

**Town of Canton
Joint Town/Village Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
In Person and Video Conferencing
Minutes**

TOWN MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

VILLAGE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mike Dalton	----	Mayor
Anna Sorensen	----	Trustee
Barbara Beekman	----	Trustee
Klaus Proemm	----	Trustee
Beth Larrabee	----	Trustee

Also Present: Village Clerk Sally Noble

Public Attendance: Tom Graser with Watertown Daily Times, Paul Mitchel with North Country This Week, Toby Irven (zoom)

A. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Ashley added to the agenda under **New Business #2. Town Highway Expenditures.**

B. Old Business

1. 64 Main Street

Town Council Member Jim Smith asked if there is a different option for the McDonalds building other than tearing it down. Could it be utilized for the police, court, mayor, or supervisor.

Town Council Member Bob Santamoor believes the building could be utilized for something.

Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley referred to the building study from 2019 that was done on the municipal building. It was determined from that study that the municipal building is a sickly building. Three options were given from the results of the study: 1. Rebuild, 2. Gut building 3. Move to another building. In 2019 it was indicated to gut the building would cost roughly 7-million dollars, and a new building would cost roughly 11-million dollars.

Village Trustee Beth Larabee asked what the steps and cost are of refurbishing the McDonalds building.

Mayor Mike Dalton stated an engineering firm would have to look at everything but before that someone needs to decide who or what will go over there.

Mayor Dalton stated that we need to address the problems that we have here in the municipal building. Dalton doesn't think that the McDonalds building is a proper space for the court or police station.

Town Council Member Randy Brown thinks that tearing the building down without a plan to move forward is not responsible.

Village Trustee Beth Larrabee stated if we want to consider another option, we need to come up with a plan on how to better utilize the space. Which will cost money.

Village Trustee Barbara Beekman also stated we need to look at the whole picture. We need to consider this building and the McDonalds building and what choices we have and make a plan.

Town Council Member John Taillon stated there was language in the study about using the McDonalds building for something else, but it did not state how much that would cost.

Village Trustee Anna Sorenson has concerns that the McDonalds building was built specifically for McDonalds and concerns because there is asbestos in the ceiling.

Town Council Member Jim Smith stated before spending any more money we need to try and agree if there is a use for that building. If there is not a use for the building, then it would probably be better if it wasn't there.

Village Trustee Anna Sorensen stated in order to decide if there is use for it, we need to know what the minimum would be to make that habitable. A lot more information is needed to make a decision.

Village Trustee Beth Larabee stated it would be appealing for a big conference room.

Village Mayor Mike Dalton stated the next step would be to issue an RFP to have someone look at the structure.

Both boards agreed to move on an RFP for the structure of the McDonalds building and if it can be used for other space. Supervisor Ashley will take the lead on typing up the RFP and work with the Mayor to get it out.

C. New Business Town Only

1. Rensselaer Falls Road Closure Request

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to approve the Village of Rensselaer Falls request to close to road for the Falls Festival.

All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Town Highway Expenditures

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to approve Highway Expenditures to repair overlays on Sykes Road and Old Dekalb Road for \$69,000; and the purchase of culvert pipes for \$30,000.

All in favor. Motion carried.

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 any of the issues identified as proper by Public Officer Law 105(1)

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and by seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to go into executive session at 6:37 p.m. for the purpose of a contract.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Anna Sorensen and by seconded by Village Trustee Klaus Proemm to go into executive session at 6:37 p.m. for the purpose of a contract.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Brown and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to come out of executive session at 6:50 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Beth Larabee and seconded by Village Trustee Barb Beekman to come out of executive session at 6:50 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting at 6:51 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Anna Sorensen and seconded by Village Trustee Barb Beekman to adjourn the Special Joint Meeting at 6:51 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted.



Heidi L. Smith

Town Clerk

