

Village of Canton, New York

VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: January 18, 2023

Board Present:

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

Beth Larrabee, Trustee
Klaus Proemm, Trustee

Others Present:

Scott Goldie, Village Attorney
Tim Nolan, Code Enforcement
Cindy Brand, Assessor
Tim Bacon, Superintendent

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer
James Santimaw, Chief
Meghan Richardson, Rec. Dir.
Leigh Rodriguez, Econ. Dev.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

- a. **Approve minutes of November 16, 2022** – Trustee Larrabee made a motion to accept the November 16, 2022 minutes with corrections. 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 has been working with the infrastructure committee. He added that he is waiting for quotes for flooring at the Club House. Trustee Sorensen added a thank you to Richard Grover for his work on the Tree Committee.

Assessor – Cindy Brand explained there is a new volunteer fire fighter and ambulance worker exemption available if the municipality chooses. It would replace the old one. The is exemption is up to 10% of the assessed value of the home. The old exemption is capped at \$3,000. The Board needs to make the decision. The deadline for the Board to act on the exemption is 2025. There is a mass mailing going out in January regarding the aged exemption.

Economic Development – Leigh summarized her report. Nothing new to add to her report. We received \$475,000 from St. Lawrence County from their ARPA funds towards the secondary water source. We did not receive the LWRP grant. We had a debrief call this morning. They told us it was a great application. Some of the things we just weren't eligible for, otherwise maybe we could use a little more clarification on things. We did get 10 out of 20 points from the regional council, so that is probably the biggest place where we lost points. We will just have to try again next year. Trustee Sorensen added that we did have 5 people volunteer to serve on the small business grant committee.

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcement submitted his report. He said it has been very quiet. He has issued one permit. He added he had a trash complaint. The Mayor asked if he was doing more fire safety now that it is winter. Tim replied he will be.

Treasurer – Clerk Noble submitted a written report. She said she has been dealing with some HR issues and the website calendar issues which are still not resolved.

Fire Department- submitted a written report.

Recreation Director – Meghan submitted her report. The new ice resurfacer is supposed to be here Friday. The ADA buttons on the front door are all installed. We started reaching out to lifeguards. SUNY Canton will be gifting us rubber flooring from the University Games.

Police Chief Report- Chief Santimaw said the University Games are going well as far as law enforcement. No negatives so far. The new impound yard is getting used a lot. We had 7 vehicles in December. We needed it.

Animal Control Officer - A written report was submitted.

Historian – A written report was submitted. Linda was not at the meeting. She had a nice open house.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Recreation Committee – The Mayor reported that the next meeting will be on the 30th at 5:15 PM. They are hoping to get the Town/Village agreement wrapped up.

Tree Committee – Trustee Larrabee said there is a meeting on Thursday.

Golf Committee – Trustee Larrabee reported they met at the Club House to talk about refurbishing and sprucing up the place.

Communications and Technology – Trustee Sorensen said the calendar is still an issue. We have been having some large discussions in the committee about the website. The fact that it is very probably the original design and that we have outgrown it in the way that we use it and wish the public to use it as well. It is not very navigable. The committee is talking about the website and we will bring to the Board a recommendation with respect to the website going forward. She thinks that will involve a redesign. It has taken a very long time to get simple problems fixed. It is really not an answer other than we are working on it. She added that it is not because of lack of persistence on behalf of the both Village and Town clerk's offices. This is not on us.

Boardband – There is a meeting on Friday.

Complete Streets – Trustee Proemm reported they met earlier in the month and are continuing with our ongoing projects. We are working on Court Street plans and should have something well before spring on the Court Street recommendations.

Sustainability – Trustee Proemm reported they met earlier in the month and are continuing with our ongoing projects. They are working on our Climate Smart Community Certification.

COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:

