

Town of Canaan, New York

Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes:

July 12, 2022: 7:01 pm -

Hybrid Meeting: In Person at Town Hall and via ZOOM

Present

Supervisor Brenda Adams
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale
Councilperson David Patzwahl
Councilperson Will Powers absent / excused

Also in Attendance:

Town Clerk Joshua Weisbuch

Audience:

2 in audience, 0 via Zoom

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

DISCUSSION: Approve June 13th Meeting Minutes, as amended

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale added one comment to recognize the good work done by Love's Truck stop in cleaning up their trash and emptying garbage cans.

MOTION: Approve June Meeting Minutes, as amended

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to approve the amended minutes from the June 13, 2022 Town Board Meeting. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent

The Board requested for the second month in a row that the Town Clerk get the Draft Minutes posted online (draft minutes posted within two weeks) and distributed to the Town Board (no later than the Friday before the Town Board meeting), stating its concerns about compliance with state guidelines. The Town Clerk stated he is working to get them done quickly.

Discussion: June Bills

The Board discussed the large paving bill. The paving bill is part of the 2022 CHIPS expenditures. CHIPS funding, and projects, were increased from \$125,000 to \$210,000 this year. With all CHIPS projects, expenses are paid by the Town and then reimbursed to the Town.

MOTION: June Bills

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller to approve the June Bills. 4 AYES- Motion carried.

- Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
- Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
- Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
- Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
- Councilperson William Powers – absent

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT: Read by Town Clerk Josh. Weisbuch

TOWN CLERK REVENUES	\$ 224.00
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 542,583.58
HIGHWAY FUND CAPITAL	\$ 72,932.08
LIGHTING DISTRICTS	\$ 1,992.22
FIRE DISTRICTS	\$ 300.00
BUILDING INSPECTOR	\$
PLANNING BOARD	\$
RECREATION	\$ 3,498.10
COURT REVENUES	\$ 5,067.00
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$
TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 0.00

RESOLUTION 75 of 2022: Standard Workday for NYS and Local Employees Retirement System

This document is renewed / approved every year to establish eligible hours for each job title for employees in the retirement system.

MOTION: Standard Workdays for NYS and local Employees Retirement System

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the establishment of a standard work day for elected and appointed officials for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Retirement system: 4 AYES- Motion carried.

- Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
- Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent

RESOLUTION 76 of 2022 Standard Workday for specific employees based on record of activities

This report is requested periodically by the Retirement System for elected and appointed officials not on hourly payroll. Report information, with personal information redacted, must be posted on the Town's bulletin board and website for 30 days prior to sending to the state.

MOTION: Standard Workdays for NYS and local Employees Retirement System

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the establishment of a standard work day for elected and appointed officials for the purpose of determining days worked reportable to the New York State and Local Retirement system via a record of work activities: 4 AYES- Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent

RESOLUTION 77 of 2022: Highway budget amendments

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to transfer funds from the Highway Department Sale of Equipment line to Highway Department Machinery Repair line: 4 AYES- Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent

RESOLUTION 78 of 2022: Increase mileage reimbursement for balance of 2022

MOTION: Increase mileage reimbursement for balance of 2022

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to authorize a change of mileage reimbursement rates to the new level set by the IRS for travel commencing July 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022: 4 AYES- Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent

Report from County Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Brenda Adams:

The Columbia County Covid infection rate is currently classified as Low Risk with 50% fewer cases in June than May. In the last 2 weeks the numbers are moving up again with a new, more contagious variant.

Quarterly sales tax check will be coming through this month. This is the time of year when the amounts are corrected with actual numbers as opposed to projections. Based on projections at this time, the County Controller estimates we should end up 3-5% points up from last year's revenues at the end of the year.

The County Building Master Plan is on track for August.

Domestic Violence Shelters update: the Not-for-Profit service provider has downgraded services, overnight supervision is no longer provided and the number of in-county beds have been reduced due to staffing issues. The service provider does not expect the hiring problem to be solved soon. Meetings continue with the service provider to review options.

Affordable Housing update, a set of recommendations from the Housing Forum are being submitted to the Economic Development Committee this month.

Columbia Memorial Hospital staffing issues continue to be a problem with long wait times for ambulances to unload, and, ambulance diversions to other hospitals. Staff members have reached out to County legislators (supervisors) for assistance. In addition to wages, the lack of local affordable housing makes hiring and retention difficult.

Union negotiations are underway with all 4 unions this year. Usually the negotiations are staggered but the County is playing pandemic catch-up this year.

Old business

Discussion on Covid & Mask Requirement:

The Town Board decided to continue a with a mask mandate at Town Hall. Signs will continue to be posted that masks are required for service. The reasons given included the increase of Covid cases in Columbia County and the new variant is proving to be more contagious and virulent.

Discussion on Speeding on County Route 5: monitoring from the county expected mid-July.

Board discussion

Today's storm power outages: the Supervisor reported that 328 houses are currently without power. Crews are working in this area, power will be a little slower to return given that roads are still being cleared and the number of site issues.

Broadband Grant USDA Application:

No movement – waiting for USDA Application Portal to open.

Route 22 road resurfacing: repairs completed to New Lebanon intersection of Routes 20 & 22.

Zoning & Planning update by Councilperson Nightingale: no meetings last month.

Climate Smart Task Force report

Supervisor reports that the Climate Smart Task Force just barely fell short of the points required to make the application for Bronze certification in July. They are on target for Bronze by the end of year. She requested the Task Force provide a monthly update of action items underway and completed for the Board.

A reminder the Climate Carnival is this weekend, July 16th 10am to 4pm. Free. Many offerings including Repair Café, Free Store, compost demonstration, bike recycling, electric cars, food, music and more.

Transfer station report by Councilperson David Patzwahl

David Patzwahl reported that use is down 2.5 tons from this time last year.

Insurance Presentation: The Supervisor organized a meeting between the insurance broker and current and eligible employees to provide information and answer questions about the Town health, dental and vision programs and how to use the HRA accounts. All eligible employees attended the June 22nd information meeting.

Newsletter: Published this month with a full Summer Events calendar. Good feedback and more people are signing up for the Newsletter. The next issue will be the fall issue in September.

Community Day: This event has been cancelled due to ongoing staffing shortages from a number of businesses who planned to attend. It is hoped the event will be rescheduled for next year.

Recreation report by Councilperson Alan Miller: Swim Program is staffed, well attended and going well. The Board asked how many children were enrolled; this information will be provided at the next meeting.

Traffic Safety Committee report by Councilperson David Patzwahl:

Councilperson David Patzwahl reported that the State Troopers have been informed on the town's speeding issues. The question about the speed limits approaching the Route 295 / Route 22 intersection is under discussion pending more information.

Assessors report: Supervisor had a question regarding the STAR exemptions being removed for delinquent taxpayers.

Highway department Report: (See Attached)

Highway Superintendent Van Tassel was not in attendance at the meeting as he and the crew are still clearing roads for NYSEG to make repairs after this afternoon's storms. Highway Department liaison Councilperson David Patzwahl reviewed and presented the Highway report.

Highway department appreciated the Health Insurance meeting on June 22nd; employees received useful information. The open enrollment for this year ends June 30th.

Report highlights included: the grader is being repaired, annual safety training completed, CSX Flint's Crossing work has been completed, radio research continues.

Chairperson David Patzwahl stated that CHIPS will only reimburse for new road signs, it will not reimburse replacement signs. If signs are stolen, damaged, or require replacement, the town is responsible.

Board discussed the Highway request to use asphalt shavings recovered from NYS's work on Route 22 to pave the floor of Highway Department garage and parking lot. CHIPS funding cannot be used for material but could possibly be used to pay for labor, gas, diesel, or other expenses. Also discussed additional equipment purchases requested by Superintendent which may qualify for CHIPS reimbursement.

Given the high cost of fuel, the Highway Department is working to identify the least expensive fuel sources. As part of this review, they would like to consider the County purchasing contract. More information is required to understand if this requires a Town Resolution.

Public Discussion: 2 in audience

Historical Society Report by:

The Canaan Historical Society reports that they held a very successful First Declaration Day and provided supporting materials to the Board.

Executive Session requested for two matters, a contract negotiation and an active legal matter

MOTION: Enter Executive Session at 7:59 pm – 8:24 pm

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to enter into executive session upon advice of counsel. 4 AYES - Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and

Councilperson William Powers – absent

VIDEO AND AUDIO WERE PAUSED FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION.

MOTION to leave executive session and reenter regular meeting at 8:26 pm

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller to close the executive session. 4 AYES- Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent.

Supervisor reports that there were no decisions or actions taken in Executive Session.

Supervisor asked if any other business before board. Board agreed there were none.

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:28 pm

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller to adjourn the meeting. 4 AYES- Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes; and
Councilperson William Powers – absent.