

**VILLAGE OF CANTON and TOWN OF CANTON BOARD MEETING  
JOINT BOARD MEETING  
November 9, 2020**

***Village Board Present:***

Michael Dalton, Mayor  
Klaus Proemm, Trustee  
Beth Larrabee, Trustee

Carol Pynchon, Trustee  
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

***Others Present:***

Sally Noble, Village Clerk/Treasurer  
Leigh Rodriguez, Econ. Developer

Gerry Ducharme, Attorney

***Town Board Present:***

Mary Ann Ashley, Supervisor  
Tim Danehy, Councilperson  
Bob Washo, Councilperson

Karin Blackburn, Councilperson  
Jim Smith, Councilperson

***PLEASE TAKE NOTICE*** that the Canton Village Board of Trustees and the Canton Town Board will hold a joint meeting on Monday, November 9, 2020 at 6:00pm. The joint meeting will be conducted by use of Zoom video-conference, as authorized by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 and subsequent extensions. The public is invited to view or listen to the joint meeting via Zoom.

Mayor Dalton opened the Joint Meeting at 6:04pm.

Mayor Dalton stated that there was one change to the agenda. The Chamber discussion has been tabled. The Chamber will be meeting with the Town at their Monthly meeting and the Chamber discussion will be added to the Village Meeting on November 18<sup>th</sup>. He stated that there are separate budgets and discussions.

Mayor Dalton stated that Supervisor Ashley stated that they discussed the Emergency Declaration that the County has issued. He stated that they would pay close attention to the situation and any direction that comes out of the meeting. He stated that the County wants people paying attention to the uptick in Covid in our community. He stated that the School District was involved in the conversation with Boces and at this time the School will not be closing. He informed the Board that Franklin County Schools will be going remote. Face to face learning will start after Christmas. He stated that he is very concerned with where this is going and will take the direction from the County.

Superintendent Ashley added that she finds it unfortunate that the cases are going up and she encouraged everyone to follow the guidelines to wear a mask. She stated that we need to protect one another. She stated that she hopes that we do not have to go backward. They are monitoring it closely and will be a day by day thing. She encouraged everyone to follow the guidelines.

- 1. Recreation-** Mayor Dalton stated that they plan on following the lead of the School District if they find it necessary to close down. He stated that they are in close contact with the School District.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Rec Committee consists of Trustee Larrabee, herself and Councilperson Danehy and Councilperson Blackburn. She stated that the new

Superintendent Miller has been taking the direct supervision of the staff there for the interim until the program direction is figured out. She stated that the rink opened smoothly and safely. She stated that they worked closely with Canton Minor Hockey and Figure Skating Club and things have gone well. She stated that there are two full time employees and three part-time skate rink assistance. She stated the goal was to get the rink up and running safely. Trustee Pynchon stated that there has been a lot of changes over the last several years.

She stated after the recent Director resignation they have decided to take a step back, instead of searching for a new Director they want to look at the structure and function of the Rec Department and Program and decide what the best strategies moving forward, both financially for the Village and Town and for Taxpayer investments on the programs and what is provided to the Community. She stated that they will invite participation into the discussion to look at the issues related to staffing, facilities, programming and resources. She stated that they are trying to establish a general philosophy on direction. She stated they decided to put together a working group of representatives from various stakeholder groups (rink users, Taylor Park users and other stakeholders of recreation programs). She stated that people will be invited, nominations to the group and volunteers.

She stated that a Google Form will be posted if the two Boards are good with it. She stated that people can volunteer or nominate others. She stated that they will hold meetings and advisory groups will hold smaller focus groups. Input will be gathered from the groups with the best way to go forward with survey's or focus groups. She stated they hope to have the groups by November 23, 2020. Trustee Pynchon stated that they hope to have the structure and direction for when the Village begins to think about budgeting for next year and also begin programming and planning for the summer months. She stated that they will report back to each of the Boards and to receive input from the Boards.

Councilperson Danehy added that the Committee thought it would be more effective and necessary to have stakeholders to be part of the working group. He stated that this is the time for the individuals to come forward and step up to participate if they have interest in the future of the Recreation Program. He stated that the Committee has reviewed other models in other Communities with how it is managed. He stated that the facilities might be managed one way by the municipalities and the program completely separated by an independent contractor. He stated everything needs to be on the table to receive the best bang for our buck. He stated that a budget analysis, to look at the recreation budget, as it existed in the past and in a different way to help correlate the dollars to the actual programs and facilitates with the Pavilion and Taylor Park.

Trustee Larrabee stated that it is an exciting time to be creative and she encourages people who are interested in giving some of their time and help to be a creative thinker and come up with different kinds of solutions.

Councilperson Blackburn wanted it noted that inviting Community Members to the working group will add value to the discussions. She stated she is excited and encouraged that this path will lead to a good outcome.

Trustee Pynchon stated she will share the statement of the Reimagining Canton Recreation and the link that will be shared for people to sign up with the Board and the media.

Supervisor Ashley stated she advocates for the Town outside, with a unique town with two Villages and two and half hamlets. She suggested representation from Morley, Pyrites and Rensselaer Falls.

Trustee Pynchon stated that people in all of the Communities will be getting the same information. She stated that if she has any suggestions to please let them know.

Supervisor Ashley stated that the Mayor of Rensselaer Falls was in attendance.

2. **Ethics-** Mayor Dalton stated that they are making serious progress. He stated that Village is in good shape for the Committee. He stated that he thinks there is a neutral party that the Village and Town will both agree on.

Councilperson Washo stated that he made a suggestion of Becky Hietsch as a possibility. He stated that he shared the bio and will be circulated by Mayor Dalton and Supervisor Ashley.

Trustee Pynchon reminded everyone that the Village nominates two and the Town nominates two and the fifth is nominated by the Town and Village. She stated the idea that the Board will work with the Village and Town Counsel to move forward with how to implement the Ethics Law that was passed together. She stated the two for the Village of Katie Halloran Murphy and Ryan Ames. She stated that Becky Hietsch would be a great choice.

Councilperson Washo stated the two representatives for the Town are Barb Heller and Kimber Petrie.

Trustee Pynchon read Becky Hietsch's bio.

Becky moved to Canton in 2018 when her husband, Steve, became CFO at SLU. She is currently employed by Graham Healthcare as the Director of Staff Development. In this role she oversees the education of all home health staff in MI, IL, and PA. Educational background includes a BS and MS in psychology and an AD in nursing with board certification as a Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse. Previous work experience has included Psychology Instructor at a community college, Mobile Therapist, and Director of Residential Services for an agency serving people with developmental disabilities.

After Board discussion the Board Members agreed to move forward with the nomination.

Councilperson Washo suggested that a letter from the Mayor and Supervisor will be sent to the five people inviting them and giving them their marching orders.

Mayor Dalton stated that he was fine with that.

Councilperson Washo made motion to nominate Becky Hietsch for the shared position on the Town and Village Ethics Board. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

- 3. Code Update-** Trustee Pynchon stated that she felt it was important to discuss since the Town and Village worked on the Comprehensive Plan together. The Plan requires the code to be consistent and compliant. She stated it was a substantial overhaul for the Village and less of the Town. She stated that both the Village and Town have both contracted the same planner. Trustee Pynchon thought it would be useful to hear where each are the Boards are on this and the awareness of amendments of the codes. She stated that the Code Adjustments may require amendments to our Comprehensive Plan. She stated that this might be something that both Boards might undertake together since they developed and approved the Comprehensive Plan together.

Attorney Ducharme stated that he has been working primarily with Monica on the Village code. He stated that they are overhauling the types of districts and carefully going through the uses in these districts. He stated that they had a long meeting on October 19, they reviewed definitions and discussed the proposed uses. He stated that they have on their radar to conform to the Federal Laws and State Code and the appropriate adjustments will be made. He stated that Monica's plan is to have a draft ready by early December to be presented to the Committee in early January. He stated that he is waiting to receive the draft to review and circulate it.

Councilperson Washo stated that they have had preliminary discussions with Monica about how the process and what direction to go. He stated that they have been working on definitions and they have one more discussion to have before convening with the Committee.

Mayor Dalton asked if it was in the Town's horizon if the Plan would need to be updated.

Councilperson Washo stated that they are open to it and have talked about it being necessary. He stated the initial conundrum is should you change the Comp Plan First and then change the Law? He stated it seems backwards to go through the law process then update the Comp Plan to support the law.

Trustee Pynchon stated that there is an understanding that all the Comp Plan Work was done pre-Covid and before looking at the world then how we are looking at it now.

Councilperson Washo asked that do they do an amended Comp Plan and then write the Laws in the Code to support or do you update the Code first and then rewrite the code to support the laws? He stated that the most sensible way for the town is to start working on the zoning first.

