

**Town of Canaan, New York**

**Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2022: 7:01 pm – 8:05 pm**

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 Will Powers

**Also in Attendance:**

- Town Clerk Joshua Weisbuch

**Audience:**

2 in audience, 0 via Zoom

**Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance**

Supervisor Adams stated there have been 152 Covid Deaths in Columbia County to date.

**MOTION: Approve July 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes**

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve the amended minutes from the July 12th, 2022 Town Board Meeting. 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: July Bills**

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to approve the July 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 Josh. Weisbuch**

TOWN CLERK REVENUES	\$ 244.00
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 392,899.94
HIGHWAY FUND CAPITAL	\$ 72,933.30
LIGHTING DISTRICTS	\$ 1,837.41
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

Supervisor Adams gave an update on financials. The Town received 2<sup>nd</sup> and final ARPA payment. This represents \$163, 843.00 in deferred income from ARPA. The Town has until 2024 to either spend the funds or make commitments for the funds. Supervisor expects much of these funds will be needed to cover the gap between the federal Broadband earmark and actual Broadband buildout expenses.

The Supervisor stated that interest earnings have had an uptick. Additional funds from the Tobacco Settlement in August made that line whole, fines and forfeitures remain significantly lower than budgeted and are expected to remain below budget for the balance of the year. The earlier decision to postpone the tennis court resurfacing continues to make sense in the context of lower revenues and current financial market uncertainty.

The library personnel payment line is at 94 percent because it is an annual lump sum payment; additional expenses are not expected on this line. The expense line for paving is over budget due to additional CHIPS 2022 allowance and corresponding spending. The Highway Department has applied for reimbursement for these expenses and budget lines will be adjusted accordingly upon receipt.

Councilperson Patzwahl asked about account 3620.4. Supervisor will report back on that issue after getting more information from Accountant.

**RESOLUTION 79 Approve highway recommendation to buy equipment and materials not to exceed \$25,000.**

These purchases will run out the balance of the 2022 CHIPS allowance; purchases should be completed in time for the December reimbursement cycle. Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Brenda Adams to approve the highway department purchase of equipment and materials as specified above. 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 80 Approve agreement with Chatham Central School District for Library Services at Canaan Library.**

Councilperson Will Powers made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to approve the agreement. 4 AYES- Motion carried.

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

**Report from County Board of Supervisors by Supervisor Brenda Adams:**

The Supervisor reports that the County is still in a low-risk category as the number of Covid cases continue to drop. She also noted that the number of cases are understood to be under reported as most people are now testing at home. The first case of monkey pox has been confirmed in Columbia County and monkey pox vaccinations are now available through the Columbia County Health Department.

The Supervisor related that preparations for the County budget have begun. The County Building Master Plan is on track for August. Plans for a CC affordable housing initiative moved forward through a strong presentation at Economic Development committee meeting. The resulting recommendation of the committee is to hire a Housing Development Director and to staff a CC Affordable Housing Task Force to implement the action items identified in the Housing Plan. Recommendation will move to the Finance Committee and the full Board of Supervisors for final approvals.

Duchess County representatives reported that cameras have been installed on school busses for public safety and will be used to issue tickets and fines. They reported that, on average, two (2) cars per day per bus have been observed passing stopped school busses. This has been a serious public safety issue and they are encouraging the CC BOS to consider cameras for their busses.

### **Old business**

**Town Covid Guide & Mask requirement** reviewed again this month.

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.

Board agreed to keep mask requirement for Town Hall with review again next month.

**Speeding on County Route 5:** The monitoring report from the county expected mid-July. Supervisor Adams will send the report to the Board for discussion in September.

Councilperson David Patzwahl will speak Trooper Horton about ongoing enforcement.

### **Board discussion**

#### **Broadband Grant USDA Application:**

Ghent announced its decision to pull out of the BB earmark / grant application; they stated they planned to use ARPA funds in hand to pay for their last mile buildout. They preferred to undertake and possibly complete the work this year as opposed to waiting for the next round of the funding application process to be completed.

Supervisor reports that the application portal is expected to open on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the remaining towns have a meeting scheduled with Mike Tucker of CEDC to discuss next steps.

**Zoning & Planning update by Councilperson Nightingale:** no meetings last month. ZBA cancelled due to Covid.

**Climate Smart Task Force report by Will Powers:** More to report next month after people return from vacation.

#### **Transfer station report by Councilperson David Patzwahl:**

David Patzwahl reported that total use is down 2.6 tons; household trash for the month is down, C&D is up a ton. Councilperson Powers spent a Saturday morning checking stickers at the station. The majority of residents had a sticker attached to window or in glove box. Will did not see any non-resident use from Mass, Vermont or Canada as had been reported.

The Board discussed providing each town person two stickers instead of the current one. The Board discussed ways to handle the management of the stickers at the Clerk's office. The Board decided to discuss topic next meeting

#### **Recreation report**

The Supervisor reported that 21 families – 39 children were served by the swim program this summer.

Will Powers brought up issue of how refreshing it is to see more families with children accessing programs through Canaan.

The Supervisor reported that the pilot Summer Reading Program with the library was used very little even though it was well promoted. The program was promoted via the newsletter, flyers at the beach, Town Hall bulletin board and around town. The Board discussed other ways to promote events. It is hoped the Summer Reading Program will come back next summer.

#### **Traffic Safety Committee report by Councilperson David Patzwahl:**

Councilperson David Patzwahl reported:

Paving on Taconic Parkway is underway down to the 217 / Harlemville exit.

New legislation is being discussed to require green or green amber lights on plow vehicles; upgrades will be required as new vehicles are purchased.

Traffic Safety Committee is hiring new executive secretary to support teams.

Work on electrical power poles is wrapping up in Columbia County these next few weeks.

Next meeting of the TSC is September 22, 7pm.

**Rescue Squad updates:** Supervisor stated that private meetings with the Valatie and Chatham squads are underway to better understand staffing options and resources required for 2023 budgets. Columbia County voted to expend \$65,000 of their ARPA funds for a county wide rescue squad evaluation; the consultant will begin the work 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2022; work is expected to be complete by the end of the year.

**The Red Rock School House** has applied for the state historical registry. Councilperson Nightingale stated that the eventual goal is the national registry. The Red Rock School House is one of the few existing school houses in the state not owned privately, it's owned by the Red Rock Historical Society.

The Supervisor stated that, with board agreement, she would like to write a letter of support for state and national registration. The Board agreed.

**Discussion on proposed local Law #2 pertaining to virtual meetings:** The proposed law would allow virtual meetings under specific circumstances for the Town Board and all other committees. The Board agreed to schedule a public hearing prior to September meeting with a vote to follow.

The Supervisor reported that there is a discussion of a private easement between the NYS Thruway Authority and local property owners on Korubchuk Road. These discussions will not present additional maintenance or other responsibilities for the Town.

The Board discussed whether the Highway Superintendent would require town approval to piggyback on the CC contract for fuel in his search for the best fuel price for the town vehicles. Supervisor stated that she learned from the Association of Towns that if the County contract's terms are acceptable / in alignment with Town purchasing terms, the Highway Department can purchase from the County contract. She is waiting for the County contracts.

#### **Building energy audit report from Climate Smart Task Force**

The Board discussed the findings of the energy audit and the audit report recommendations. There was also a discussion of highway garage building issues including base building repairs, ongoing skylight leaks, insulation, etc. as they relate to the recommendations and proposed project costs in the report.

The Board agreed to put a list of questions together and send to the Climate Smart Task Force.

**Assessors Report:** received, no questions.

**Highway department Report: (See Attached)**

**Public Discussion: 2 in audience, 1 online**

No questions for board

#### **MOTION to Adjourn at 8:28 pm**

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale to adjourn the meeting. 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

Respectfully Submitted,

Joshua S. Weisbuch, Town Clerk