

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
March 19, 2007

Mayor Rouse called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rouse, Trustees Theodore Lumbrazo, AnnMarie Rossi and Chuck Sweeney, Village Attorney Gerald Taylor, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Bruce K. Chandler I, Canastota Firemen Doug Chandler, Stephen Perry, Larry Pickard, Mark Pickard and Ron Marchetti; Shawn Perrigo of Delano Taxi and Margo Frink of the Canastota Bee-Journal

ABSENT: Trustee Scott Rapasadi

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the minutes of the last Board meeting. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Lumbrazo, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to approve the following budget transfers: \$2,000.00 from 80201.01 (Planning Board Personal Services) to 14101.01 (Clerk Personal Services); \$1,132.84 from 34104.01.40 (Office Supplies) to 34102.01.83 (Hand Tools); \$736.07 from 34104.01.89 (Cascade Air Pack Maintenance) to 34102.01.83 (Hand Tools). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rossi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$55,605.08. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$34,256.55. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Lumbrazo, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to advertise for bids for a completed new and unused Fire Department Tanker/Tender of 2000 gallon capacity for the Canastota Fire Department pursuant to the Bid Specifications as provided by the Fire Department said bids to be received at the Office of the Village Clerk until 4:00 p.m. on April 16, 2007 and opened at 7:15 p.m. on April 16, 2007. **Discussion:** Fireman Doug Chandler presented a revised set of specs and addressed the changes that were made - the up-front payment on the chassis was removed and the lights on the back of the truck were changed - everything else stayed the same. Trustee Lumbrazo asked where the bid notice would be published to which Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised the Oneida Daily Dispatch. Mr. Chandler stated that he would give the Clerk's Office a list of potential bidders to send the truck specs to.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to appoint Mary Krause as a member of the Planning Board. Passed 4 to 0.

Mayor Rouse advised the Board that an application had been received from Shawn Perrigo for a permit to operate a taxi in the Village. Inasmuch as our local laws do not set forth a procedure for

issuing a permit for a taxi other than to say that a \$100/year per car fee is to be charged, the Clerk and the Mayor felt that the Board should be aware of the application and have an opportunity to ask questions of the owner, Shawn Perrigo. Mayor Rouse advised that other communities have Local Laws that address taxi permits and that we have obtained a copy of the City of Oneida's local law for review.

Trustee Sweeney asked Mr. Perrigo if this was a new business. Mr. Perrigo stated that it was a new business, that he recognized a need and he was trying to fill it. He will be operating in Canastota and other communities 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Right now he will be the only operator, but he expects that his business will grow in the next 60 - 90 days to where he will need to put his wife on as another driver.

Mr. Perrigo may come to the Clerk's Office on Tuesday for his permit.

Correspondence

- Notice from the Town of Lenox regarding the Easter Egg Hunt to be held on Saturday, April 7, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the Municipal Building Parking Lot.
- A thank you card was received from Deb DiGeorge for the arrangement that was sent when her mother passed away.
- Letter from Bruce Chandler advising that Lyle Chafee has requested use of the Canastota Fire Station on April 1, 2007 from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m. A copy of the required insurance is attached.

Motion by Trustee Lumbrazo, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the use of the Canastota Fire House by Lyle Chafee on April 1, 2007 from noon until 6:00 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

- The report for the Waste Water Treatment Plant for February 2007 was received, has been distributed to the Mayor and the Board and is on file in the Clerk's Office.

Department Head Comments.

Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised the Board that we will need to have a special meeting before the end of the month to present the Mayor's tentative budget to the Board and schedule a budget hearing.

Village Attorney Gerald Taylor provided the Board with a draft of the proposed revisions that will need to be made to change the debt collection to a unit basis from a user basis. Sections 163-96, 97 and 98, as well as other sections will need to have changes made as we go along. Mayor Rouse explained that this should be cheaper for a residential homeowner under this new method. There will

be a public hearing on these changes. The Mayor asked the Board members to take a look at it before the next meeting so that it can be ready for a public hearing to be scheduled at the next meeting. Trustee Sweeney asked if this will result in a reduction. The Mayor stated that it looks like it will be cheaper for a residential homeowner.

(The Fire Department received an emergency call - all firemen left the meeting with the exception of 2nd Assistant Chief Bruce Chandler and Stephen Perry.)

2nd Assistant Chief Bruce Chandler advised that he has faxed in the capital request and budget request that was worked on by him and the Mayor. Chief Chandler advised that the Fire Council would like the Village to look at another consulting firm to review the Fire Department. They would like a firm with more experience. Mayor Rouse asked if the Fire Department wanted to recommend someone. Chief Chandler stated that the Department had no one in mind, they just wanted a firm with more experience. Mayor Rouse stated that the Village would look to the State's website for a firm to perform the evaluation.

Chief Chandler advised that the Fire Department received a towing bill for T124 after it broke down at the Main Street fire. The bill from South Bay Auto was in the amount of \$444. Chief Chandler is aware that the owner of the towing company has been ordered to perform community service and wanted to know if the Village wanted to or was able to pursue a reduction in the bill as part of the community service. Attorney Taylor advised that the only portion that could be taken as community service would be the labor - fuel, tolls and out of pocket expenses would not fall under this. Chief Chandler stated that the charge for labor was \$100.00. Mayor Rouse suggested that it just be submitted for placement on an abstract to be paid by the Village.

Mayor Rouse asked Chief Chandler to look at where he was in this year's budget to see if there is anything that can be moved into this year to pick up any of the capital expenses in next year's budget. Clerk/Treasurer Williams offered her assistance to Chief Chandler on projecting expenditures for the rest of this year.

Mayor Rouse asked Clerk/Treasurer Williams to speak with the Village Auditor to determine what our projected unappropriated fund balance will be at the end of this fiscal year so that we can look at allocating approximately \$25,000 for fire department capital expenses.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Rouse has nothing further.

Trustee Comments.

Trustee Lumbrazo would like the Board to thank the Fire Department for their hard work pumping out basements during the recent heavy rainfall. Trustee Lumbrazo reported that he recently attended a Town Board meeting and asked the Board if they had any language or if they were thinking about the property tax exemption for fire fighters. Trustee Lumbrazo was told that it was brought up by the Board at one time but no action has been taken. Trustee Lumbrazo asked our Board if it would be proper for the Village to ask the Town to consider this exemption or should it come from the Fire Department. Mayor Rouse felt that the request would be better coming from the fire department. If the Town were to adopt the exemption, the Village would then have the opportunity to consider if it wanted to offer the same exemption to Village residents.

Trustee Lumbrazo asked if it would be possible to require the new housing project to be built on the south side of Route 5 to annex into the Village. Mayor Rouse stated that annexation would have been a possibility prior to the creation of the sewer district.

Trustee Lumbrazo noted that with the last storm when we received large amounts of snowfall, the bobcat was used to clean the sidewalks and asked if it would be possible for the bobcat operator to clean out the fire hydrants. Mayor Rouse responded that this could be dangerous as the bobcat operator would need to go into the roads to access the hydrants as they front on the streets. The Mayor again stated that ideally property owners should be taking care of the hydrants in front of their properties.

Steve Perry noted that some hydrants in the Village are very low and suggested that the Village address the matter with OCWA.

Trustee Rossi advised that she has spoken with the beautification committee and that they are all set for this season with flower pots. There are 62 pots that will be put together at Debrucque Greenhouses. Trustee Rossi will check with the Town of Lenox regarding landscaping around the Municipal Building and is hoping that it can be done by Memorial Day.

Trustee Sweeney is all set.

Delegations.

Steve Perry noted that the bobcat that is used to plow sidewalks is 6 feet wide and that, other than in the downtown district, there are no 6 foot-wide sidewalks in the Village. Mr. Perry asked how homeowners can be responsible for the sidewalks when it is the bobcat that causes ice and packs in the snow on the sidewalks after the homeowner has already cleared the sidewalk. He believes that the Village needs something that fits the sidewalks better. Mr. Perry indicated that he has spoken with Ron Bennett about this matter.

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Mr. Perry asked if the sidewalks on the south side of East Center Street from the Fire House east to the end of the street could be removed completely and replaced with lawn. Trustee Sweeney asked Mr. Perry what purpose would this serve. Mr. Perry stated that the sidewalks would either need to be replaced or taken out. It would be less expensive for the homeowners and the Village to have them removed completely. It is a dead end street and the removal of the sidewalks is not likely to be a problem. The Mayor asked Mr. Perry how many properties that he owned on East Center Street to which Mr. Perry advised that he owned 2 properties.

Trustee Lumbrazo asked if the Village was going to do the aprons on the driveways to the Village and Fire Department parking lots on East Center Street this year. Mayor Rouse stated that it was something that the Village wanted to do.

Motion by Trustee Lumbrazo, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to enter executive session regarding personnel at 7:42 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Note: Mayor Rouse excused himself from executive session and turned the meeting over to Trustee Sweeney. Village Attorney Gerald Taylor attended the executive session of the Board.

Motion by Trustee Lumbrazo, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to exit executive session at 8:07 p.m. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rossi, seconded by Trustee Lumbrazo, to adjourn at 8:07 p.m. Passed 3 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams
Village Clerk/Treasurer