Mayor Dalton stated that they have started down the path and found that there may be some inconsistencies that will have to be addressed.

Supervisor Ashley added that after speaking with Code Officer Murray he has some ideas as to what needs to be changed either added or taken away. Code Officer Murray is working with both the Town and Village.

4. **Island Park MOU-** Supervisor Ashley stated that they have received the contract from the State. The Town Attorney is reviewing and the item is on their Board agenda for Thursday. She stated that they need an MOU for the Island Park. She stated that the grant amount is \$256,958 and the local match is \$76,580 and the Miner Street portion of the project amount is \$272,781 with a local match of \$100,000. The total grant is \$529,739 and the total match of \$176,580. Supervisor Ashley stated that with the BOA grant they had an MOU with the Village Administering that portion with specific language with the finances and the reimbursement structure. She asked for both of the Boards support for the Mayor and her to work with the two attorneys to solidify the MOU.

Councilperson Washo asked if Economic Developer Rodriguez will be involved? Supervisor Ashley stated absolutely. She stated that the BOA Grant is working well and the Town received \$9,550 grant reimbursement which will be forwarded to the Village for the expenditures that have already been made. She stated that Economic Developer Rodriguez has a few questions for the State why the full grant amount was not awarded.

Mayor Dalton stated that the first MOU was circulated between Supervisor Ashley and Attorney Ducharme. He stated that they are waiting for final documents because it is important for the MOU to state the Village piece. He stated it will be shared with the Board's before it is approved.

Councilperson Washo asked Supervisor Ashley with the reimbursement that she mentioned how much was that relative to the request? Supervisor Ashley stated that it was \$15,000 request.

Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that she does not remember the number and that grants are reimbursed differently from the Department of State. She stated that the grant is a 90% with a 10% match. She stated that they will reimburse 90% of what you submit.

Supervisor Ashley stated that the State asked if the Town wanted to take an advance on the BOA Grant. She stated that the Town took a \$44,000 advance to have that money already to jumpstart. She stated that she is looking forward to this contract, as well. She stated that every grant is different and there are layers.

Supervisor Ashley asked if both Boards support Mayor Dalton and her to work with the Attorney's on the MOU.

Both Board's agreed.

5. **Chamber-** Tabled
6. **Virtual Meetings-** Mayor Dalton stated they need to have a discussion about doing virtual meetings after the Executive Orders have expired.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the Communications and Technology Committee have discussed.

Trustee Sorensen stated that each of the Board's separately asked for \$750.00 to purchase an Owl Pro Camera Speaker System, to test the functionality for when we are

able to meet in person again but still be accessible to the Public, staff any anyone that is not able to actually be face to face. She stated it is at the stage of getting the equipment and testing it out to see what will work in our building.

Trustee Pynchon stated we have learned how well this works but are eager to be back in the same room but they want to support the ability of people who can't come to a meeting once they are able to be back together post Covid. She stated that they need to encourage as much participation not only from the Boards and the Staff by the Public.

Trustee Larrabee asked if there would be a projected screen for them to see everyone?

Trustee Sorensen stated that would be something to consider. She stated that they need to see how it functions with the space in the building, with the WIFI and to see if this is the right piece of technology.

Supervisor Ashley stated that she spoke with the Justices and the Court Clerk about the possibility of buying a large screen through the JCAP Grant, they might need it in the future. She asked the Committee to think about it because it could be difficult for the Clerk's to take the record and try to moderate.

- 7. Municipal Building Study- Supervisor** Ashley wanted to remind everyone that a Municipal Building Study was completed on October 2019. She stated that she does not believe that the two Boards have sat down to discuss the results, vision and what should we do and shouldn't do and discuss funding. She stated that through the USDA many municipalities were awarded funding for one large item or another. She stated that they need to talk about these results and move forward with one way or another. She suggested to discuss at the next Joint Meeting.

Trustee Sorensen and Trustee Proemm asked for the documents to review.

Mayor Dalton will send it out to the Board to review.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session at 6:48pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(1) (). Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Councilperson Washo made a motion to come out of executive session at 8:05PM. The motion was seconded by Trustee Larrabee . All voted in favor. The motion carries.

The Board decided on having a Joint Meeting quarterly. They set the next meeting for January 27, 2021 at 6:00pm

Supervisor Ashley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Adams  
Deputy Clerk