

**Town of Canton
Joint Town/Village Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 25, 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
Beth Larrabee	----	Trustee

Also Present: Village Clerk Sally Noble, Economic Developer Leigh Rodriguez

Absent: Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Village Trustee Klaus Proemm

Public Attendance: Tom Graser-Watertown Daily Times, Paul Mitchell-North Country This Week, Toby Irven

Zoom Attendance: Chuck Voss, John Casserly

Mayor Mike Dalton called the Joint Town/Village board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

A. Old Business

1. 64 Main Street Site Plan Bids

Mayor Dalton stated the Town/Village received two bids for the 64 Main Street Site Plan. The building committee reviewed them and discussed it at length.

Village Trustee Sorensen added, the two bids received were from BCA Architects Engineers for \$5,400 and Barton & Loguidice for \$9,700. Sorensen added that the committee agreed that the lower bid did not meet the requirements of the RFP or at the very least didn't demonstrate how it did. If there was a recommendation it would be for the \$9,700. Sorensen added that the committee stopped short of a recommendation because after an extensive discussion the committee was unable to identify how we would use the building if we were able to repurpose it.

The Village doesn't see a good staffing configuration that would be good to send to that location. On the Village side we can't identify departments that would go in that direction. The committee also discussed sending the Police Department to that building. It would provide additional space, but the 64 Main St. location would still need to be demolished. The building would not be suitable for the police department. Even with moving the Police department all it would address is the space issue but not

the larger issue that has to do with the health and safety of the employees in the building.

Both Boards discussed in length what to do with 64 Main Street location, trying to think of possibly paring down the cost of the project as \$25,000,000 isn't realistic.

The Town/ Village boards agreed not to move forward on the Site Plan bids.

Both boards by consensus agreed that Mayor Dalton will contact the low bidder about taking 64 Main Street down and see if the bid still stands. If not, then a new RFP would need to be sent out. Then we will bring this discussion back up at the next individual monthly meetings.

B. New Business

1. Pro-Housing Community Program Resolution -

Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that the Governor signed an executive order recognizing the housing shortage in New York State and created a program to encourage communities to join her in taking action to address the shortage housing needs which is the pro-housing community program.

A motion was made by Town Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Town Council Member Bob Santamoor to pass the pro-housing community pledge resolution. All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made Village Trustee Anna Sorensen and seconded by Village Trustee Barb Beekman to pass the pro-housing community pledge resolution. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Stiles Ave Strategic Plan Update -

Supervisor Ashley gave an update on the Stiles Ave Strategic Plan stating that the contract has been reviewed by the Town Attorney. There is an agreement between Barton & Loguidice and the Town Attorney regarding the contract. One final read needs to be done, then signed and a kickoff meeting held. There are grant requirements. Leigh will be the point with Barton & Loguidice to start that study. Once signed the Town and Village will get a copy and then we can move forward. Trustee Sorensen asked there were no changes to the scope of the project or the timeline. Supervisor Ashely said no changes.

3. Web Site Update -

Village Trustee Sorensen gave an update on the website. The website design is ongoing in the background. Now the task is to address the sitemap. We are creating what will be on the website and how it will be organized. The more difficult task is identifying and aligning what is on our existing website with the new design. Why it is difficult is because there are roughly 1,000 pages on our current website and many of

them are not connected to anything. The clerks have been corresponding with the current provider to get sitemap information. The process that the committee has come up with is the committee will try and identify as many of those pages as possible. We will give department heads a list of pages and the links to those pages. The department heads need to tell us what they want to keep, what they want to go, how they want it organized. The committee will take on the non-department pages and make those decisions. The clerks will reach out to the department heads. The new website will have contact forms. The committee is creating a directory to have set up in the backend.

4. Comprehensive Plan Oversight Project -

Mayor Dalton stated that the first meeting with department heads will be November 28th. The core team which consists of Mayor Dalton, Deputy Mayor Sorensen, Supervisor Ashley, Deputy Supervisor Smith met on October 16th. There will be a lot of opportunity for input.

C. Village Only

Mayor Dalton stated there are two items for Village only.

1. Authorize Towing Bids -

A motion was made by Village Trustee Beth Larabee and seconded by Village Trustee Barb Beekman authorizing Mayor Dalton to advertise for towing bids.
All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Resolution to award bid for Willow Island project -

A motion was made by Village Trustee Barb Beekman and seconded by Village Trustee Anna Sorensen to award the bid to the low bidder, T.J. Fiocco in the amount of \$252,700. All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ashley added the Town is the lead on this Grant.

A motion was made by Village Trustee Barb Beekman and seconded by Village Trustee Beth Larabee to adjourn the Village portion of Joint Town/Village board meeting at 6:53 PM.
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 Officers Law 105(1)

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Town Council Member Bob Santamoor to go into executive session for the purpose of [D] litigation. Highway Superintendent Steven Smith is invited into executive session at 6:53 PM.
All in favor. Motion carried.

Highway Superintendent Steven Smith left executive session at 8:24 p.m. A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to come out of executive session at 8:35 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heidi L. Smith
Town Clerk