

Town of Canaan, New York

December 12, 2022

Canaan Town Board Public Hearing minutes from 6:48 pm to 7:07 pm

Canaan Town Board Regular December Meeting Minutes from 7:08 pm to 8:47pm

Hybrid Meeting: In Person at Town Hall and via ZOOM

Present

Supervisor Brenda Adams

Councilperson Alan Miller – absent/excused

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale

Councilperson David Patzwahl

Councilperson: William Powers

Also in Attendance:

Highway Department Superintendent Stephen Van Tassel

Town Clerk Joshua S. Weisbuch

Town Historian & East Chatham Fire Company President Dodie Gearing

Audience: 0

Attendees via Zoom: 4

Public Hearing on East Chatham Fire Company & Chatham Rescue Squad contracts from 6:48 pm to 7:07 pm

The Town Clerk read the Public Notice of the hearing.

Board discussed East Chatham Fire Department contract (2% increase the first year, zero increase for second and third years) and Chatham Rescue Squad contract (zero increase, term reduced to one year).

Board discussed the new clause in the Chatham Rescue Squad contract that allows for the contract to be terminated early if newly agreed upon administrative standards are not met.

Questions from Public

In response to a question from the public the Supervisor stated that the contract for the Chatham Rescue Squad will cost \$144,000 for the year (no change from the prior year) and that the board recognizes the importance of having a satellite station to serve Canaan, New Lebanon and other areas in Eastern section of Columbia County.

With no further questions from the board or public, the Supervisor called for a Motion to close the Public Hearing.

Motion to Adjourn Public Hearing at 7:07 pm. Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to adjourn the Public Hearing. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

Opening December Canaan Town Board Meeting December 12, 2022 7:08pm

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Review November Meeting Minutes: The Town board agreed on the November Minutes as amended. Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve the amended minutes from November 14, 2022: 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

NOVEMBER BILLS

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to approve the November Bills. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT: Read by Town Clerk

| | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| TOWN CLERK REVENUES | \$ 259.48 |
| HIGHWAY FUND | \$ 456,345.67 |
| HIGHWAY FUND CAPITAL | \$ 102,936.00 |
| LIGHTING DISTRICTS | \$ (421.54) |
| AMBULANCE AND FIRE DISTRICTS | \$ 300.00 |
| BUILDING INSPECTOR | \$ |
| PLANNING BOARD | \$ 300.00 |
| RECREATION | \$ 3,498.25 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| COURT REVENUES | \$ 1,904.00 |
| ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS | \$ |
| TAX COLLECTOR | \$ 0.00 |

Regarding the monthly financials, the Supervisor commented that lighting district numbers are negative because of higher cost per kilowatt hours for last year. Re: the continued deficit in court revenues, other Supervisors report they too have seen a dramatic reduction in court revenues. One explanation is that fewer tickets are being written possibly as a result of staff shortages at county and state levels. Supervisor stated that the negative balance on line items will be fixed at the end of year meeting on December 27th.

RESOLUTION #100 to approve a three-year Contract with East Chatham Fire Company to provide fire and other emergency services for 2023-2025. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Brenda Adams to approve the three-year contract with East Chatham Fire Company. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

Supervisor asked Chatham Fire Company President Dodie Gearing (in attendance) to please inform her board and squad members how grateful the Town Board is for the service they provide, quality of service and the competence we feel in their work. We all are very grateful to have you as our team.

RESOLUTION #101 to approve a one-year Contract with Chatham Rescue Squad to provide ambulance services for 2023. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to approve one year contract with Chatham Rescue Squad. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #102 for the Canaan Climate Smart Task Force to Conduct Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories of Municipal Government Operations as part of NY State Climate Smart Program. Councilperson William Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to approve the Canaan Climate Smart Task force for said inventory. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

- Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
- Councilperson Alan Miller – absent/excused;

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

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION #103 for Canaan Climate Smart Task Force to launch a Community Campaign for Clean Heating and Cooling Energy efficiency in the Town of Canaan, New York.

Board noted that a campaign will assist residents' access to state reimbursement funds to purchase heat pumps which handle heating and cooling. If five households sign up to purchase heat pumps the town receives a \$5000.00 grant. Also noted was individuals in town have been waiting to purchase until town opened such a program.

David Patzwahl was happy that the volunteers in the Climate Smart Task Force would be handling the management, advertising, etc. of the community campaign rather than Town staff.

Supervisor stated that state rebates are available to homeowners for these purchases; rebates vary with size and type of units. The Canaan CSTF has proposed to direct residents to vendors /companies vetted by state rather than going through a local RFP process. The vendors will assist residents with the paperwork for rebates.

Supervisor stated that County has already gone through a similar process so that any sign-ups approved by Canaan will count toward the County's log and vice versa

RESOLUTION #103 for Canaan Climate Smart Task Force to launch a Community Campaign for Clean Heating and Cooling Energy efficiency in the Town of Canaan, New York.

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson William Powers to approve the launch of said campaign. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #104 for an inter-fund transfer to fund Planning Board training and materials.

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to approve an inter-fund transfer for planning board training and materials. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #105 for an inter-fund transfer to reimburse Highway Department for the installation of a new catch basin at Town Hall. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by

Supervisor Brenda Adams to approve an inter-fund transfer to reimburse Highway Department for their work to prevent flooding near rear entrance door of Town Hall. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION #107 to renew the one year contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society. Dog control officer prefers to use a shelter other than the Columbia Greene Humane Society because CGHS is not a no-kill shelter. Board will investigate moving to no-kill dog shelter for 2024.

RESOLUTION #107 to renew the one-year contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society.

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson William Powers to renew the one-year contract with Columbia Greene Humane Society. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #108 to approve a three-year contract with Columbia County Office of the Aging program to provide meals and support services at the Town Hall. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson William Powers to approve the three-year contract with Columbia County Office of the Aging program to provide meals and support services at the Town Hall. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTION #106 to approve Transfer Station Pilot Program from January 1st to December 31st 2023

Supervisor Adams read a list of proposed rules for the new pilot program including that the license plate will be written on the sticker, affixed permanently to the vehicle, the sticker is available to be used by only qualified residents, and not to be shared with others. Under the pilot program, town residents may request a second sticker for a second vehicle registered at the same address providing the person is also a resident at that address.

In response to a question from the public about how to handle situation when one person picks up for multiple households the board suggests that the person dropping off the garbage, much like a

property manager, make sure that the households they cover have their own Transfer Station stickers and keep a list of their numbers

The Board recognized that the Pilot Program may require adjustments over the following year; it plans to continue monthly monitoring of MSW & C&D waste volumes and to periodically check stickers for compliance with new rules.

MOTION: To accept procedure for applying for a Town of Canaan Transfer Station sticker

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson William Powers to accept procedure for applying for Transfer Station Sticker. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION #106 to accept the proposed 2023 Transfer Station Pilot Program.

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to accept Transfer Station Pilot Program for 2022-2023. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

Canaan Town Supervisor and Councilperson David Patzwahl agreed to coordinate with the Transfer Station management and employees to make sure they the new procedures and processes were understood and ready for implementation by January 2023.

Board agreed to notify residents via e-mail via those who agreed to receive notices and the newsletter and by posting information on the town's web site.

Report from County Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Brenda Adams:

- County budget will come in under 2% which will not require a referendum.
- Affordable Housing Update: Interviews for coordinator are completed and the county expects to make an offer this week. Two excellent candidates remain. The first affordable housing advisory meeting is expected in January, 2023.
- Our new Senator, Michelle Hinchey has “hit the ground running” with a recent all county conference call. Supervisors and County department heads discussed needs of the county including high costs of fuel and heating oil, affordable housing, demands on services and difficulty of finding staff (including fire companies, hospitals, rescue squads, etc.). Senator discussed new proposed legislation that will respond to some of these issues and asked for Supervisors to reach out to communities regarding HEAP funding specifically but also other issues of import.

- A Purple Heart Community Proclamation was received from former Senator Daphne Jordan this month and is currently on display on the wall outside the meeting room.

Old Business

Town Covid Guide & Mask requirement:

After discussion the Town Board agreed not to change the current mask policy: masks are still “recommended” rather than “required”. All board members voiced agreement. Board will continue to review status on a month to month basis. In response to a question from a board member the Supervisor reports that Town Hall continues to use CDC guidelines to judge exposure, etc. The recently revised guidelines were recently sent to all staff members.

Historian’s Annual report:

Historian Gearing’s annual report to the NYS Museum has been filed. Highlights include the discovery of a cemetery that contains 18 headstones and has been reported to hold the parents and grandparents of the founder of the Mormons. She is also in the process of writing a book about Canaan history for the County’s 250th anniversary.

It was noted that a new process is needed for the pamphlets, coloring books and other historical based books and documents offered for sale in the Clerk’s office.

Board thanked the Historian for her report and all her work in 2022 and remarked how they are looking forward to her work in 2023.

Digital Newsletter:

The digital newsletter has been published six times since 2021: two in 2021 and four in 2022. Enrollment is up to 350 subscribers. Supervisor reported that she received many positive comments from the last newsletter and she thanks all of the contributors. Special thanks go to Spencer Humphrey and Donna Mattoon, volunteers who helped compile and edit the newsletter.

Transfer Station report by Councilperson David Patzwahl:

This month’s report indicates Canaan usage for the month November, 2022 is up, 52.56 tons vs. 49.48 for the same period in 2021. Total usage for the year to date is down, 540.71 tons vs. 575.28 in 2021; 34.57 tons less than the same period the prior year. Councilperson Patzwahl reports that we are well under our budgeted amount at roughly 30 tons under.

Planning Board and ZBA report by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale

Councilperson Nightingale reported that the Planning Board completed their annual training in December. The Planning Board training was conducted via Zoom and included a Powerpoint presentation that the town now owns and is available to Planning or Zoning Board members by request.

Things were relatively quiet in December; the Planning Board had one application, the ZBA did not meet as there was no business.

Sexual Harassment Training update: This year the number of staff / volunteers taking the training increased to over 50 people. As of last Friday 15 people have not taken the training. The Town will need to continue to follow up with those who are not in compliance; creating additional work for town staff.

Traffic Safety Committee report by Councilperson David Patzwahl:

Councilperson Patzwahl reports there was not a meeting this month, meetings are every other month. The next meeting is January 18th.

Climate Smart Task Force report: Councilperson William Powers

Councilperson Powers thanked the board for approving the various requested resolutions earlier in meeting. Reported the CSTF is quite busy at this time; minutes, a list of ongoing projects and their status can be seen on town's web site.

Board scheduled an end of year meeting with a limited agenda for Tuesday December 27th, 2022 at 6pm. Town Clerk was asked to advertise the meeting and to post on the website.

The Planning Board request to update fees was tabled until January, 2023.

Housekeeping Issues

Letter was sent for the partial payment (disputed invoice) to the Highway vendor; and phone contract cancellation still being processed.

Board agreed to make a \$3500 to \$4000 payment to the CC Office for the Aging; contract calls for a payment not to exceed \$5000.00. Supervisor expected a cost of around \$3500 - \$4000 which covers \$8.00 per meal and represents two thirds of their cost.

HIGHWAY REPORT by Superintendent Steven Van Tassel

Summary of Activities:

A new flag pole is up at the highway department next to the name sign. One of the large culvert pipes for Cemetery Road has been delivered to department and will be put on the schedule to be replaced next year. We have replaced some cross pipes and driveway pipes around town that have been compromised. A new catch basin has been installed at the town hall with some additional piping going into it, to help catch water runoff from the road. We will also be looking into cleaning out the largest of the 3 pipes connected to the basin since it is partially silted in. Tires were a big expense this month for two of the single axel dump trucks and the four rear tires on the grader, tires on the two trucks last around 3-4 years and 7-8 years for the grader and we also keep some of the old tires as spares just in case of an emergency. The new trailer has been undercoated along with truck #12 the F550 and the big trucks are next in line.

At the department I am starting to put together an Equipment Replacement Schedule for all the equipment and trucks for the upcoming years. This replacement schedule will help better explain how long a vehicle or piece of equipment should stay in our fleet so we can primarily avoid costly repairs in

the later years and also help create a calculable budget for the trucks and equipment that are nearing the end of their estimated life expectancy.

The previous auction items have been paid for and picked up by the winners, we are waiting on Auction International to send us the checks. The old trailer has also gone up for auction and the winning number for that is \$6,200.

Requests:

One of our long-serving trucks in our fleet has left us questioning if it has seen the end of its road. Truck #7 our 2005 Ford F550 has stopped running with no exact explanation on why, we have attempted diagnosing the problem ourselves and also asked for some assistance from Mabey's Truck Service, the shop that replaced the engine in our newer F550. They could not seem to figure out what caused it to stop running. Their thoughts are to replace the engine harness in the truck along with some other necessary components, this job would cost \$5,000 or more. This coming year truck #7 will be going 18 years serving the Highway department which is 8 years over the estimated normal life expectancy of a truck like this. (They life expectancy is based off the Replacement Schedule I am creating and historically trucks of this size at the department are normally replaced around 10 years). Over the years this truck has had a substantial amount of money put into it and in my opinion, I see it unfit to put any more towards it. I am requesting permission to go out to bid for a replacement truck for the 2005 Ford F550, a replacement truck would not have to be the same size but two models smaller which will still adequate to do the job and financially be a better option as well. (See attached photo of truck)

Motion to allow Highway to begin to go out for bid for a new replacement vehicle. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Brenda Adams to allow Superintendent to begin looking for bids for a new truck. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

Assessor's report:

Supervisor reports that other towns have postponed their assessment re-evaluations from 2023 to 2024 due to continuing high values and market fluctuations. Sales trends are up 13% for the year. Assessor's Assistant has taken a full time job and has resigned. The Assessor is looking for a person to train for multiple towns where she works; the work requirement in Canaan is seven hours a week for \$16-\$17 hour.

Public Discussion:

A resident reported that the Columbia County Humane Society did not help her with a stray sick cat and she had to turn to Berkshire County Humane Society in Massachusetts. The Canaan Dog Control Officer (or her husband) was very helpful.

Supervisor thanked the resident for the update, mentioned that our agreement with Lynne Torello (the Dog Control Officer) is for dogs only but was glad Lynne could assist.

Motion to Adjourn at 8:47 pm. Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to adjourn at 8:47. 5 AYES: Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua S. Weisbuch, Town Clerk