- a. **County Legislator Update**- legislator was not present. No update.
- b. **Winterfest** – the Mayor said he did receive an invitation to the Chambers annual dinner.
- c. **University Games** – The Mayor said he did participate in the torch relay. He and Supervisor Ashely went to the opening ceremonies in Lake Placid to represent the Village and Town. He said the County Chamber did a really good job putting things together and making things happen. Brooke Rouse did a fine job with a lot of cooperation between her and some other civic organizations in the community.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **64 Main Street** – The Mayor said we are making good progress. He circulated the clearance letter from DEC, the report and a copy of the agreement with McDonald's. We are waiting to hear from Gary Bowitch who is the attorney that specializes in cleanups to make sure we are all done. If we have to extend the contract any further we will need to do that by the end of the month. There is one piece on the north wall that still tested positive. The soil is still fine for commercial use. They weren't going to go digging out under the sidewalk and into the road. We can discuss at our joint meeting. If we don't extend it we bought it. Trustee Sorensen said she had a few concerns knowing that there is some contamination there before we take ownership. But it won't interfere with our purposes.
- b. **19 Miner Street Update** – We are applying for Restore NY grants. There are still some negotiations going on that we have to wrap up. We have a couple of things to talk about in executive session. The Mayor and Leigh met with the developers and SUNY Canton the other day. The Mayor does have site control affidavits. There is a public hearing before our joint meeting on the 25th at 5:30.
- c. **Discuss Attorney to represent the Village in Solar negotiations** – There have been some questions about that. It will be dealt with in our joint meeting. There were a couple of questions that came up about him representing both the town and village. The Mayor asked for the contract and that's when the question came up.
- d. **Discuss Community Choice Aggregation** – Trustee Proemm said we are moving ahead with public outreach and education. For the next 60 days there will be numerous public events and zoom meetings. They have offered to present in our February meeting which we can discuss and let them know if we want them to do that or not. The public education will go till March and then an RFP will go out in March for finding an energy source. There will be pricing negotiations and figuring out the best possible deal for our energy. That will go to the end of April early May. In June a letter will go out to all Village residents letting them know about the operation and their options. The target is

to have the launch in August. Trustee Sorensen added that she and Klaus met with Joule today. The regulatory requirements are that we have 2 public zoom sessions. It has been a concern to us that we find a way to get this information out into the community. The Town of Potsdam is on the same timeline. Trustee Larrabee was going to get some contact information for the colleges to Klaus.

- e. **Name New Street – Thompson Court** – The Mayor said we talked about naming the new street that was just transferred to us. We talked about the Thompson name because it used to be the Thompson farm. Judy Liscum called the Mayor a while back. She is a Thompson and is excited that we were headed in that direction. Her suggestion is to call it Thompson Court. All were in agreement to call it Thompson Court.

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 8 of 2022-2023. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$120,465.32	Sewer Fund	\$17,915.58
Water Fund	\$40,847.65	Golf Course	\$7,400.10

- b. **Approve CDBG CARES Act Resolution** – Trustee Sorensen made a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- c. **Accept letter of retirement from Sgt. Basil Cheney** – Trustee Proemm made a motion to accept the letter of retirement from Sgt. Basil Cheney. His last day of work will be March 25, 2023. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion with gratitude. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

In addition to that we have asked for a Village list of potential candidates. We will bring that back to the Board for approval after we go through the process.

Trustee Larrabee added her gratefulness for Sgt Cheney. He has been a community officer, a good role model and mentor to a lot of people. She wanted to recognize that.

- d. **Approval for Supt Bacon to attend 2023 NYS Assoc of Town Superintendents of Highways' Advocacy Day on March 7th - 8th** – Trustee Beekman made the motion to approve Supt Bacon's attendance. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- e. **Annual Resolution of hold harmless with SLC for providing services for 2023** – Trustee Proemm made the motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Beekman seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.
- f. **Discuss Social Media Policy** – The Mayor said the Board should have all received a draft of the policy. Trustee Sorensen said she has added a paragraph today. We will be discussing this at the joint meeting. Hopefully it will be passed at that meeting so we don't have to wait for another quarter. The Mayor added that this policy applies to municipal use only not to peoples personal accounts. Trustee Sorensen will send Attorney Goldie a copy

electronically. It was on the Town's agenda for the last Board meeting. She believes they left it for the joint meeting. The Town does have 2 members on the committee, John and Bob.

- g. Discuss Infrastructure Projects & Priorities** – Trustee Sorensen said the point is we are in preparation for the next budget. We have been working on some of these projects for decades. The secondary water source is the primary goal. They met with the engineers to get some final numbers on the project. That is only the top of the list. We also have the transmission lines, water meters and water tanks. We need a vac truck desperately. We also need along with that the disinfectant for the effluent out of the sewer plant. We also have other projects to talk about after that, such as Cleaveland Ave. There will be storm water studies done as well.

Supt Bacon did want to know what is happening on Stiles Avenue. Will it be on the joint meeting agenda? The Mayor will check with the town supervisor. He is not sure where we are on this.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was not public comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION- Trustee Sorensen made a motion to enter executive session at 7:35 PM for the purpose of property acquisition. Trustee Larrabee seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Larrabee made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:37 PM. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Sorensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Noble
Village Clerk