

**Town of Canton  
December 13, 2023  
Regular Board Meeting  
In Person and Video conference  
Minutes**

**Present:**

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

**Also Present:** Town Clerk Heidi L. Smith, Highway Superintendent Steven Smith, Assessor Cindy Brand, Code Enforcement Officer Mike McQuade, Angela Gray, CPA

**Absent:** Historian Linda Casserly, Recreation Director Meghan Richardson, Economic Developer Leigh Rodriquez

**Public Attendance:** Margaret Mauch, North Country This Week Paul Mitchell, Watertown Daily Times Tom Graser

**Zoom Attendance:** Town Attorney Eric Gustafson, Toby Irvén

**A. Call Meeting to Order**

Supervisor Ashley called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Ashley made three changes to the agenda. Old business #2 the word “box” was added to reflect Highway Dump Truck Box Bid. Under minutes the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Hearing Minutes were added. Under new business added #4 Discuss Public Hearing for Zoning Code

**Presentation – CGI Video**

Five short videos were shown in hopes to get feedback to take back to the committee. These videos were taken to represent Canton. There are already some changes that the committee wants to make. Several recommendations were made by the board. The videos will be sent to all board members to watch again to allow for more feedback.

**B. Public Comment**

None

**C. Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member John Taillon to approve the October 25, 2023-Joint Meeting; November 2, 2023-Budget Public Hearing; November 8, 2023-Regular Meeting; and November 29, 2023-Special Meeting minutes.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **D. Correspondence**

### **#1. NYS Comptroller's Office 2022 AUD Update**

A notice was received from the NYS Comptrollers Office on the 2022 AUD. They decided to make some changes to what was submitted. Angela is in agreement with two of the changes that were made. The third was about the appropriated fund balance which will be looked at one more time.

### **#2. LWRP Grant Award**

The Town/Village received the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program) Grant in the amount of \$81,986. This grant will allow for a study to be done along the Grasse River.

### **#3. Legislator Ben Hull's Report**

Legislator Ben Hull submitted a report on the St. Lawrence County highlights and the St. Lawrence County Intersection Evaluation Policy.

### **#4. Constituent Lilly Stewart-Pyrites Beautification Request**

Supervisor Ashley read a letter from Lilly Stewart from Pyrites looking to light up Pyrites with holiday spirt. Ashley stated that Lilly is a motivated person who wants to make a difference. Supervisor Ashley directed Lilly to the Canton Community Fund as a possible resource to purchase decorations.

## **E. Town Finances Reports**

Angela Gray, CPA gave the town financial report.

Angela gave the Town Clerks Financial Report. The report was given to Clerk Smith and the board prior to the meeting for review.

Supervisor Ashley added that the second mortgage sales tax was received. It is down \$17,990 from last year and we didn't meet our projected revenue.

## **F. Audit Committee**

"A" General	----	\$78,088.62
"B" Town Outside	----	\$38,484.83
"DA" Townwide Highway	----	\$72,928.53
"DB" Town Highway	----	\$333,165.00
"SF" Special Fire	----	\$4,588.87
"SL" Special Lighting	----	\$297.63
"T&A" Trust & Agency	----	\$22,076.16

A motion was made by Council Member Randy Brown and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to approve the December expenditures.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

Council Member Taillon reported on an expenditure correction from November due to a coding error on an invoice in the amount of \$68,241.99. It was paid from the A

account which should have been paid from the B account. A transfer has been made in the amount of \$68,241.99 from the B account to the A account to cover this expense.

## **G. Acceptance of Department Reports**

### **Highway**

Highway Superintendent Smith reported that it has been a busy last couple of weeks. The new heating system was installed and is operating at 12 Stiles Ave. Smith reported that five landowners have installed their own driveways and did it with installing culverts. After speaking with them one of them has put a culvert in, one has purchased a pipe to have installed; and another one is in agreement. The crew will need to push the stone back and opening the waterway up for the winter, so it doesn't freeze on the other two.

Smith stated that the Dump Box bids were opened today by Clerk Smith. Two bids were received from TENCO Industries-5700 South Lima Rd, Lakeville, NY 14480-\$32,022.00 and Viking Cives (USA)-14331 Mill Street, Harrisville, NY 13648-\$25,773.00.

A motion was made by Council Member Jim Smith and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to approve purchasing a new dump box from Viking Cives out of Harrisville per bid in the amount of \$25,773.00.  
All in favor. Motion carried.

### **Town Clerk**

Clerk Smith reported that she has been very busy with FOIL requests. Smith reported that the Communications and Technology Committee has met several times and is moving along with the sitemap for the new website. Smith also reported that the clerk updates for security will most likely happen in February.

### **Assessor**

Assessor Brand reported that the state will be sending out letters to those that have BASIC Star but who are believed to be 65 years of age or older. Brand will also be mailing out Ag & non-profit exemptions. Brand thanked Clerk Smith for all her help updating the Assessor page on the current website.

Supervisor Ashley added that the mandated second mailing for low-income seniors will go out again this year. The County will send out the postcards and bill the Town.

### **Code Enforcement Officer**

Code Officer McQuade reported the restaurant on Rt 11 is coming along nicely and the framing plans have been received. The Solar project on CR 27 is moving along. The Judson Street Solar project has started but they have shut down for the winter. McQuade is waiting for the plans and permit paperwork for the St. Hwy 310 solar project.

A motion was made by John Taillon and seconded by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley to accept the department reports that were received.  
All in favor. Motion carried .

## **H. Committee Reports**

### **Economic Development Committee:**

Bob Santamoor reported there will not be a EDSC meeting this month due to the holidays. Santamoor also reported a new person will be starting at the St. Lawrence County Chamber in January that will be 50% use for the Town and Village. The St. Lawrence County Chamber has ads out. The Village has agreed to pay the total cost of those ads. Those ads include the town.

### **Sustainability Committee:**

Bob Santamoor reported that America Volunteers out of SLU will be doing various water tests of the Grasse River. They are testing for road salt content as part of Governor Hochel's road salt campaign to mitigate the amount of road salt going into the Adirondack region. In addition, the committee is going to recommend to the Village to continue with the waste compost program.

### **Building Committee:**

John Taillon reported that the committee has met several times to try and scale down the possible new building. The committee has met with several departments to look at what the needs are and not the wants. The committee will be meeting again with the Clerks and Justice to see about records storage. The committee has also reached out to the BCA to see what it would cost to redo the drawing with the suggested changes.

### **Recreation Committee:**

John Taillon reported Meghan is working on a community survey and is hoping to get it out in January. There are a lot of questions to help with programming and moving forward along with facility questions. The new person has started and is doing well. A valve on the cooling tower was replaced.

### **Justice Committee:**

Mary Ann Ashley reported that the committee met with the Justices to go over the 2024 budget, time accruals, and needed space at the possible new building.

### **Comprehensive Plan Oversight:**

Mary Ann Ashley reported that there was a Comprehensive Plan oversight kick off meeting on November 28<sup>th</sup>. The next step is a survey. There will be one more in person meeting and a couple online meetings. They are hoping to have a report by the end of 2024.

## **I. Old Business**

### **1. Non-Contract Policy**

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to amend the non-contract policy that *an employee may only carry over from one calendar year to another up to 30 days, 210 hours, maximum vacation time.*

All in favor. Motion carried.

### **2. Highway Dump Truck Box Bids**

This item was discussed during highway department report.

## **J. New Business**

### **1. Set 2023 Year End Meeting**

The year end meeting is set for December 28, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

### **2. Set 2024 Organizational Meeting**

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to set the Organizational Meeting for January 4, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

### **3. Appointment of Planning Board Alternates 2024**

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and second by Council Member Bob Santamoor to appoint Dakota Casserly and Sigie Barr as Planning Board Alternates.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ashley added that planning board alternates are annual appointments.

### **4. Discuss Public Hearing for Zoning Code**

A motion was made by Council Member Bob Santamoor and seconded by Council Member Randy Brown to set a Public Hearing for the Zoning Code on January 10, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. followed by the regular board meeting.

All in favor. Motion carried.

## **K. Public Comment**

### Margaret Mauch -Canton Resident:

Margaret thanked the board for their consideration of public comment and the consideration of the times of meetings. Maragaret also thanked the board for taking comments into consideration before taking a vote, often votes are made after public comment without taking the comments into consideration. Margaret also stated that NDLB Jeffrey Beri has a court date in January for the continuing noise complaints.

**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 Supervisore Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to go into executive session for the purpose of [D] discussions regarding litigation, [E] collective negotiations, and [F] matter pertaining to the employment history of a particular person. Invited Mayor Michael Dalton, Deputy Mayor Anna Sorensen, and Solar Attorney Bill Buchan.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Mayor Michael Dalton and Deputy Mayor Anna Sorensen left executive session at 8:21 p.m.

A motion was made by Supervisor Mary Ann Ashley and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to come out of executive session at 9:28 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Council Member John Taillon and seconded by Council Member Bob Santamoor to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:28 p.m.

All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi L. Smith  
Town Clerk