

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: June 21, 2023

Board Present:

Michael Dalton, Mayor
Anna Sorensen, Trustee
Barbara Beekman, Trustee

Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Others Present:

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
Cindy Brand, Assessor
Tim Bacon, Superintendent

James Santimaw, Chief
Scott Goldie, Attorney

The Mayor opened the regular meeting at 6:30 PM.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Mayor removed items 6. New Business f. & g and added item i. Sale of surplus equipment.

Approve minutes of 5/4, 5/16 and 5/31/2023 – Trustee Beekman made a motion to accept the minutes of 5/4/, 5/16, and 5/31/2023. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Village Superintendent – A written report was submitted. We replaced a section of a collapsed sewer outfall. This whole line is a 30” line which is incorporated into the sewer plant rehab. We received the new tractor at the Golf Course. Scott said the new tractors he picked up have been running great. A new lift is being installed right now by the sewer plant guys.

Police Chief Report- A written report was submitted. Chief Santimaw added to his written he hopes to be able to have the Board approve the new hire at the July meeting. He and the Mayor attended an informational meeting held at the presbyterian church to talk about possibility of an SRO. About 25 people showed up. There was a lot of good discussions.

Treasurer – Clerk Noble submitted a written report. She said they are busy collecting taxes and preparing water/sewer bills.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report. He was not in attendance.

Assessor – A written report was submitted. Cindy Brand said she hoped everyone could access the St. Lawrence County website to see assessments.

Recreation Director – Meghan submitted her written report. She was unable to be at the meeting tonight.

Economic Development – A written report was submitted. Leigh was available by phone for questions. They did launch the small business grant program through the CARES Act. Trustee Sorensen asked if the RFP for Stiles Ave. had gone out yet. Leigh said it has not.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Economic Development Committee – Trustee Sorensen said they have met and talked about funding opportunities.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen said they have met to work on the website.

Infrastructure – Trustee Sorensen reported we are waiting on the environmental assessment that is required for the Northern Border Regional Commission advance. We will be talking a lot about the clean water project. The drinking water project SEQRA is not quite ready. We are going to have conversations about that next week with Fiscal Advisors and Aaron Jarvis from Tisdell. We still have some prioritization left to do.

EV Chargers – Trustee Proemm stated that we are in negotiations with National Grid over upgrading our power. They do not like to upgrade once they have funded a charger. We may need to identify a new site.

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm said the committee is going to recommend getting 6 parking meter bike racks that fit onto a parking meter. They are going to see if the welding program at BOCES could make some maybe as a class project. There is money in the Main Street grant for the bike racks. They are still looking for 2 spots for potential bike shelters on Village property. They are meeting with the Clarkson group tomorrow about the Court Street project and about helping with a community survey.

Trustee Beekman added that Golf is doing fine.

Trustee Larrabee said the safety committee is going to be starting police contract negotiations soon. Recreation is great. Taylor park beach is open and getting a lot of use for school trips.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update**- legislator was not present. No update.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street** – The Mayor said he is working on an RFP for the tear down of the building
- b. **19 Miner Street Update** – The Mayor reported that he is waiting to hear from the developer. The Village Attorney will need to get involved with preferred developer status.
- c. **Discuss Community Choice Aggregation** – There are no updates we are just waiting on prices.

- d. **SUN Policy** – The Mayor distributed a policy. He said it is not ready for a vote yet. This will be a Village document. We will take action at the next meeting.

- e. **Presentation to the Board on Willow Island** – Leigh introduced Michelle Palmer. Michelle Palmer of Whitham Planning & Design attended by Zoom. She gave a presentation of what the overall project is and the phasing plan on how to move forward. She started with an aerial photograph with a diagram laid over it. The simple diagram became very informative to them because there is a whole section of the island that the ice flows over and it is more naturalistic. Then there is a section of the island that is closer to the highway where some of the topography is steeper and its up out of the flood plan. That property is owned by Grasse River Heritage. Because of these kinds of restraints and the things they heard from the public, it became clear that this area where the ice flows are most prevalent. It also become clear that this area wants to be the most natural and least impacted then the area up near the highway makes more sense to be an area for the more structured activities.

The area of the ice flows which is also is also the upstream area, is to have walking paths that would take one around and would provide access to a stage area, but it would also provide access for members of the public and especially anyone who has physical impairments who might not be able to access this part of the island. There is a placeholder for what could be a future stage area. Local artist Matthew Mazzotta has been working with the committee on a sculpture that could also function as a stage and a backdrop. As you get closer to the highway the parking is reconfigured gaining a few spaces. There will be a natural playground and possibly a restroom. Michele outlined the 3 phases. The presentation is available as part of the zoom recording of this meeting.

Trustee Sorensen asked Michele to summarize the public engagement. This project began several years ago before Whitham was involved. Once they became involved, they met on a regular monthly basis with the client oversight committee, they held 2 public informational meetings. The first meeting was held last fall where the public was allowed to comment and ask questions both as a group and individually, afterwards with members of our team. And then this spring we held a more like an open house where members of the public could come and to and speak to members of the client oversight committee. Post those meetings they have also received written comments from the public and those comments have become part of the public record. Leigh added they also had stakeholder meetings. It has been a very iterative process.

Michelle felt they could have construction drawings done by early July. So, they would submit them for bid mid to late July. You could expect to have bids mid to late August.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to accept this draft of Phase I. Trustee Beekman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

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 1 of 2023-2024. Trustee Beekman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$131,647.35	Sewer Fund	\$27,113.13
Water Fund	\$ 27,841.31	Golf Course	\$37,415.40

- b. **Approve Hiring of Riley Taylor as a Lifeguard at \$14.20/hr** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve hiring Riley Taylor as a Lifeguard at \$14.20/hr. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. **SEQRA for Willow Island** – The Mayor reported the short form has been circulated so the Board had a chance to review it. Whitham completed Part 1. Part 2 and 3 were also circulated. The Mayor asked if there were any questions on Part 1. Trustee Sorensen asked for clarification if this is for the entire project even though we have only approved Phase I. The Mayor responded this is for the entire project, all the Phases.

Trustee Sorensen asked under 12a is yes but 12b is no and there is not a written answer for the yes answer written in. Attorney Goldie responded that you only answer B if the answer to A is yes. The Mayor said there as a summary on the last page of Part 1. There were no other questions on Part 1.

Moving on to Part 2, Impact Assessment, the Mayor read each question out loud. The Board agreed upon each answer before moving to the next question. On question 10 – Will the proposed action result in an increase in the potential for erosion, flooding, or drainage problems? The Board all agreed that this would actually improve those situations.

Part 3 is the determination of significance. The Mayor asked Attorney Goldie if he was required to say anything for Part 3 Attorney Goldie said no only if you have answered moderate to large impact on any of the questions. There were no moderate to large impacts identified in the review.

Trustee Beekman made a motion to declare a negative declaration for the entire Willow Island project. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- d. **SEQR for Waste Water Treatment, WIIA and WQIP** – Taylor Jennings, Sr. project engineer with Barton & Loguidice was present by zoom. An evaluation was done of the whole wastewater plant and the main lift station on Riverside Dr. The preliminary engineering report was completed last week. It outlines a project to address all the deficiencies and items of concern. It has been submitted to the 2024 CWSRS IUP listing. The due date was June 16 to be able to be put on the NYS EFC listing for the Clean Water State Revolving fund list. The scoring from this list determines the grant eligibility.

There are steps to be shovel ready. That includes a complete SEQRA review and a bond resolution. They have completed Part 1. Parts II and III will be completed on July 24th. On July 24th the Village should also pass the bond resolution.

The Mayor asked for the spelling of Grasse River to be corrected. In section B item I. Do we have the designation of local waterfront revitalization program or not? Trustee Sorensen answered no. Taylor said he had a call earlier about Q & R where a yes or no was not selected. That is because those apply to a commercial or industrial project. Trustee Beekman

asked about page 10 about facilities for children or elderly. After discussion it was decided to add the nursing home also and change the school to Canton Central School.

Included with the SEQRA was a list of interested agencies that B & L will be sending the complete part I and the intent of the Village to be lead agency if the Board acts on the resolution.

- e. **Declare Lead agency for Waste Water Projects** – Taylor read the resolution. Trustee Beekman made a motion to pass the resolution. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Larrabee	Yes	Trustee Sorensen	Yes	Trustee Beekman	Yes
Trustee Proemm	Yes	Mayor Dalton	Yes		

All voted in favor. The motion carries.

- f. **SEQRA for Drinking Water WIIA** – removed from agenda
- g. **Declare Lead agency for Drinking Water Projects** – removed from agenda
- h. **Set Special Meeting on July 24 for Bond Resolutions and SEQR Completion** – a special meeting was set for July 24 at 5:30 PM.
- i. **Approve Sale of Surplus Equipment** – Trustee Beekman made a motion to approve the sale of surplus equipment as presented by Supt. Bacon to include a police vehicle that is no longer operational. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- no executive session was held

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 PM. Trustee Beekman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk