has been going on here really nothing is going to change for the Village of Canton. The only real question here is the legalese of it. This is a draft agreement. Attorney Ducharme will review with the Mayor and see if we can get a second draft out.
- c. **Resolution on Support of a 2022 SLC Centralized Biosolids Composting Facility Feasibility Study** – Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- d. **Discuss Pay increase for Crossing Guards and next year staff at Golf Course** – The Mayor has discussed this with Ron Burke, the school superintendent as the school pays a portion. The proposal is to increase the crossing guards pay to \$15/hr. We also need to increase the golf course laborer pay rate to \$15/hr. next year. Trustee Sorensen made the motion to increase the Crossing Guard pay to \$15/hr. this year and the Golf Course laborers next year to \$15/hr. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- e. **Resolution for a Restore New York Grant Application** – The resolution has been circulated. The Board appreciated the presentation and the project. Trustee Pynchon made a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries. Leigh reminded the Board she will need a check for \$500 to submit with the application.
- f. **Discuss and Approve Type II SEQRA action for 41 West Main Street** – Attorney Ducharme explained that it is a type II action and is not subject to SEQRA. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- g. **Approve hire of a Part-Time Dispatcher** – Trustee Pynchon made a motion to hire Carrie Bryant effective immediately at the contract rate. Carrie is fully trained as she works for the county. She will be working 3 nights a week. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- h. **Solar Array near Nursing Home** – It is proposed for outer State Street. The County Planning Board turned them down. This is just informational.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of endorsement for St. Lawrence Suds grant application to National Grid. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Toby asked if we are going to be addressing the audio issues with the Owl.

Mark McKenna spoke about damage to the ADA kayak launch when it was taken out. The Mayor already responded to his email on that subject. Mark went on to speak about the need for ADA bathrooms at the pavilion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter executive session at 7:50 PM for the purpose of purchase or sale of property. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:35 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to continue to utilize Henry Wason as a consultant at \$50/hour for a maximum of 20 hours per week until the end of this golf season. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk