

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
November 19, 2007

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

PRESENT: Mayor Todd Rouse, Deputy Mayor Scott Rapasadi, Trustees Ann Marie Rossi and Charles Sweeney, 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Bruce Chandler, Village Historian David Sadler, Margo Frink of the Canastota Bee-Journal and Michael Coseo of Artisan Acquisitions

ABSENT: Trustee Theodore Lumbrazo

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

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the following budget transfers: \$7,985.70 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 85104.01 (Beautification); \$2,057.18 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 73101.01 (Recreation Personal Services); \$706.29 from 97107.01 (Interest on Debt Service) to 19904.01 (Contingency). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$199,716.20. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$38,972.36. Passed 4 to 0

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the wire transfer sent by Clerk/Treasurer Williams to Hasler, Inc. for postage in the amount of \$500.00. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rossi, Seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve the wire transfer sent by Clerk/Treasurer Williams to JPMorgan Chase Bank in the amount of \$4,546.46 for payment of interest due on the '07 General Obligations Bond. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Agreement with Operation Wild Cats for fiscal year 07-08 in the amount of \$2,500.00. **Discussion:** Trustee Rapasadi asked what Operation Wild Cats does for the Village. The Mayor explained that because of its efforts, the feral cat population in the Village has decreased. Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised that they have nearly exhausted their budget already this year. Passed 4 to 0.

Correspondence

- Monthly report from OMI regarding the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

- The Annual Town/Village Christmas Party will be on Wednesday, December 19, 2007 beginning at 12:00 and will be held at the Boxing Hall of Fame Pavilion. Village employees should RSVP to Cathi Williams by December 7, 2007. The cost is \$15.00 per person.
- Letter from Michael Coseo of Artisan Acquisitions requesting to purchase trees located on James Street in the Village.

Mr. Coseo explained that he represents furniture manufacturers in the Philadelphia area. He purchases walnut trees for the manufacturers. Recently he purchased some trees from the Village of Oneida Castle. Trustee Rossi asked what he was going to do with the trees. Mr. Coseo stated that he would cut them up and sell them to make furniture. Trustee Rossi asked Mr. Coseo if he would plant trees to replace these. Mr. Coseo stated that he would. Mayor Rouse explained to Mr. Coseo that if the Village were to consider selling trees, we would need to offer them for sale as part of a competitive bidding process, with the highest bidder being awarded the trees. This process is NYS Law. Further, Mayor Rouse expressed his concern that these trees provide a buffer for the residents of James Street against the railroad tracks. The Mayor stated that he was not in favor of cutting down the trees. Trustee Rossi stated that she was not in favor of cutting the trees down explaining that she is in favor of planting more trees in the Village. Mayor Rouse asked the Trustees to look at the trees and get back to him at the next Board meeting if they wished to pursue the matter.

Brenda Kayn, CPA of BMK Services presented her annual audit of the Village for fiscal year ending May 31, 2007 which consisted of the printed and bound copies of the Financial Statements, Management Letter and copy of the AUD. Brenda reported that the audit went very smoothly and reviewed the Financial Statements with the Board. She advised that there was a surplus because expenditures came in 10% below budget and revenues were over budget. This was largely due to a decrease in employee benefits and the cost of the trash contract. Brenda commended the Village on its healthy unappropriated unreserved fund balance in the General Fund and on its tax stabilization reserve account which make the Village financially stable. She was also pleased to see a large unappropriated unreserved fund balance in the Sewer Fund which will help the Village to minimize the effect of large, unexpected repairs on the residents. Mayor Rouse asked if it were acceptable to record the interest on the CD's established for the Intermunicipal Agreement with the County regarding Oneida Indian Nation taxes into the General Fund. Brenda indicated that as long as the Village was not obligated to pay interest on those monies according to the Agreement, that the interest income could be recorded in the General Fund. Brenda reviewed her Management Letter with the Board, commenting that there were no reportable conditions as a result of her audit. Brenda also suggested to the Board that it consider consolidating its savings accounts into one bank account to maximize interest earned, stating that she only makes such a recommendation when the accounting for these accounts is in good shape. Such action would require a motion by the Board. Clerk/Treasurer Williams would like to discuss making this transition with Brenda.

The Audit of the Court has been scheduled for December 3, 2007.

Mayor Rouse asked Brenda for recommendations regarding where she believed that the Village could consider consolidating services with the Town. He also asked Brenda to research the Constitutional Debt and Tax Limits and limit on user fees for hardship financing for the Village and to let Clerk/Treasurer Williams know the results of her research.

Department Head Comments.

Recreation Director Carla DeShaw advised the Board that the suggested date for SnowBlast is February 8 and 9, 2008. She has a committee of about 12 - 15 people from the community. This year they would like to have a fireworks display on Saturday evening. Mayor Rouse advised that she would need to work with the Fire Department, Police Department and Code Enforcement Officer with regard to safety and compliance matters for the fireworks. Carla explained that this year they are planning activities for children in grades K - 6 grade as well. There will be the traditional kick-off parties at Rusty's and the cook-off this year will be for greens instead of meatballs.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to authorize the Recreation Committee to move forward with February 8 and 9, 2008 for the Third Annual SnowBlast. Passed 4 to 0.

Carla advised the Board that the entertainment at this year's adult kick-off party will be Joe Angerosa. Mayor Rouse complimented Carla and her committee on their efforts and asked her to keep him advised.

Village Historian David Sadler advised the Board that he has enrolled in the Registered Public Historian Program. David would be the first Registered Public Historian in Madison County. Mayor Rouse wished David well.

2nd Assistant Fire Chief Bruce Chandler presented the Board with a contract for the maintenance of the overhead doors at the firehouse. The Mayor will review the contract. Chief Chandler advised that the DEC has approved the Fire Department's application for a \$1,000.00 grant for the purchase of fire hose. The paperwork should be coming through the Clerk's office soon. Chief Chandler reported that the repairs to the roof are completed. It came in a little over budget due to the cost of the snow spikes.

Mayor Comments.

Mayor Rouse advised the Board that he will be holding an Executive Session tonight regarding contract negotiations with the DPW and that there will be a Joint Meeting with the Town of Lenox

around sewer districts immediately following our meeting. The Mayor's position regarding the Joint Meeting is that the residents of the Town Sewer Districts be treated the same as the Village residents.

Trustee Comments.

Trustee Rapasadi is all set.

Trustee Rossi asked about the sign for the Little League Field. Recreation Director Carla DeShaw reported that the Recreation Board would like to order the sign from the State (Corcraft) to be consistent with the other signs in the Village. The sign should read "Canastota Recreation Park". Carla asked the Mayor where the money would come from. Mayor Rouse advised that the money would have to come from the Recreation budget. Carla will get prices and get back to the Board.

Trustee Sweeney is all set.

Historian David Sadler commented that Rotary Park looks beautiful.

Mayor Rouse reminded everyone of the tree lighting on Saturday, November 24 at 6:30 p.m. A member of the Capparelli/Chafee family will flip the switch. The Mayor will not be able to attend the tree lighting. Deputy Mayor Rapasadi will attend for the Village.

Mayor Rouse stated that he is not happy that the Village cannot light the trees in the downtown. We are planning something for Clark Park, Reflection Park and Patane Park. Mayor Rouse said that we can look at buying our own light polls, but this will be very expensive.

Delegations.

None

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to enter executive session at 7:43 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rossi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to exit executive session at 7:53 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

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Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer