

Town of Canaan, New York

Town Board Special End of the Year Meeting Minutes:

December 26, 2023; 7:01-7:20 pm

Hybrid via Zoom/In person at Town Hall

Written notice was provided to town board members via email, notice was posted on the town website, and notice was posted on town notice boards at the Town Hall downstairs and upstairs.

Moment of Silence

Pledge of Allegiance

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: Brian Lifsec (incoming councilperson)

Online: no one

APPROVALS

RESOLUTION 112 of 2023 to Approve the Certifications for the USDA Reconnect Grant

Supervisor Adams ascertained that the board had reviewed the certifications sent with the board packet. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded a Reconnect Grant to the Town of Ghent for the purpose of providing last-mile, buildout of broadband services in the towns of Ghent, Austerlitz, Canaan and New Lebanon. The Town of Ghent will sub-contract with Consolidated Communications (CCI) to provide those same last-mile, broadband services. The Reconnect Grant requires that parties to the grant make the following certifications: Uniform Relocation & Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 Certification, Representations Regarding Felony Conviction, (AD 3030), Federal Collection Policies for Commercial Debt Certification, Compliance with RUS Award Documents, Civil Rights Compliance Assurance, Certification Regarding Lobbying for Contracts, Grants, Loans and Cooperative Agreements, Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension, and Other Responsibility Matters-Primary Covered Transactions, Certification Regarding Architectural Barriers, and Certification Regarding Flood Area Precautions. The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the Towns of Ghent, Austerlitz, Canaan and New Lebanon for the grant requires the towns to provide supporting documentation for purposes of meeting the grant requirements. The Supervisor asked for a motion for the Town Board authorize her to sign and return the certifications, should they be required, for the grant. Councilperson Nightingale made a motion seconded by Councilperson Miller to approve 5 AYES - Motion carried.

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

Resolution 113 of 2023 to Approve End of the Year Inter-fund Transfers, Table until January 8

Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to table Resolution 113 because the bookkeeper had been unavailable and had not yet provided the information to move forward. Councilperson Patzwahl made a motion seconded by Councilperson Powers to table the resolution. 5 AYES - Motion carried.

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

RESOLUTION 114 of 2023 Annual Payment to Office of the Aging

Supervisor Adams reviewed the information. \$2,200 is the remaining balance in the Aged Programs line (in the budget) for the Town of Canaan’s contribution to the Senior Lunch Program at the Canaan Town Hall. The agreement between the Town and the Office of the Aging historically provides for an annual payment not to exceed \$5,000. The Town budgeted for this program in its 2023 budget and would like to continue to support the Senior Lunch Program by making a 2023 contribution. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to authorize her to send a payment of \$2,200 to the Columbia County Office of the Aging. Councilperson Miller made a motion seconded by Councilperson Powers to approve the payment. 5 AYES - Motion carried.

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

FURTHER COMMENTS

Senior Activities

Supervisor Adams enumerated the many December activities by and for seniors under the leadership of Stephanie Guelpa, who was praised for her good work with the Seniors Lunch Group.

Councilperson Nightingale added that the Seniors Lunch Group had adopted a family for Christmas and provided generous supportive donations of money, gifts and food to a local family.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of Town Clerk 2022 Audit Independent bookkeeper Penny Hermance’s work on the audit is underway but with the holidays not be finished before the end of the year. The Supervisor will

provide an update for the January meeting.

Planning Board Member and Planning Board Clerk openings to be advertised

The Planning Board has an opening on the board and for Planning Board Clerk. The Town Clerk has been asked to publish the vacancies.

Status of Highway Vacancy

The Highway Superintendent has a MEO 1 vacancy which he has published in the paper, on the website, and on Facebook. Supervisor Adams asked if board members could help get the word out.

Town Hall Chimney Repair / Quote from All Phase Construction

The chimney repair process is ongoing. So far, no quote was forthcoming from the original vendor, Actual, that cleaned the boiler chimney and recommended the repair. Supervisor Adams contacted six other vendors and received one quote from All Phase. Meanwhile, a temporary fix has been made to secure the pipe to the wall. Adams has been checking every night to make sure the pipe is attached and the heat remains on. Supervisor Adams asked for a motion to approve the quote. The emergency expenditure would have to come from the contingency line. She believes it is imperative to make the repair as soon as possible for safety and health reasons. Discussion ensued as to the need to replace the chimney liner and to approve All Phase quote, not to exceed \$12,250. Councilperson Nightingale made a motion to approve the repair seconded by Councilperson Miller. 5 AYES - Motion carried.

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

Local Laws 6 and 7 Not yet filed with the state

Supervisor Adams expressed her concern that local laws 6 and 7, including the firefighter's tax exemption passed in September, had not been filed with the state. Upon advice of the attorney, the town clerk should follow through and send him the paperwork and the attorney will file with the state upon receipt

Acknowledging Councilperson Alan Miller

The board thanked retiring Councilperson Alan Miller for his service to the town; he expressed his appreciation.

Public Discussion none

Motion to Adjourn

Supervisor Adams called for a motion to adjourn. Councilperson Miller made a motion seconded by Councilperson Nightingale to adjourn. 5 AYES - Motion carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;

Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson William Powers – yes; and
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes.

Next meeting: Regular meeting January 8, 2024 @ 7 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rebecca Nebesar
Deputy Clerk 2