

**Town of Canton  
Regular Board Meeting  
Wednesday, May 10, 2023  
In Person and Video Conferencing  
Minutes**

**Present:**

Mary Ann Ashley	----	Town Supervisor
Jim Smith	----	Council Member
John Taillon	----	Council Member
Bob Santamoor	----	Council Member
Randy Brown	----	Council Member

**Also Present:** Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Assessor Cindy Brand, Code Officer Michael McQuade, Highway Superintendent Steven Smith, Historian Linda Casserly, Recreation Director Meghan Richardson, Attorney Eric Gustafson, Angela Gray CPA,

**Absent:** Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez

**Public Attendance:** Todd Amo, Tim Parsons, Jordan Downing-Duke, Michelle Mathews, Margaret Mauch, Michael Heney, Paul Mitchell North Country This Week

**Zoom Attendance:** Tom Graser Watertown Daily Times, Ryne Martin, Shelby Bacon, Solar Attorney Bill Buchan

**A. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome**

Supervisor Ashley called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Supervisor Ashley added under Old Business **#2 Anaerobic Digester Law - Set Public Hearing** and under New Business **#2 Michel's Power Extension Request** has been resolved and will be removed from the agenda.

**B. Recognize United Helpers 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Supervisor Ashley recognized United Helpers for their 125 years of service. Ashley introduced Todd Amo Chief Executive Officer, Tim Parsons Vice President of Human Services, Jordan Downing-Duke Marketing Manager, and Michelle Matthews Vice President of Human Resources. Ashley read out loud the Proclamation.

*See attached Proclamation*

**C. Public Comment**

Margaret Mauch – 33 Janes Rd, Canton

Margaret has concerns with No Dogs Left Behind. Margaret's main concern is noise mitigation. Margaret also has concerns with the dog feces and the water stream.

Michael Heney – Canton Resident

Michael has concerns with No Dogs Left Behind. Michael has concerns about what is happening with the fecal matter, Michael's other concern is that what is being advertised is not what is actually being done.

**D. County Legislator Representative(s) Update(s)**

Legislator Ben Hull sent an April and May Legislative Report that was submitted to the board prior to the meeting. The report is on the website for the public to view.

**E. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to accept the April 12, 2023, minutes.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**F. Correspondence**

#1.) Supervisor Ashley received a letter from DOT Chips funding. Highway Superintendent Steven Smith will talk about this during his department report.

#2.) Ashley stated the Town received the 2<sup>nd</sup> sales tax check for the quarter in the amount of \$269,732.81. That is up \$20,042 from this time last year.

#3.) Ashley received three notices from the IDA setting Public Hearings for two SolAmerica projects, (Judson St project and Hwy 310 project) the US 11 project. The Public Hearing is Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am, in person at the IDA office in Canton and via zoom.

**G. Town Finances Reports**

Angela Gray, Gray & Gray gave a Town finances report year to date. The board was given the financial report prior to the meeting.

Angela Gray gave the Town Clerk's finances report for the month of April. The Town Clerk's report was given to Clerk Smith and the board prior to the meeting.

**H. Audit Committee**

"A" General Fund	----	\$76,628.18
"B" Town Outside Fund	----	\$2,359.85
"DA" Townwide Highway	----	\$14,371.59
"DB" Town Highway	----	\$4,652.81
"SF" Special Fire	----	\$9,177.66
"SL" Special Lighting	----	\$279.48
"T&A" Trust & Agency	----	\$22,549.17

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to accept May expenditures.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

**I. Acceptance of Department Reports**

**Town Clerk:**

Clerk Smith added to her report that as of 5/8/2023, the Clerk's office has collected a little over 5-million dollars in Town & County Taxes, 89.73%. Clerk Smith mailed out 219 second notice letters to taxpayers.

**Assessor:**

Assessor Brand gave a presentation on how the public can now go on the SDG site on the St. Lawrence County website and get information on their parcel(s).

**Recreation:**

Recreation Director Richardson added that there were a lot of people at Taylor Park for canoe weekend. There was a water issue at Taylor Park but has been dealt with. Summer programs are open. Interviewing for lifeguards and summer help. The new lifeguard shed will be delivered soon.

**Code Enforcement Officer:**

Code Officer McQuade reported that he issued eleven new building permits, one occupancy certificate, two work without permits, one unsafe structure issue, and one property maintenance issue. McQuade attended a two-day Anaerobic Digester webinar and attended a meeting with EDF. McQuade added that moving forward if a solar project is on a Town road the Highway Superintendent will be notified.

**Historian:**

Historian Casserly stated the highlight of the month was the Rushton Races. Casserly stated that Renice is back at work. Casserly added that Lisa Cullen made curtains for the historian office. This was a volunteer service.

**Highway Superintendent:**

Highway Superintendent Smith reported that spring cleanup is nearly complete. Smith is seeing more debris and garbage dumped on the roadsides than usual. Smith asked the board for approval on this year's construction list to add the Cowan Rd. Smith also stated that every year they seem to fall further behind on maintenance with over 80 miles of paved road with a good portion needing total reconstruction. Smith asked the board to consider this when the budget process is started.

Smith added that he received the CHIPS reimbursement letter. The Town will get CHIPS reimbursement of \$328,719.29, PAVE NY reimbursement of \$76,280.68, EWR reimbursement of \$66,206.49, and POP reimbursement of \$50,853.79. Smith stated there

is money left over from the Finnegan Rd project. Jared Radley at NYSDOT will work with Steven to show him how to resubmit that to get put back into the budget.

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to accept department reports as submitted.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **J. Committee Reports**

### **Economic Development Committee:**

Bob Santamoor reported that the committee met Monday. They are trying to put an agenda together for the steering committee. Bob hopes that there is a local spending policy to help support our local businesses. Randy Brown added that they met with the housing forum to identify the Town's needs. There was also a discussion on housing projects.

### **Solar Committee:**

Jim Smith reported that the solar committee met to discuss road issues. Jim and Randy attended an EDF presentation that was held at the Fairfield Inn. There were quite a few people that showed up. There was a spreadsheet of all of the money that they have donated in Canton over the last year.

### **Insurance Committee:**

Mary Ann Ashley stated the insurance committee met with the Highway Union to discuss HRA insurance. It was a good meeting. Tish is retiring in July. Ian gave a presentation to the union members.

### **Complete Streets Committee:**

Randy Brown reported that at the Complete Street Committee meeting they were surprised at the board decision at the last board meeting. Complete Streets is still interested in codification with the Town. Randy will follow up with everyone to find out where the concerns are. There are questions with the Miner Street project and the RFP. Klaus brought up a bike kiosk around the Town. They already have a grant for this. They are having Court Street Pop Up events.

## **K. Old Business**

### **1. Court Security MOU with Village of Norwood**

Supervisor Ashley stated the Court Security MOU with the Village of Norwood is for informational purposes. Ashley thanked Attorney Gustafson for all of his work. The Town is waiting to hear back from Norwood.

### **2 Anaerobic Digester Law - Set Public Hearing**

A public hearing is set for June 14, 2023 at 5:15 pm for proposed Anaerobic Digester Local Law.

A public hearing is set for June 14, 2023 at 5:25 pm to extend the Anaerobic Digester Moratorium.

**L. New Business**

**1. American Rescue Plan Report**

Supervisor Ashley stated the report has been started. This report is for Federal Funding that the Town received. The Town received \$435,665.36. To date the Town has spent close to \$419,000. There is a small balance. The Supervisors office will meet with Angela at Gray & Gray later this week. The board will need to decide what to do with the balance.

**2. Michel's Power Extension Request**

Resolved and removed from agenda.

**3. Approve Town Road Construction**

Highway Superintendent Steven Smith asked the board for approval for approximate expenditures for the following roads:

Irish Settlement Road	4900'x20'	\$191,472
Finnegan Road	1600'x20'	\$222,315
Potter Road	11,200x19'	\$227,608
Total		\$641,395

Smith asked for an additional project should the state funding be increased or the Town Board amend the budget to fund project:

Cowan Road	6,200'x20'	\$158,568
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With the four projects this would put the town at 5.47 miles of paved road.

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to approve the town road repairs.

All in favor. Motion carried.

**4. Open New Solar Escrow Bank Account**

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to open a new solar escrow bank account for community solar projects.

All if favor. Motion carried.

**M. Public Comment**

None

**Executive Session:** Upon a majority vote upon a motion that identifies the subject to be considered, the Council may conduct an executive session to discuss and of the issues identified as proper by Public Officer Law 105(1)

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to go into executive session for the purpose of [F] matters pertaining to the employment of a particular person and [E] collective negotiations.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Town Clerk Smith was invited into executive session.

Clerk Smith left executive session at 8:05 PM.

A was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to come out executive session at 9:10 PM.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Brown and seconded by Council Member Jim to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi L. Smith, Town Clerk



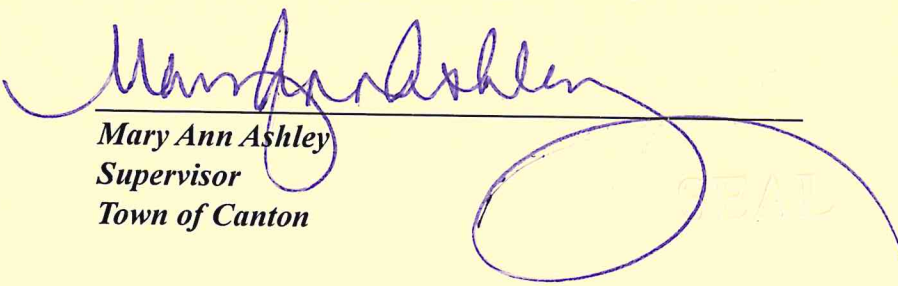
**Town of Canton**  
**Proclamation**  
**United Helpers 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
**Recognition Day**  
**Years of Always Caring**

***WHEREAS**, according to the public record, "the vision that sparked the birth of the Society of the United Helpers began in the hearts of the people of St. Lawrence County. In 1898 and the two decades preceding, a desperate need to house indigent children were identified. Answering the call for action were ten women who pledged \$100 each to fund and establish a Home for the Homeless. This home was to provide care for orphaned children and destitute women. Ultimately setting the standard of care that later defined the Society of the United Helpers. Soon after, twelve church women joined together to apply for a charter. They developed a constitution and bylaws, and the Society of the United Helpers was officially formed in April 1898; and*

***WHEREAS**, "On May 4, less than one month later, the first child was placed in the Society's Home located at 22 Congress Street in Ogdensburg. Alzina Milligan, the Society's first matron, rode to Potsdam, NY to pick up a boy who needed care. Mrs. Milligan often traveled the countryside in her horse and buggy seeking donations for the home. The Home experienced unimaginable growth and it wasn't long before the little house on Congress Street was filled. The Society of the United Helpers incorporated in 1899 and in 1900, purchased 2.5 acres of land at 1220 State Street in Ogdensburg (where the Edgar E. Newell Dome stands today). In the late 1950's the State Department of Social Welfare decided that children should be placed in foster care."; and*

***WHEREAS**, United Helpers has grown substantially since then. In 1970 a new 120-bed home for the elderly was built on State Highway 68; in 1978 a new dormitory was built; in 1979 United Helpers took receivership of Cedars Nursing Home in Ogdensburg and Moongate in Canton; in 1982 Intermediate Care Facilities were opened for people with developmental disabilities; in the 1990's mental health services; additional residential services and Partridge Knoll, the first independent retirement community was opened; in the years from 2004-2019, several more projects and programs were acquired, created and opened continuing the heartwarming legacy of United Helpers; and*

***In witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Canton to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May of the year two thousand twenty-three proclaiming May 10, 2023, as United Helpers Recognition Day.***

  
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**Mary Ann Ashley**  
**Supervisor**  
**Town of Canton**

5/10/23  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**





**TOWN OF CANTON  
RESOLUTION 15**

**May 10, 2023**

**OPEN A NEW BANK ACCOUNT AND ESTABLISHING ESCROW ACCOUNTS FOR  
ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR COMMUNITY SOLAR PROJECTS**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Canton passed local law three (3) of 2019 regulating solar energy facilities within the Town, and

**WHEREAS**, SECTION 1: Chapter 71 of the Town Code of the Town of Canton is created to add the following section: Solar Energy Facilities for the purpose to promote the accommodation of solar energy systems and equipment and the provision for adequate sunlight and convenience of access necessary therefore, and to balance the potential impact on neighbors when solar collectors may be installed near their property while preserving the rights of property owners to install solar energy systems without excess regulation. In particular, this legislation is intended to apply to free standing; ground or pole mounted and roof mounted solar energy system installations based upon certain placement. This legislation is not intended to override agricultural exemptions that are currently in place, and

**WHEREAS**, written agreements have been or will executed for the Town of Canton to accept escrow funds for engineering services to include final plan review and site inspection, and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Supervisor, as Chief Fiscal Officer, open a new bank account and would set up the proper escrow accounts and audit tracking systems; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Canton Town Board hereby authorizes the Town Supervisor to open a new bank account and create escrow accounts for authorized expenditures related to the community solar projects.

5/10/2023

Date

Wendy Smith

Canton Town Clerk

RESOLUTION NO. 110

DATED: May 10, 2023

TOWN BOARD APPROVAL OF TOWN ROAD REPAIRS

WHEREAS, the Town of Canton is anticipating receiving the New York State Department of Transportation 2023 funding letter to support the repair, rehabilitation, and modernization of local roads; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board fully supports enhancing the 100 miles of town roads to the maximum extent allowed financially; and

WHEREAS, Town Highway Superintendent requested, and Highway Committee supports, board approval for approximate expenditures for the following roads:

Irish Settlement Road	4900'x20'	\$ 191,472
Finnegan Road	1600'x20'	\$ 222,315
Potter Road	11,200 x 19'	\$ 227,608
Total		\$ 641,395

Additional Project Pending:

Cowan Road	6,200'x20'	\$ 158,568
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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town Board of the Town of Canton approves the town road repairs listed above.

5/10/2023  
Date

Wendy Smith  
Canton Town Clerk