

# Village of Canton, New York

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## VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Meeting Minutes: January 20, 2021

### **Board Present:**

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

Carol Pynchon, Trustee  
Anna Sorensen, Trustee

### **Others Present:**

Gerald Ducharme, Village Attorney  
Cara Adams, Deputy Clerk  
Cindy Brand, Assessor  
James Santimaw, Chief

Sally Noble, Clerk/Treasurer  
Leigh Rodriguez, Economic Developer  
Marty Miller, Superintendent

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the regular monthly meeting of the Village of Canton Board of Trustees for the month of January 2021 will be held on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, at 6:30pm. The meeting will be conducted by use of Zoom video-conference, as authorized by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 as continued by subsequent authorizations through and including Executive Order 202.87. The public is invited to view or listen to the meeting by any of the following means:

Prior to the regular meeting, the Village of Canton will hold a public hearing at 6:15pm for the purpose of hearing public comments on the Village of Canton's current Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project: 175ED927-19, Assistance to Dairy Queen in the amount of \$300,000. The public is invited to view or listen to the public hearing, and to comment at the appropriate time:

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Mayor Dalton postponed the Public Hearing due to the Public Hearing not being noticed correctly.

### **ORDER OF BUSINESS:**

**Mayor Dalton rescheduled the Public Hearing for February 17, 2021.**

- a. **Approve minutes of December 16, 2020** - Trustee Proemm made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2020; seconded by Trustee Sorensen. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon stated that the following are on her to do list:

- Offered to convene the Color Committee to figure out the Color Pallet. She stated that she will move forward with working with the Planning Board and Attorney Ducharme.
- ZBA Opening
- Finding the Fair Housing Plan and Affirmative Action Policy- will get with Clerk Noble to receive that.
- Equal Employment Opportunity Statement should be put on the Website.

Trustee Pynchon asked Mayor Dalton if there was anything new with the Street Light Conversion? Mayor Daltons stated that he notified National Grid that they will be moving forward and is in progress.

Trustee Pynchon asked about the Fire Contract edits to the document. The Fire Contract was approved subject to the edits. Attorney Ducharme and Trustee Pynchon will work on the edits to the contract. Mayor Dalton will speak with Attorney Ducharme regarding the edits.

### **ACCEPTANCE OF DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

**Economic Development Report-** Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that the application was submitted for the New York State Main Street Program on Friday. 17 Applications were received for potential projects. The Selection Committee met and they selected 8 projects to prioritize. The full \$500,000 was requested. The total amount for all the projects was \$900,000. She stated that last time they requested \$500,000 but they only received \$300,000. If that is the case this year, then the Selection Committee will meet again to make some decision. She informed the Board that they have almost completed the Year End Reporting. They have received a draft of the new website from the Grant from Locable. They are working on fine tuning that with layout and colors, that will be rolled out soon.

Trustee Sorensen asked Economic Developer Rodriguez about the background with the Museum in the Street and if that is part of the Main Street Grant, Street Scape? Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that it was included in the Main Street Grant and included Street Scape for Museum in the Streets. She stated she will share the flyers with the Board. She stated the posters will be created of historical images with description. Walking tour around Town with visuals with the history. She stated it is conceptual at this point and if the money is awarded than a Committee will be formed. She stated that they requested funds for bike shelters, where you can hang 6-8 bikes to put in the alley way between Community Bank and Jrecks and one by the EV chargers along with a bike fix it station. She added that they have proposed work to be done in the alleyway between Glow and the Pear Tree. She stated that they thought about doing an Art Gallery with sheets that would not hurt the brick and can be removed with water and steam. She stated seating with benches, chairs, lighting and planters would be included to help utilize that space. She stated that these are all conceptual.

Trustee Sorensen thanked Economic Developer Rodriguez and Part-Time Clerk Jeni for all of their work.

Trustee Pynchon asked how often this grant is open? Economic Developer Rodriguez stated that this is an annual grant through the CFA process. She stated that it is a 2-year term on it. She stated that if she was on track, they could apply every two year. She stated that they only award one per region or County. She stated that the State indicated that this will be a competitive round.

**Historian Report-** Historian was not in attendance.

**Chief Police Report-** Police Chief Santimaw added that they have received the last two boxes of the body cameras. He stated it is scheduled on April 19<sup>th</sup> for installation and training, then they will be live with the body cameras.

**Superintendent Report-** Trustee Pynchon asked if it was the Village's responsibility to clear around the Solar Array? Mayor Dalton stated that the mowing around the array is the Village's responsibility. He stated that the new piece of equipment that was added will help with this.

Mayor Dalton informed the Board the Superintendent Miller is looking into alternatives to spreading a ton of rock salt. He stated they have been looking into beet juice and pickle juice.

Superintendent Miller wanted to highlight the paving projects. He stated it depends on the CHIPS funding, they stated that they cut 20% but he will know for sure probably in May. He stated that he turned in the last payment request from last year and the Village received the payment from December. He stated that there are different avenues can take to look at the streets to grade it, cracks, depth, and width. He stated that he is going to have a meeting with Chips, the programs that would be better for the Village and will give them the availability to do more roads but CHIPS will not fund them since you have to guarantee that it will last for 10 years. He explained the different programs with CHIPS.

Superintendent Miller stated that he is hoping to have recreation skating by the middle of February.

Superintendent Miller stated that he met with Complete Streets about completing Miner Street and Judson Street projects and striping. The Master Trail Plan is going to add Maple Street which connects Park Street to Maple Street to Miner Street and then out to Taylor Park. He stated that this is open for ideas. Trustee Proemm stated that they have a good plan for Judson Street following what Eric Backus and the Clarkson Crew drew up, raised crossings at Farmer St. and Pleasant St. and Miner St. by Appleton Arena. Plus, other improvements and signage.

Superintendent Miller stated that he will be setting up a meeting with St. Lawrence University to discuss the raised sidewalk looking the same as the raised sidewalks on Judson St. He added if all three are done together, then it will be a better price. He asked the Board, if anyone wants to be involved in the meeting to let him know.

Trustee Pynchon asked Superintendent Miller if he has seen that Master Trail Plan? He has reviewed it.

Trustee Sorensen asked for the Eric Backus plan, Trustee Proemm is going to email it to her.

Superintendent Miller stated that he had a meeting with Aaron Jarvis from Tisdal's to discuss the water towers. According to the NYS Department of Health inspections are supposed to be done every five years. He stated that he is going to receive pricing for the inspections to have them done together. He stated that the holding tank upland is leaking, they are going to drain it and clean it out this Spring. The Engineers will look at it to see if the proxy injection will work or if a lining will need to be placed in it. He stated that they will start to look at the projects on the A list.

Superintendent Miller stated that he is doing research into pickle juice and beet juice. He is speaking with the City of Watertown and Clarkson University.

**Code Officer Report-** Code Officer Murray was not in attendance. Mayor Dalton stated that his last day with the Town of Canton is February 1, 2021.

Mayor Dalton stated Code Compliance Technician has been busy. His report was submitted.

**Assessor Report-** Assessor Brand stated that the Town of Canton approved the Resolution that the Seniors do not have to renew their exemptions this year due to the pandemic. She sent

letters out to the 39 seniors that this applies too. She added that the Data Collector from the County is working in the Village updating property cards and updating the pictures of the property. She stated that it is crunch time; the exemptions need to be in by March 1<sup>st</sup>.

Trustee Pynchon asked if there were any notifications for the Data Collector in the Newspaper and Website.

Assessor Brand stated that it was in the paper and on the website. She stated that it is a good suggestion to put it in the paper again.

**Treasurer Report-** Treasurer Noble added that only one towing bid was received. Mayor Dalton added Towing Bids to the agenda under New Business. She stated that she sent out notices of the Annual Disclosures for Ethics via email or mail. She stated that only received 7 forms to date. She informed the Board that a large ACH in the amount of \$328,372 will be sent to retirement on February 1, 2021.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to approve the Department Heads Report. Trustee Sorensen seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Communication & Technology Committee-** Trustee Pynchon informed the Board that the Owl is here and the group will be getting together to test the Owl. The Owl was split with the Town and Village. They need to test to make sure that the Owl will work in the Court Room. The Committee is working on virtual meetings and when the time comes, they will be able to meet and live stream/share the meeting that are not able to come in for a meeting. She informed the new Town Councilperson Martha Foley-Smith is now serving on the Committee and the Town and Village Clerk's have been invited to participate in the Committee.

**Recreation Committee-** Trustee Pynchon added the Reimaging Recreation had their third meeting. She stated that the group has remained robust. They have discussed what the Community has in values, the gaps, resources, budget, assets and partners/potential partners. Next step is framing a way of moving forward.

Trustee Larrabee added that the Committee is investing and are being creative to work together as a team.

**Economic Development-** Trustee Pynchon added that the reevaluation the Canton Community Action Plan will begin, which is a 5-year plan and is target toward Economic Development.

Trustee Sorensen added that she attended the Canton Chamber meeting to reiterate what was stated in the letter that they received. Stating that the Village would like to work with them, have a meeting to discuss perspectives and roles of the Economic Development Office and the Chamber to work together. She stated the Village wants to understand their programming and plans. She hopes they will sit down before the budgeting process in March. The Canton Chamber will be putting together a small group to meet with the Village Board. She stated she is not sure what to make of the communication for the Canton Chamber Board regarding the Village Budget since they have not started the budget process.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION:**

- a. **County Legislator Update-** was not in attendance. Mayor Dalton stated he sent the agenda to the County Legislator. He stated he will do a more personalized invite.

Mayor Dalton stated that he received a Resignation Letter from John Hill from Planning Board. He stated since they just appointed two people to the Planning Board, so they do not have to fill the spot.

Mayor Dalton stated that he received a letter from John Gray with the Canton Chamber regarding budget. He stated he shared the letter with the Board and he will have to respond back.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. **Executive Order 203 Update-** Mayor Dalton stated that things are progressing and moving forward with Public Comment and Zoom Meetings.

Trustee Sorensen stated that the Advisory Committee met the beginning of the month to review the draft recommendations that were developed. In the process of finalizing the report. The report along with a survey should be on the website by the end of the week. Committee is looking for Community input and press releases will be sent to the paper. There will be open Zoom meetings for the Community to attend and Zoom Meetings with Constitutes and Universities. Also, paper copies will be placed at locations. The goal is to reach everyone in the Community. She asked that once the report is up that people share the Report and Survey to receive public feedback. The Committee will be meeting in over a month to review the feedback and incorporate the feedback, then the Plan will be presented for Public comment and Board approval.

- b. **Discuss Moratorium on Solar-** Mayor Dalton stated that things are heating up in the Town and there are indications of possible sites within the Village. He stated that there is no provision in the Village Code for a large Solar project for a Commercial Solar operation. Mayor Dalton stated that this is not addressed in the code. He stated that there a few places in the Village that could host a solar operation and he wants the Board to consider issuing a moratorium until the zoning is straighten around. Mayor Dalton stated that they are working with Monica regarding the rezoning. He stated that the Town of Canton has issued a Moratorium to sort out the code.

Trustee Pynchon asked about timing with the possibility of someone coming up with a proposal and working on the review/reworking of the Zoning Code. She asked what the timing would be to impact a proposal and how long would it last to get through the zoning review and rewriting the zoning.

Attorney Ducharme stated that six months for a moratorium is a useful guide. He stated it could be extended but not supposed to extend often. He stated that the timeframe should be targeted with dealing with the issue. He stated that Monica is on a timetable to present the zoning in the Spring. Attorney Ducharme said that if they do a moratorium that will bring it into the Summer, which would be ok and then reassessed.

He stated that excessive extensions are frowned upon but could be extended. He said that a Public Hearing will need to be done to establish a Moratorium.

Mayor Dalton stated that they do not want to interfere with a personal sized solar system that someone could put in their roof or backyard. This would only be commercial solar. Mayor Dalton thinks addressing this head on is the way to go.

Trustee Pynchon stated that there is no downside starting the moratorium in February.

Superintendent Miller added with Commercial Solar it is the size of the battery storage facilities that can be controlled due to the danger.

After further Board discussion, they decided to set a Public Hearing for the February 17, 2021 meeting.

**c. Reimaging Recreation-** Discussed under Committee Reports.

**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 2020-2021**. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

General Fund	\$131,995.26	Golf Course	\$7,363.33
Water Fund	\$42,274.90	Joint Activity	\$26,554.00
Sewer Fund	\$22,318.62		

- b. Subdivision Request on Tallman Road-** Village Board set the Public Hearing on the Subdivision Request on Tallman Road for February 17, 2021.

- c. St. Lawrence County Sales Tax Resolution-** Mayor Dalton informed the Board that the St. Lawrence County Legislators approved the St. Lawrence County Sales Tax Resolution. He stated that this is the same level for the Village for the next 10 years.

- d. Community Choice Solar Discussion** – Trustee Proemm stated that he would like to take the first step to enabling the legislation which does not obligate them but would be able to gather more information and details. He asked for any thoughts or if they would need more information before deciding. He stated that Louise Gava would be able to attend a meeting to discuss the program.

Trustee Pynchon stated that she does not know a lot about the topic but has learned by attending the discussions. She informed the Board that Anna Sommers was on the meeting who is involved nationally. She asked if there were other programs like this one as a point of comparisons with what they are getting, other options and how good the program is? Trustee Proemm said he is in the process of contacting NYSERD, ANCA and other places in the State. He will report back once he hears back from them. He informed the Board that Joule is the only entity that can support an entity like the Village of Canton.

Trustee Pynchon asked if Anna Sommer had any expertise to add to the discussion. Anna Sommers is a Principal of a consulting group called Energy Futures Group and her expertise

is in Utility Scale Energy Planning. She stated that she would like to look at the implications that are different in elements of the program. Renewable energy offers an opportunity to reduce costs. The question is what better way to leverage them?

Trustee Pynchon asked if it was Ms. Sommer understanding that Joule would be the only option for the Village to use in New York State? Ms. Sommer did not know and suggested the NYSERDA website to check.

Ms. Sommer stated that to enable legislation does not come with any downside and is worth it to explore the possibility.

Trustee Pynchon stated what she has learned from the presentation she thinks it would be a terrific program to offer to the Community and Residents but want to make sure they are making the right choice for Canton for the long term.

Trustee Pynchon stated that she agrees with enabling legislation. Attorney Ducharme stated that if a Public Hearing will need to be scheduled, he will let the Board know.

The Resolution will be added to the February agenda.

- e. **Schedule a Village/Town Joint Zoom Meeting for January 27, 2021 @ 6:00pm-** Village/Town Joint Zoom Meeting set for January 27, 2021 at 6:00pm. Meeting will be run by the Town of Canton.
- f. **Future Joint Meetings are Scheduled for 4/28, 7/28, 10/27 at 6pm-** Future Joint Village/Town Meetings are scheduled for April 28, July, 28 and October 27, 2021 at 6:00pm
- g. **Discuss and Take Action on a Shared Services Agreement with NYSDOT-** The Board approved Mayor Dalton to sign the Shared Service Agreement with NYSDOT. The Board did not have an objection to him signing the two- or four-year agreement. Mayor Dalton will make the decision after speaking with Superintendent Miller.
- h. **Towing Bids-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to award the towing bid to Johnson Towing. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All voted in favor. Motion carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Town Councilperson Washo asked if Superintendent Miller would share any information on the pickle/beet with the Town of Canton.

Anna Sommer stated she appreciates that the Board works so well together and gets a lot done across party lines.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Trustee Larrabee made a motion to enter into executive session at 7:59pm for a purpose as identified in Public Officers Law §105(1) €. Trustee Proemm seconded the motion. All in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Pynchon made a motion to come out of executive session at 9:03pm. The motion was seconded by Trustee Larrabee. All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Trustee Proemm made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm. Trustee Pynchon seconded the motion All voted in favor. The motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Adams  
Deputy Clerk