

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: July 19, 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 Nolan, Code Officer

James Santimaw, Chief
Scott Goldie, Attorney
Leigh Rodríguez, Ec. Developer

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

The Mayor removed item 6L from the agenda

After a brief introduction from the Mayor, Trustee Larrabee and Chief Santimaw, Clerk Noble swore in Paige LaRock as a provisional police officer. The Mayor said Paige will start work tomorrow, July 20, 2023. She will attend the police academy starting August 10 in Potsdam. Her pay is as listed in the contract.

Approve minutes of 06/21/23 – Trustee Beekman made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/21/23. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Village Superintendent – A written report was submitted. He was not in attendance.

Police Chief Report- A written report was submitted. The Chief wanted to let everyone know that they are growing facial hair this month. They have a member whose mother has cancer.

Treasurer – Clerk Noble submitted a written report. She gave an update on tax collections. She mentioned there were more returned checks this year than normal.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report. He is, with assistance from Trustee Sorensen, narrowing down RFP choices for new software. This will be purchased through a NYSERDA grant. Trustee Sorensen asked about student housing signage. Tim said that signage advertising student housing is discriminating according to Fair Housing Law.

Assessor – A written report was submitted. Cindy said that the residential trend is up 9%. She has been doing this for 15 years and has never seen that. The market has been really good here. The Mayor asked about the grievance determinations. It was too faint from him to read. Cindy will send a readable form to the Board.

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

Economic Development – A written report was submitted. Leigh gave a reminder that the Canton Chamber merger vote will be on Monday. There is a proxy form on-line that can be printed. There was some concern that not everyone had received the information. Leigh let the Board know the CFA deadline has been changed to August 11. Trustee Sorensen asked if Leigh had heard back from Aaron Jarvis. Leigh answered no. Trustee Sorensen also asked about the Arts Gallery Museum in the streets working group. Leigh said we should be talking about that soon.

Golf – Neither Kevin nor Scott was at the meeting.

Historian – A written report was submitted. She was not in attendance. The Mayor has asked her to do some research on the Miner Street cemetery.

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 been supporting Leigh's office for CFA's. She and Leigh went to the North Country Regional Economic Development Council meeting at Fort Drum on Monday. The 10 regional Economic Development Councils are invited to compete for 1 of 3 \$10,000,000 awards for their region. To do so they have to select one specific area and write a proposal.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen said our website redesign is underway. We had our kickoff meeting with REVISE and met with the designer. It will be a few months process. There are several decisions to be made.

Infrastructure – Trustee Sorensen reported they have not met. They are basically working on getting information from the engineers.

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm said the committee is working on the Court Street project. They are figuring out the need for materials and volunteers. Kara spoke with St. Mary's Church to make sure they have input. They will also be talking to someone from the County so they know what is going on.

Recreation – There has been some graffiti at recreation and some vandalism at Taylor Park.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street** – The Mayor said there is an RFP out for demolition and asbestos abatement. Those are due by August 7.
- b. **19 Miner Street Update** – The Mayor asked Attorney Goldie if he has heard from the developers' attorneys. He answered no. The Mayor will contact them to follow up.

- c. **Community Choice Aggregation** – There are no updates we are just waiting on prices in August.
- d. **SUN Policy** – The Mayor made some changes from last meeting. We are looking to get some signage and some support for the community and our employees. The Mayor will change the wording to visitors and employees. There was discussion about implementation. It is not an enforcement policy but a policy of awareness. There are no requirements. The Mayor will make the changes. Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the policy with the edits. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- e. **Special meeting July 24 for Bond Resolution and SEQR Completion** – The Mayor just wanted to remind everyone of the meeting on July 24 at 5:30 PM.

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

General Fund	\$127,453.41	Sewer Fund	\$47,818.46
Water Fund	\$ 28,379.40	Golf Course	\$113,094.13

- b. **Discuss and take action on hiring Probationary Police Officer Paige LaRock** – done earlier in the meeting.
- c. **Community Based Projects Policy** – The Mayor reported he sent around a rough draft of the policy. We need to start discussing this. This was based on what we did in recreation. We committed to applying this to other things. We need to make it clear there is a process for projects. He is open to suggestions from the Board on how we do that.
- d. **CDP Funding Request** – The Mayor received a letter which was shared. They are asking for financial assistance. There is no specific ask but there seems to be a sense of urgency. The Board would like to know more about their situation. The Mayor will reach out to them and get more information.
- e. **Complete Street Resolution on Thompson Court** – The resolution was distributed. Toby said the committee felt that there are certain things that they need to communicate to Boards in a formal manner. So, they decided to put their recommendation in writing. The Board had no issue including them when we get to that point.
- f. **St. Lawrence County request regarding the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America on July 4th, 2026** – The was Board discussion. The Historian should be involved. There is a meeting in August. The Board will put it on the agenda for the August meeting.

- g. EV Charger Proposals** – We are waiting to hear back from the DEC for guidance on how to proceed. Trustee Proemm wanted everyone’s thoughts. We would have one fast charger on Hodskin Street and one towards the back of the Municipal building. Everyone was good with proceeding with that. We need to have a little more conversation on the Municipal Building location. The grant is \$50,000. We don’t have to lay out any money.
- h. Discuss LWRP Grant** – Leigh reported we are planning on submitting the same application as last year. The Town at their meeting last night gave the go ahead. This will be on the agenda for the Joint meeting.
- i. Discuss DEC WQIP Grant for Willow Island**– at the last meeting you approved a plan for Willow Island. They are working on getting documents ready for the first Phase. The architect has indicated that this is a good funding source for Phase II. The consultant is getting estimates. Leigh has reached out to C & S.
- j. Joint Meeting of the Village and Town Boards, July 26th at 6 PM** – the Mayor has circulated the draft agenda.
- k. Local Government Conference – October 10, 2023** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion approve attendance for those that would like to attend. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:50 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:07 PM. Trustee Beekman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Beekman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk