

Town of Canaan, New York

Town Board Regular Meeting Minutes:

May 8, 2023: 7:00 pm to 8:23 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 William Powers

Also in Attendance:

Town Clerk Joshua Weisbuch
Highway Superintendent Stephen Van Tassel

Audience: 12 (6 in audience, 6 online)

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Brenda Adams recognized Lorenz Kafka, recently passed, for his many years of service on the Planning Board before the moment of silence.

APPROVALS

MOTION: To approve the March 22 Special Meeting Minutes

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Will Powers, to approve the amended minutes from the March 22, 2023 Special Town Board Meeting. 4 AYES: Motion carried.

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

February 13, March 13, and April 10 Minutes are still outstanding; with the hiring of Deputy Clerk II, they are expected to be available for the next meeting.

MOTION: To approve the April bills and accept the financials

No questions on bills or financials.

Supervisor Brenda Adams asked for a motion to accept bills and financials.

Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, to approve the April 2023 bills. 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.

SUPERVISOR’S MONTHLY REPORT: Town Clerk Joshua Weisbuch
SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT: Read by Town Clerk

TOWN CLERK REVENUES	\$ 195.75
HIGHWAY FUND	\$ 647,629.63
HIGHWAY FUND CAPITAL	\$ 32,332.27
LIGHTING DISTRICTS	\$ 1,610.80
FIRE DISTRICTS	\$ 300.00
BUILDING INSPECTOR	\$
PLANNING BOARD	300.00
RECREATION	\$ 3,498.43
COURT REVENUES	\$ 5,470*
<i>*as of 4/11/23</i>	
ZONING BOARD OF	\$
APPEALS	
TAX COLLECTOR	\$

Thank You to the Town of Canaan Climate Smart Task Force for Bronze Certification

Supervisor Brenda Adams recognized former board member Terese Platten for her early leadership in the establishment of the Task Force and current members Craig Westcott, Dylan Cipowski, Marion Bolognesi, Becky Meier, Andrei Vankov and Thomas Potter for completing a series of actions, including but not limited to, a greenhouse gas inventory, a natural resources inventory, a town buildings energy audit, community solar and heat pump campaigns, etc. which have qualified the Town of Canaan for Bronze Certification. With the certification the Town will qualify for grant funding.

The Task Force reminded those present of their next event, the first in a series of events for the ecological restoration of the Town Park, a Community Garden Day on Saturday June 10 at 10 AM.

RESOLUTIONS & MOTIONS

RESOLUTION 67 of 2023: Budget Amendment

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to amend the 2023 liability and property insurances costs to reflect higher than projected costs and the addition of Special Event insurance for Community Day. 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.

RESOLUTION 68 of 2023: HIGHWAY CULVERT PIPE PURCHASES

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the purchase of these materials from the lowest, approved bidder, Lane Enterprises. 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.

RESOLUTION 69 of 2023: HEALTH AND DENTAL INSURANCE RENEWALS for 2023-24

An Insurance Workshop was held before the April meeting. Answers to questions from that meeting were provided as part of the May meeting materials.

This Resolution approves Marshall and Sterling as the broker and renews the MVP Health and Delta Dental plans at the 2023-24 rates. Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve renewals with current broker and service providers, 2023-24 premium rates, and 2023-24 town/employee contributions to premiums and to deductibles. 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.

RESOLUTION 70 of 2023: PROVIDE STORM CLEAN-UP FOR CEMETERIES

Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Will Powers, to approve additional work and costs associated with winter storm clean-up at the cemeteries to be provided by approved vendor Robert Lagerwall. 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.

REPORT FROM COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS by Supervisor Adams:

Adams reported there is now residential compost recycling at the Greenport Transfer Station; the county is working on a Space Utilisation Study and a subsequent plan to identify current and future department needs to inform maintenance and new construction decisions; the Columbia County Climate Smart Task Force also received Bronze Certification this month; and the county is expected to pass Senior, Veteran’s and Firefighter’s county tax exemptions at its meeting later this week.

OLD BUSINESS

Ongoing Virtual or Hybrid Meeting Considerations and Mask Policy: the town will continue to recommend but not require masks. Hybrid meetings will continue.

Status of Town Clerk 2022 Audit: The Town Clerk continues to work to cure the items identified in the audit; a second follow-up meeting with Councilperson Patzwahl and Supervisor Adams to review the files is expected before the end of May.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Property Tax Collection

Heather O’Grady, Deputy Clerk provided a report that includes the following: 1,468 payments have been posted totaling \$2,887,348.21 in taxes which represents 94% of taxes owed.

Low Income Senior, Firefighter and Veteran’s town property tax exemptions: proposal expected for the June meeting.

Vision Plan Renewal: is a month later than health and dental. Plan details are expected for the June meeting.

NYS Grub Chuk Rd Land Donation

NYS is offering to donate a parcel that includes an abandoned road to the town. Were the town to accept the donation, a significant infrastructure investment would be required to upgrade the road to specification and to return it to use. The town discussed costs and benefits, the need to reach out to an engineer or consultant to better understand the costs, and, if the project would qualify for any of the new funding available through the recent federal infrastructure bill. Those considerations could then be compared to the benefits of providing access to now inaccessible land in the town’s largest commercial district. Supervisor Adams will reach out to the County Engineer for information and resources. The Supervisor will get back to the State to communicate the town is interested in exploring costs and funding as next steps.

Broadband Grant Update

Consolidated has provided the numbers; the town needs a contract. Consultant Dave Berman is working with Consolidated and USDA to move this forward.

Planning / ZBA report / Ginny Nightingale

The ZBA did not meet last month. The Planning Board met for a simple boundary line adjustment. Planning Board Chairman Pierre Gontier led a training for its members.

Climate Smart Task Force / Will Powers

Summary of activities included in the earlier presentation.

Public Safety /David Patzwahl

There was no April meeting of the committee. The board had a discussion of reports from various neighbors near Sayre Hill Road, New Concord Road and County Route 9 about speeding. The speed limit in the area is 35 MPH; there appears to be an enforcement issue. Councilperson Patzwahl was asked to bring this up at the next committee meeting.

Transfer Station /David Patzwahl

There has been a change in personnel, reporting has lagged. Councilperson Patzwahl reported as follows (numbers taken from monthly invoice, pending receipt of report): combined volume of MSW & C&D for April was 42.02 tons versus 61.29 tons for 2022. Work has been done on the road and conditions are somewhat improved. Sticker monitoring is expected to start again soon.

Website Survey / Brenda Adams

Feedback from the town board has come in; survey will be sent to staff and committees next.

Social Media Page for Community Day

The Supervisor presented and supported a request from the Canaan Day Committee to establish a social media page to promote Community Day. This page would be event specific and separate from a more permanent Town and Highway FACEBOOK page in the planning stages. Carrie Whiteman has offered to set up and maintain the event page. Discussion ensued about the life of the page and whether it would be retired after the event. Supervisor Adams would like to go forward with the Community Day Facebook page immediately; she emphasized the general importance of using social media, which is a new norm to reach people.

Tobacco Free Policy / Town Buildings & Park

There is no record of the town adopting Town a tobacco-free policy at town buildings or the park. Most town parks in our area are tobacco free. Enforcement is an issue but then so is trash. Supervisor Adams asked for additional time to bring a recommendation for the board in June.

Newsletter Submissions: Material submissions (articles/photos/flyers) are due Friday, May 25.

Canaan Community Day update:

Solicitation of community groups and businesses has yielded 24 organizations to date interested in participating. Many activities are being planned, including the American Legion dunking booth, a taco

truck, face painting, bluegrass band, ukulele band, community singing etc. Two weeks remain for interested parties to sign on. The event will be held on June 17 from 12 to 3PM.

Diner Stop / Blueberry Hill / New Lebanon

Supervisor Brenda Adams has been invited to meet with Assemblyperson Didi Barrett next week. Adams asked if anyone had concerns they would like her to discuss or share to please let her know.

ASSESSORS REPORT

Training with the BAR is tomorrow. Grievance Day is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23 from 4-8PM. The 2023 Equalization Rate is 88%. Kim would like to be the first point of contact with questions. Assessor's Assistant Margaret Norwood has been doing a terrific job.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT REPORT by Stephen Van Tassel: (See Attached)

Summary of report includes: spring road cleanup underway, speed study will be conducted on County Route 24 in coming weeks, reviewing an infrastructure inventory and condition report of bridges with the county, reviewing the need for "Deer Crossing" signs on 295, working on a replacement schedule for trucks and equipment, expects to have a revised road plan (284 agreement) for the June meeting.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

What are activities at the Community Day, tables, food? What is the set-up? Community organizations, local artisans, games, music, a food truck. Event is from 12 to, setup earlier in the morning. The Canaan Community Day Committee has/will continue to reach out to potential artists and craft people. Suggestions are welcome.

Have Bob Fair and Bonnie White been contacted? Supervisor will follow up.

Supervisor Adams asked if there is any other business before board. There was no additional business.

MOTION to Adjourn at 8:51 pm

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Will Powers to adjourn the meeting. 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.

Next meeting: June 12, 2023

Memorial Day Service at Stoddard Park Monday, May 29 at 2PM

Respectfully Submitted,