

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA  
MINUTES  
March 2, 2009

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 AnnMarie Rossi and Charles Sweeney; Village Historian David Sadler; Recreation Director Carla DeShaw; Community Band Members Betsy Snyder, Maureen McCouliff, Paul Shiffer, William Zimmermann, Margaret Powers and Eileen Smith; Joseph DiGiorgio of Canastota Canal Town Corp.; Margo Frink of the Bee-Journal.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Theodore Lumbrazo

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

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$78,210.43. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$9,400.45. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to authorize the following budget transfer: \$1,633.82 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 51424.01 (Snow Removal Contractual). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Geographic Information System Special Use Licensing Agreement between OCWA, the Village of Canastota and Mohawk Valley GIS which authorizes the release of data from OCWA to Mohawk Valley GIS for the benefit of the Village of Canastota pertaining to the location of water mains and hydrants belonging to OCWA and located within the jurisdiction of the Village of Canastota. (Note: There is no compensation required under this Agreement.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Recreation Contract with the Town of Lenox for the year 2009 in the amount of \$32,000.00. **Discussion:** Mayor Rouse was asked if this was an increase and noted that \$5,000.00 is not really for the recreation payment but is for the sewer pump station on Roberts Street from the Town so that they can pay us for it. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Sweeney, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to authorize the Mayor to execute the Fire Contract with the Town of Lenox for the year 2009 in the amount of \$90,150.00.

**Discussion:** Mayor Rouse was asked if this amount was very close to what we were looking for from the Town at the original meeting. Mayor Rouse advised that we had asked for an increase of \$30,000.00 and received an increase of \$20,000.00. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to authorize the Mayor to sign the Annual Preventative Maintenance Agreement with Power Generation & Industrial Engines, Inc. for the generator at the Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$369.00. (Note: A second year is available for an additional \$379.00.) **Discussion:** Trustee Rapasadi asked if that is something that we would be keeping with the upgrade? Mayor Rouse indicated that we would be keeping it. Trustee Rapasadi amended his motion to include the 2<sup>nd</sup> year for an additional \$379.00. Seconded by Trustee Rossi. Passed 4 to 0.

Recreation Director Carla DeShaw discussed a proposal to add a batting cage at the Recreation Park. Canastota Little League would like to put up a batting cage in Recreation Park to be located in the green area in front of the women's softball field. Mayor Rouse suggested that they look at the area in the back of the tennis courts where it is fenced in and questioned if the batting cages would fit inside there. Recreation Director DeShaw believes that Little League would like it in the location in front of the women's softball field for easy access and because it is central to softball and baseball and there is access to electrical and other facilities. She indicated that the batting cages would be supervised at all times when they were being used. They are portable and would be put up in April, removed in June, put back up in August and removed for the season in October. Little League would purchase and install the cage with no cost to the Village. They have also offered to absorb the cost of the electrical service if it would need to be installed. Off-season storage would be in existing buildings. Mayor Rouse indicated that Little League will need to get in touch with the Village when they are ready to go. The Village needs to know where it will be going and what type of work will need to be done indicating that there could be water, electrical and other lines buried in that location. The Mayor would like Little League to look at the area behind the tennis courts.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Rossi, to allow Cathi Williams use of the fire house on Sunday, March 8, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for a birthday party pending receipt of proof of insurance based on the recommendation of TJ Tornatore, Fire Council Secretary. Passed 4 to 0.

Discussion regarding the existing Refuse/Recycling Contract which expires on August 31, 2009, and the Feasibility Study prepared by Administrator Carpenter. Administrator Carpenter asked the Board if they were ready to discuss this tonight or if they would like to take some more time to review his Feasibility Study. Trustee Rapasadi stated that he has looked at the plan and wants to know if we will be purchasing a new or used truck. Administrator Carpenter reviewed the conclusion statement from the study with the Board. Trustee Sweeney asked what the total cost was with the tipping fees and Administrator Carpenter directed him to the budget contained in

the Study adding that he believes that with this year's cost compared to what he is proposing, the proposal is higher, but next year's cost could be \$40,000.00 higher than his proposal. Mayor Rouse asked if it would be feasible to add multiple family and commercial properties to bring in some more revenue? Administrator Carpenter stated that he has not taken a thorough look at that as there is not much to compare it to. He did indicated that the Village would need to purchase a completely different truck which would be significantly more expensive than what he has proposed. The Mayor added that recycling could be a problem and that we need to look at what we are taking - this could cost us even more money. The Mayor would like the Board to take another good look at the proposal and suggested that we send out another Request for Proposals and see where the numbers fall.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to go out to bid on the pick up effective September 1, 2009 for a 3-year term. Passed 4 to 0.

### **Correspondence**

– None.

### **Administrator.**

Administrator Carpenter showed the Board a picture of the truck that was purchased for the DPW. He shared that the EFC Application for funding for the WWTP upgrades went in on Friday and that he anticipated that within 10 days it will have been accepted. With the significant funding changes at the EFC, once our application is accepted, we should move from 30<sup>th</sup> in the State to 4<sup>th</sup>. The Village has received notice that we have been approved for a \$500,000.00 grant from Congressman McHugh and are just waiting for the President to sign the bill. This is not part of the Stimulus Funding. We are continuing to talk with Senator Schumer for more grant money. USDA funding is available - we are pursuing a loan/grant package. We would receive the grant and take out a short-term loan which would be paid off with the permanent EFC hardship funding. The grant is not available if we do not take the loan.

### **Mayor Comments.**

The Mayor reminded everyone of the Chamber DSA dinner this Saturday and congratulated Trustee Rossi for being honored this year. Tickets are available at the Chamber office. Next Thursday at 8:30 a.m. is the grand opening for Rite Aid

### **Trustee Comments.**

Trustee Rapasadi is all set.

Trustee Sweeney is all set.

Trustee Rossi commented on how nice it is again that this winter we used salt instead of sand and how clean our streets are.

**Delegations.**

Paul Shiffer, the Director of the Canastota Community Band, addressed the Board to request additional funding. The band has increased in size from 10 to 50 people. They moved their rehearsals from the school to the United Methodist Church on Center Street. He is requesting that their funding line be moved out of the Recreation Budget and placed in a community relations or publicity line. They perform at least 15 times during the year all over the County. Their performers are paid mileage and gas money and they charge for their performances. The \$1,500 that they received from the Village pays for the Director's services. The band will perform at the Health and Wellness Fair on Thursday, March 19. The Mayor explained that the issue is that in order for the Village to contribute, the Band cannot leave the Village. Our taxpayer dollars cannot benefit those outside of the Village. This Board put the \$1,500.00 in the budget for the Community Band. Mayor Rouse asked the Board if it would consider increasing the allotment. He directed the Band to request assistance from the other communities that its members are from and where it performs. As part of the budget process, the Board will consider an increase. Mayor Rouse asked how much money the Band is requesting. Director Shiffer stated that if they received \$2,500.00 they could purchase some new music as well as pay his salary. Mayor Rouse asked that the Band send a letter to the Village requesting the increase together with the Band's budget needs. The Mayor indicated that he feels comfortable that he can help them this year and again asked them to look at other communities.

Village Historian David Sadler noted that the Town of Lenox was founded on March 3, 1809 and would be celebrating its Bicentennial tomorrow.

Joe DiGiorgio from the Canastota Canal Town Corporation would like to do an event for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Canal Clean Sweep. He wants the State to know that Canastota is doing things so that other opportunities might be available. He has contacted the FFA and the National Honor Society and has about 25 students willing to help. Joe has named the Village of Canastota as co-sponsor of the event. He needs some volunteers from the DPW on Saturday, April 18, 2009 beginning at 10:00 a.m. and continuing until about 1:00 p.m. Joe will be helping to coordinate the event but cannot be here that day. He would like to meet with someone from the Village to set this up. The State will supply one employee and the bags for trash. The Village would need to supply tools to be used in the clean up. The targeted area is 1 mile east and west along the Canal from the center of the Village and in the business district. Mayor Rouse asked if 3 hours would be long enough. Joe stated that it might not be - it may take longer. He added that Canastota is getting more and more recognition with the State and that this will go a long way for future grants if we show participation now. The Mayor asked Joe to meet with Administrator

Carpenter and DPW Foreman Ron Bennett to take a look at what is needed. The Mayor would not be opposed to making it a work day for all of our employees - we may need to pay overtime. Joe reminded the Mayor that he will not be there that day.

Recreation Director Carla DeShaw updated the Board on SnowBlast. She has submitted her proposed budget to Administrator Carpenter, asking for increases in the basketball and senior activities lines. She would like to increase the budget for publicity. SnowBlast had almost the same participation as last year. We may need to move the Spencer Street activities next year to accommodate the increased number of events. The Boy Scouts did a fantastic job with the food tent. Mayor Rouse advised Carla that the Bicentennial Committee has been talking about doing something on New Year's Eve to kick off the celebration. They are considering a dinner party followed by a fireworks display and stated that we may need to look at SnowBlast next year to see what can be done to incorporate some Bicentennial activities into SnowBlast weekend. Carla reminded the Board that there is a lot of work going into SnowBlast Weekend by people other than just her. Mayor Rouse explained that the Bicentennial Committee was just looking for other organizations and events to try to tie the theme of the Bicentennial into their existing event.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Sweeney, to adjourn at 8:08 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,



Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer