

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA

MINUTES

November 5, 2012

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

PRESENT: Mayor Carla Deshaw; Deputy Mayor Scott Rapasadi; Trustees Margaret Peters, Rosanne Warner and Bill Haddad; Village Administrator Larry Carpenter; Police Chief James Zophy; Fire Chief John Massarotti; Village Historian David Sadler; Penny Pickard, Mark Pickard, Kathy Stagnitti, Chris Hannan, Chris Sgarlata and Doug Havens.

ABSENT: None.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012, regular meeting. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Warner, to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2012, joint meeting. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$147,128.46. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Peters, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$34,688.54. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve the Waste Water Treatment Plant Project Abstract in the amount of \$546,056.29. **Discussion:** Trustee Peters will approve this abstract based on the recommendation of Administrator Carpenter. Trustee Haddad asked for clarification from Trustee Peters. Trustee Peters explained that this is a lot of money and she will give her approval based on the recommendation of the Village Administrator. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve payments totaling \$1,767.00 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from October 12, 2012 - October 31, 2012. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve payment to USDA Rural Development from the Sewer fund on November 15, 2012, in the amount of \$6,907.50 for payment of interest (97107.02 Interest on Debt Service) on the 1999 Phase II bonds. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Peters, to authorize a wire transfer to BNY Mellon from the Sewer fund on November 15, 2012, in the amount of \$108,000.00 for payment on the 1987 Public Improvement bond as follows: \$100,000.00 for principal (97106.02 Debt Service) and \$8,000.00 for interest (97107.02 Interest on Debt Service). Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve a wire transfer sent to M&T Bank on November 1, 2012, in the amount of \$57,000.00, for payment of principal (97306.02 Principal on Bond Anticipation Notes) owed on the EFC Short Term Financing for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Capital Improvement and CSO Abatement Project. **Discussion:** Trustee Peters

asked why we had short-term financing on this project. Administrator Carpenter explained that we will be going to long-term financing when the project is complete. The payments on the short-term financing are from fund balance to keep the \$95 sewer debt unit charge steady. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Peters, to authorize members of the Planning and Zoning Boards to attend training sponsored by the Madison County Planning and Zoning Institute on November 27, 2012, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Morrisville College. (Note: There is no charge for this training.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve to reinstate the membership of Ronald Tallman, Sr. into the Canastota Volunteer Fire Department pursuant to the request of the Department dated October 11, 2012. (Note: A copy of Mr. Tallman's driver's license has been received.) **Discussion:** Trustee Rapasadi asked if Mr. Tallman will be an active member. Chief Massarotti noted that it may be a couple of weeks until Mr. Tallman has a release from his doctor, then he will be active. Trustee Peters asked how many active members are in the department. Chief Massarotti advised that there are 66-67 active members. Mayor DeShaw asked who recommended Mr. Tallman for membership. Chief Massarotti noted that he was recommended by the Council. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Warner, to appoint Jason Evans to the Recreation Board as a representative of the Village of Canastota pursuant to the recommendation of the Recreation Board. (Note: This appointment is being made to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Bill Haddad and has a term expiring in 2014.) **Discussion:** The Board discussed the procedure for filing vacancies on the Recreation Board. Passed 5 to 0.

Administrator Carpenter provided the Board with updated information about the proposed Cold War Veterans' Exemption. Based on the new assessment figures obtained from the Assessor, the potential impact to the Village if the exemption were adopted is \$1,685.97.

7:15 PUBLIC HEARING ON COLD WAR VETERANS' EXEMPTION.

Mayor DeShaw opened the Public Hearing at 7:15 p.m. and read aloud the Notice of Public Hearing. Administrator Carpenter gave an overview of the proposed local law. The maximum exemption is \$8,000.00 per individual. Based on current information in the Assessor's office, there are approximately 21 individuals in the Village who qualify for this exemption. The Mayor asked if anyone wanted to in favor of or against the proposed local law. Chris Hannan asked if a new resident would have to wait 90 days before the exemption would take effect for them. Administrator Carpenter stated that any new resident would have to apply to the Assessor's Office for the exemption. Trustee Haddad asked if it would be a separate application. Administrator Carpenter again referred Trustee Haddad to the Assessor's Office for the answer. Trustee Peters asked if this would be in addition to other exemptions. Administrator Carpenter noted that it could be. Mayor DeShaw asked 2 more times if anyone wished to speak in favor of or against the proposed local law. The public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Peters, to adopt Local Law No. One (1) of the year 2012, to grant the Cold War Veterans Real Property Tax Exemption. Passed 4 - 0 - 1 (Trustee Haddad abstaining.)

Correspondence.

- Letter from Laurie Tucker and Verna Albanese regarding a tree at 209 Second Street. The resident is requesting to be reimbursed by the Village \$600 for the expense incurred by her to cut down a tree that was in the Village right of way and could have been cut down by the Village. The Board had a lengthy discussion about whether to reimburse the homeowner and about the Village policy regarding requests for tree removal.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, that we pay \$600.00 to Verna Albanese for the removal of her tree. **Discussion:** The Board discussed this matter further. Passed 4 - 1. (Trustee Haddad voting nay.)

- Letter from the Chamber of Commerce, dated October 18, 2012, regarding the Tree Lighting Ceremony and the changing leadership at the Chamber. Mayor DeShaw reported that she has spoken briefly with Rick Stevens about a transition plan and has placed this on the agenda for the business meeting on November 27. The Tree Lighting Ceremony will be handled by the staff in the office.

Administrator.

Administrator Carpenter advised that the landfill is raising tipping fees in January. The current rate is \$64/ton and is going up to \$66/ton effective January 1, 2013.

Administrator Carpenter requested permission from the Board for Code Enforcement Officer Mike Adsit to attend a training session in East Syracuse on November 15, 2012. This will complete Mike's required training for this year. There is no cost for the training.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to allow Code Enforcement Officer Mike Adsit to attend training in East Syracuse on November 15, 2012. Passed 5 to 0.

Administrator Carpenter gave the Board an update on the sidewalk replacement program. The Village replaced 17 out of the 48 sidewalks that had been scheduled. Homeowners completed 24 of 36. The Village replaced 1000.92 linear feet of sidewalk. Homeowners replaced 1584.62 linear feet. The Village has three (3) more sidewalks to do this week. The Board discussed the areas where the sidewalk has been removed but not replaced, the storage of the forms and the sidewalk budget. Trustee Peters wants figures for actual costs for budgeting purposes for next year.

Mayor.

Mayor DeShaw is hoping that she can pull a Business Committee meeting together for the end of November. This will be to talk about economic development, downtown development, the Chamber

and the future of business in Canastota. The Mayor noted that there are opportunities and grants out there and she wants to make sure that the business people are all aware of what is out there. The Mayor is also hoping to have a meeting with community service organizations on November 28 during the day.

Mayor DeShaw received a call from Assemblyman Bill Magee regarding have an educational facility in the downtown of Canastota - he had heard that she was unhappy. The Mayor discussed her conversation with the Board. Trustee Peters asked if the problem with Morrisville was that Cayuga Community College was trying to come into Madison County. Mayor DeShaw explained that the previous President of Morrisville College supported Cayuga's project in Canastota. The new President of Morrisville College then wrote a letter complaining that another college was coming into the county. The Mayor explained that there are no community colleges in Madison County currently. Assemblyman Magee has indicated that he will help the Mayor get in touch with someone at Morrisville to discuss this further.

Mayor DeShaw noted that we should be hearing within a week or two (2) about our grant application with the REDC.

The Mayor advised the Board that a recent report was issued stating that there are jobs in the area, but not enough qualified people to fill the job - skills need to be updated. Trustee Peters asked about help from BOCES. The Mayor sent an email to Jackie Starks, the Superintendent of BOCES, about having a GED program in the Village. She is waiting for a response. The State released the Literary Zone Grant on Friday. The Mayor is working with the school to see if there is a possibility that we can do some more training here.

Street lights - the Mayor noted that we need to make a decision regarding what kind of street lights will be used on Peterboro Street. She wanted to go see a city with double street lights but was advised by National Grid that there are none. National Grid determined that we need to have one pole with two (2) lights to get the amount of light that we need. The cost of the poles was discussed. The Mayor and Administrator Carpenter will bring more information back to the next meeting.

Trustee Comments.

Trustee Rapasadi is concerned about the new dentist office that is going next to St. Agatha's Church - neighbors had asked him about this. The property owner received a Special Use Permit from the ZBA and a building permit from the Code Enforcement Officer.

Trustee Warner asked about the study for the joint fuel facility. The Mayor advised that there is a meeting tomorrow. Trustee Warner asked if the Town was working on the spreadsheet. The Mayor advised that we are still collecting data. Trustee Warner asked why the grass at the end of Main Street by Robbie C's doesn't get mowed. Administrator Carpenter noted that it does get mowed when the Code Enforcement Officer speaks with the owner. Trustee Warner asked about radios. Fire Chief Massarotti noted that the new radios were turned on on the 12th - they are running both radios for a while. Trustee Warner noted that at the last Fire Council meeting, replacement of old

turnout gear and scott air packs was discussed. Chief Massarotti and the Board discussed the replacement of air packs and turnout gear. The Chief would like to start a replacement schedule in the budgets for this equipment. Administrator Carpenter noted that there is a FEMA grant for this every year - had we known that the equipment needed to be replaced, we could have written a grant. Chief Massarotti noted that there are helmets that also need replacing. He would like to begin replacement with the interior firefighters first. Chief suggested using the monies that had been earmarked for the bailout pants and replace some equipment now. The Mayor asked the Chief to get figure out what they need and to get some pricing together - she would like to meet with the Chief and Administrator Carpenter on this before the next meeting.

Trustee Peters went to the Recreation meeting. They talked about computers for seniors. Trustee Peters will talk with Bob Napoli of Stoneleigh Housing to see if there are any grants available and they are looking at surplus from area organizations and schools. The Recreation Board also talked about background check forms. They could use the Little League forms with some modifications. Trustee Haddad sent information to the Recreation Board about computers and background checks.

The Little League request for items needed to do improvements at the Recreation Park was discussed. The Village will pay \$500 to Blocks and Rocks to mix the sand and clay. The use of the sod from the field modifications was discussed. Little League's proposal to take over the maintenance at the Recreation Park will be researched and discussed over the winter. Mayor DeShaw thanked Trustee Peters for her help with the Recreation Board. Trustee Haddad is looking for pictures and bios from the Trustees and Mayor for the website. Trustee Haddad attended the emergency response drill and thanked the Boy Scouts, police and fire departments for participating. Trustee Haddad reminded the Board that the Scouting for Food pick up is on Saturday and that the donations stay local. Veterans' Day is on Sunday. Mayor DeShaw asked Trustee Haddad to get back to Chief Zophy and Administrator Carpenter about the ceremonies that are planned for Veterans' Day. Trustee Haddad brought to the attention of the Board a recent report that ranked Canastota Schools 49 out of 53 schools for academics. Trustee Haddad is concerned about this report and contacted the school - he has not received a response. Mayor DeShaw is aware of this report and noted that there are many reports and studies out there. She had offered to help the School Board if they wanted to put a study together. Mayor DeShaw commended Trustee Haddad for taking a proactive approach to this matter.

Delegations.

Penny Pickard addressed the Board about her ongoing concern for her safety because of the dog in her neighborhood. The dog came into her yard again and was threatening her. The dog also threatened the police officer who responded - the officer drew her gun against the dog until the owner called the dog home. The dog owner was issued tickets. Mrs. Pickard is concerned because the Village Attorney, in court, agreed to drop all charges against the owner of the dog. Chief Zophy shared his account of the matter with the Board. Mrs. Pickard does not believe that the Village Attorney is acting in the best interest of the Village. The Mayor will follow up with the Village Attorney.

(Trustee Warner left the meeting at 8:53 p.m.)

Kathy Stagnitti read a prepared statement regarding shared services. This statement was addressed to the Village and Town Boards and School Superintendent, Fred Bragan. A copy of this letter is attached to these minutes.

Chief Zophy received a call on October 19, 2012, from DCJS. In February 2011, police departments were required to submit finger prints electronically. We have been offered a grant for the purchase of a live scan machine. Our responsibility would be for the maintenance. Currently we pay \$200 to Chittenango to use their machine, which is not live, and sometimes it is necessary to find a defendant to have the fingerprints redone well after they have already been released. Chief noted that our commitment for the new machine would be only three (3) years and we could opt out early. Chief does not have the money in his budget. He must respond to DCJS by the 9th of November. Trustee Rapasadi asked if we could share this with the Town or some other agency. Chief explained that identification would be immediate with this system - it is worth the cost. Mayor DeShaw believes that this is a good opportunity. The Board discussed whether there was adequate funding in the budget for this purchase. The Mayor asked Administrator Carpenter if there will be money in this budget for this purchase. Administrator Carpenter believes that there will be.

Village Historian David Sadler went to a meeting last month on historical markers. If we have markers from 1790 - 1850 to replace, they are free. Mr. Sadler believes that the date range will be expanded and he should know some time in November.

Chief Massarotti informed the Board that the Fire Department purchased a chemical cart in Ballston Spa that originally belonged to the Canastota Fire Department.

Village Historian David Sadler suggested that the Village replace the historical markers for Reuben Perkins by Homer Ball Funeral Home and the Senator Barlow House on the corner of Main and Barlow Streets.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to adjourn at 9:23 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams/s

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer