

Town of Canton
Joint Town/Village Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 26, 2022
In person and video conferencing (zoom)
Minutes

PRESENT:

Mary Ann Ashley	----	Town Supervisor	Mike Dalton	----	Mayor
Bob Washo	----	Council Member	Carol Pynchon	----	Trustee
Jim Smith	----	Council Member	Beth Larrabee	----	Trustee
John Taillon	----	Council Member	Klaus Proemm	----	Trustee
Bob Santamoor (zoom)	----	Council Member	Ann Sorenson	----	Trustee

Also Present: Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Deputy Town Clerk Leanna Moquin (zoom), Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez, Justice Mike Morgan

Absent:

Public Attendance:

A. Call Meeting to Order/Welcome

Supervisor Ashley called the Joint Town/Village Meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

B. Old Business

1. Discuss Comp Plan Oversight Committee

Trustee Carol Pynchon reported that she spoke with Jackie Hakes at MJ Engineering to see if they would support the Town and Village in the oversight efforts. Jackie was excited about this. This would allow MJ to keep up with that is happening, it would also allow MJ to make sure the Town and Village are staying on task and direction with the Comprehensive Plan. If MJ was brought on there would be a meeting in January with representatives from each community to go over the comprehensive plan and how it came about. This would include department heads, planning boards and representatives of the boards. The next meeting would be mid-year for a check-in and another meeting in November to gather information from the matrix. MJ would then prepare a report for each board.

Jackie also stated MJ could be a valuable resource/facilitator if there hasn't been implementation in some areas; they could recommend paths to completion, funding sources, potential partners, etc. Pynchon thinks this could be a huge value added. MJ will give a formal proposal if the boards are interested.

Trustee Pynchon added it is important to remember that it would be split three ways and it has real potential to help us better follow through with the comprehensive planning.

Both boards agreed to get a proposal from Jackie.

Supervisor Ashley agreed to give a follow up phone call to the Rensselaer Falls Mayor to see if they would like to be part of the process.

C. New Business

1. 7 Main Street Satellite Space

Supervisor Ashley gave an update on the steps that still need to be taken on the 7 Main Street Satellite Space. The building committee needs to meet to discuss the signage out front. The citizen committee met and is helping set up the space. Once everything is set up, Village Code Officer Tim Nolan will go in and do an inspection. Ashley reported that the Historians hours will stay the same, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and a couple hours on Thursday.

Trustee Sorenson asked if there are plans to have a grand opening? Supervisor Ashley responded that it has been discussed.

2. 64 Main Street

Mayor Mike Dalton reported that he is still waiting to hear back from the DEC. The mayor is pushing to find out what the next steps are.

3. Bernier, Carr & Associates (BCA) Municipal Building Space Report

Supervisor Ashley reported that both herself and Mayor Dalton have met with BCA to discuss the municipal building space. Ashley and Dalton were given four different options. Supervisor Ashly asked that the building committee join them in the next meeting with BCA.

Council Member Washo asked if there will be plans to review. Council Member Taillon asked if the whole board could also see the plans. Mayor Dalton responded that the original plans were very general. This next meeting the plans will be more detailed.

Trustee Larrabee asked if there are electronic versions of the plans, if so if would be helpful to send them to the boards for review for input. Mayor Dalton responded there are no electronic documents at this time.

4. Shared Service Agreements

Supervisor Ashley reported that both herself and Major Dalton will review the shared services agreement before the end of the year, this is an annual review. Ashley also added that there is no Recreation Shared Agreement.

5. BOA Grant Reimbursement

Supervisor Ashley went on record stating that Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez

has submitted everything for the BOA Grant Reimbursement. The last submission was for \$75,000 and the Town will get 90% of that back. The town has not received the reimbursement yet. Leigh added that it could take up to nine months to get the reimbursement.

6. Joint Policy Development Process

Supervisor Ashley recommends that joint policies be approved at joint meetings. This will allow for discussion as a whole and allow for changes to be made to a policy before the boards approve them.

7. Town Solar Projects

Supervisor Ashley gave an update on Town solar projects. Currently there are seven community projects and one State project.

Council Member Smith added that with community solar projects the Town has a lot of oversight and control over and those are the ones that will supply local power for us to use. The project that isn't attractive is the 1700-acre project that is State driven. It is a 94-c project.

Council Member Washo suggested to the Village board apply for intervener funds and get a seat at the table and get their voices heard. This also applies for community stake holders, hospitals, and universities. Trustee Larrabee asked how do we let all these players know this? Council Member Washo responded; by inviting them to public workshops, planning board meetings, any board meetings and encourage them to call and ask questions.

Council Member Smith added that EDF has held public workshops/meetings but there hasn't been a big public turnout.

Council Member Washo added that the community needs to pay attention to the EDF project. This project will affect everyone in the community. Washo added that he believes the community projects are getting their due diligence at the Town level, there is a process in place providing oversight.

Trustee Pynchon asked if someone would explain getting a seat at the table. Pynchon's understanding has been that there is no intervention. The State is going to move forward no matter what we say.

Council Member Washo added that the more people need to speak up about their issues they have about the project.

Trustee Pynchon asked are there still negotiations?

Council Member Washo responded there are negotiations from road use agreements, to pilots, host community benefit agreements, any visual breaks. Everything is on the table and EDF is sitting down and talking with the Town. The Town knows where they may have some leverage and areas where they have no leverage. Right now, it is just the Town and EDF because no one else in the community has engaged yet.

Council Member Smith added it's not about trying to stop something it is about trying to make them accountable for what they are doing. Council Member Washo added we can help shape it to benefit the Town.

Council Member Santamoor added that his concern is what the EDF project is going to do to the landscape and how it will look down US Route 11.

Toby Irvin, Canton resident, added that he is not opposed to solar, but he would like the Town/Village website have solar information on it.

8. 12 Stiles Street Grant Update

Mayor Dalton reported there is a public hearing for the Street being dedicated over to the Village. The current one that is paved and the piece that takes it to the property line. The survey is complete as well as the as the request for dedication.

A motion was made by Trustee Carol Pynchon and seconded by Trustee Beth Larrabee for the Village to adjourn from the Joint Town/Village meeting at 6:47 PM.
All in favor. Motion carried.

D. Town of Canton Budget Work Session

Supervisor Ashley stated that there were two changes made at the last budget meeting that needed to be followed up on. The first item is the second court clerk position, and the second item is the fire departments allocations.

After board discussion changes being made to the proposed budget are:

- putting the second court clerk position back to full time
- increase the court revenue to \$110,000
- \$82,000 for Canton Fire Department
- \$50,000 for the Pyrites, Morley and Rensselaer Falls Fire Department
- \$50,500 contractual contingency line item.
- \$13,214 Morley Fire District

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Washo and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to adjourn the Joint Town/Village meeting at 7:47 PM.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,
Heidi L. Smith, Town Clerk

