

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA

MINUTES

September 16, 2013

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 Bill Haddad, Margaret Peters and Rosanne Warner; Village Administrator Larry Carpenter; Police Chief James Zophy; DPW Foreman TJ Tornatore; Village Mechanic Mark Maxwell; Fire Chief John Massarotti; 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Fire Chief Lyle Chafee; Village Historian David Sadler; and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: None

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting - no action was taken on this matter as the minutes were not complete. The motion will be on the next agenda.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$85,564.74. **Discussion:** Trustee Peters asked who was driving the Johnson Bobcat. DPW Foreman Tornatore advised that it could be driven by all of the DPW employees. Trustee Peters asked if we could have done the fuel injector repair that was sent to NYE Automotive. Mechanic Maxwell advised that he did not have the time to do the repair and that the labor was \$900 - the rest of the cost was for parts which would have been the same. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Peters, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$23,927.97. **Discussion:** Trustee Peters asked for the name of the Operations and Maintenance provider. Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised that it was OMI - Operations and Maintenance, Inc. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to authorize the Mayor to execute the annual contract with Canastota Pop Warner in the amount of \$2,375.00 and authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to issue payment as indicated therein. (Note: Written request from Pop Warner is attached.) **Discussion:** Trustee Peters is concerned that because this is a charter organization that it hooks us in with all 5 towns within the school district, Title 9 would apply and the money is not equally distributed between boys and girls. Trustee Haddad explained that the charter organizations do not go through the school, they simply service the children in the geographic location of the school. The Board discussed whether Title 9 provisions would apply to the charter programs if they are not run by the school. Mayor DeShaw noted that we have not had a problem with this in the past and she has spoken with the Village attorney. As long as we have a contract for these organizations to provide services, we can do this. Trustee Haddad explained that when the Village does not offer a football program, we contract with Pop Warner to provide a program for our residents. Mayor DeShaw noted that the money that was spent previously on these programs was more than it is currently. Trustee Peters would like a letter from the Comptroller's Office approving this expenditure. Mayor DeShaw suggested that the Trustees contact the Comptroller's Office if they wish. Trustee Rapasadi does not have a problem with this as we have had audits. Trustee Peters noted that we have not had an audit by the Comptroller's Office. Passed 3-1-1. Trustee Peters voting nay and Trustee Haddad abstaining.

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to accept a credit in the amount of \$4,501.20 from EarthLink for taxes charged to the Village in error from January 2005 thru April 4, 2013, in full settlement of the tax dispute with EarthLink and pursuant to the attached email from EarthLink. **Discussion:** Trustee Warner thought that we did this before. Trustee Haddad noted that we spoke about it but we need to execute. Trustee Rapasadi remembers another issue. Administrator Carpenter advised that there were cost rate problems. Trustee Haddad explained the current situation with EarthLink and reviewed the history of the contract with them. Passed 5 to 0.

Introduction of Isaac Smith, a CCS/BOCES student who will be working as an intern with the Village as part of the New Ventures Internship Program through Madison-Oneida BOCES. Mayor DeShaw advised the Board that she met a very nice young man this week from BOCES New Visions, Isaac Smith, who has an interest in doing an internship with the Mayor's Office. From October 7 through May, Isaac will be working with us 2 hours a day for 3 days a week. Isaac has a great interest in the political system and how government runs. Isaac introduced himself to the Board. The Trustees, Clerk/Treasurer Williams and Administrator Carpenter all introduced themselves to Isaac and welcomed him. Isaac is Trustee Warner's son. He is eager to begin working with us.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Peters, to approve Isaac Smith as an intern with the Village. Passed 4 - 0 - 1. Trustee Warner abstaining.

### **Correspondence.**

- Tree letter from Nunzio Casillo of 205 Third Street. This has been turned over to the DPW. DPW Foreman Tornatore is investigating whether or not this tree is within the Village right-of-way.
- Liquor License renewal application from the Erie Mill.
- Liquor License renewal application from Ma & Pas Grill, Inc.
- Request from Randy Tallman to have a birthday party at the Firehouse on October 5, 2013 from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. Proof of insurance has been provided. This request did not follow the usual process as it should have been made to the Fire Company first and then brought to the Board after receiving Fire Company approval. The Fire Chiefs present were not aware of any conflicts.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Rapasadi, to approve the use of the firehouse by Randy Tallman on October 5, 2013, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. for a birthday party, pending fire department availability on that day. Passed 5 to 0.

**Department Heads.**

Chief Zophy is all set.

Chief Massarotti is all set.

Chief Chafee is all set.

Mechanic Mark Maxwell is all set.

Village Historian David Sadler advised that he is researching Judge Campbell's residence on Prospect Street for the new owner. The Mayor asked Historian Sadler if he had an index of homes researched. Mr. Sadler does not have an index - he has files on most of his research.

DPW Foreman Tornatore reported that things are going well and he is hoping that the weather continues to cooperate.

**Administrator.**

Administrator Carpenter reported Canal Town Corporation would like to purchase another street light for the project at Rotary Park. They will make a \$2,500.00 donation to the Village to pay for another light. The donation comes from their membership drive, not from the monies given to them by the Village. Mr. Carpenter passed out information to the Board regarding the proposed purchase of a front end loader. He asked Mechanic Maxwell if he had an updated figure on the cost of repairs to the Village's current loader. Mark noted that the more we use the loader, the more it is going to cost in repairs. The Mayor asked for the cost to make the needed repairs. Mark advised the Board that with a rental unit the cost is \$15,000.00, \$12,000.00 without a rental unit. Once everything comes apart, it could cost more depending on what they find. Mayor DeShaw asked if we could use the Town's loader. Mark stated that we could. Trustee Rapasadi is concerned that we could spend money on the repairs and the loader could break down again in the future. He went down to the DPW garage and saw the equipment. Trustee Rapasadi does not think it wise to put that money into the loader repairs. He thinks we should sell our loader and purchase a new one. Mark believes that we could get \$32,000 - \$35,000 for our loader based on internet auction results. The possibility of leasing a loader was discussed. Financing options were discussed. Leasing is cost-effective - lease rates are 3.67%. Trustee Peters discussed the average hours per week that the equipment is used. She believes that based on the information provided by the DPW, we only use the loader for about 8 hours per week. The Mayor asked if we had prices for newer models that were used. The Mayor sees these options: buying new, leasing, repairing or buying a newer old model. Mechanic Maxwell pointed out that the warranty is not the same on a used model as on a new purchase. Mayor DeShaw would like the Board to review the packet. Administrator Carpenter and Foreman Tornatore to investigate used prices and get a confirmed figure on the current piece of equipment that we have. Foreman Tornatore cannot get a more final figure than \$12,000.00 until they repairs are started. The Mayor wants Administrator Carpenter and Foreman Tornatore to get the numbers together for all

options and report back at the next meeting. Trustee Peters asked about the size of the bucket. Mechanic Maxwell advised that it is a 2.7 on the new unit and a 2.25 on the current. Trustee Haddad stated that we need to move this along before bad weather.

**Mayor.**

Mayor DeShaw advised the Board that the owner of The Red Onion was doing some work on the corner of Peterboro and Center Streets and had to stop working because she needed a building permit. Clerk/Treasurer Williams explained to the Board the Planning Board process and GML review by the County Planning Department. Mayor DeShaw reported that the 9/11 ceremony went well and the weather did not help attendance. She thanked Administrator Carpenter, the Fire Department, Chief Zophy and the DPW for their part in the ceremony. Fire Chief Chafee advised the Board that the Bee Man Candle Company donated the candles. Mayor DeShaw thanked the Bee Man. The Mayor reported that our grant applications have been received favorably and are undergoing scoring right now. We should know soon if we are a priority project. If we are, the application will go in a packet to Albany. Our local score is only 20% of the total scoring. The Mayor will keep on top of that. Mayor DeShaw advised that because of the pending purchase, she is working with Diemolding to relocate. The Mayor has asked them to please stay in Canastota. It is possible that they may lease the go cart property on Route 13. The project will be going to the Town of Lenox Planning Board on October 2. If all goes well, it will move forward. Trustee Peters asked if we should attend the meeting or send a letter in support. The Mayor does not think it is necessary. She has discussed the matter with the Town Supervisor who is in favor of the project.

**Trustee Comments.**

Trustee Haddad talked about the rec field services and what needs to happen there. He stated that we need to get it back up to par for the rest of the fall. The Mayor noted that it seems like every year at the end of the summer we have the same issues. She asked if it was a lack of staffing. Administrator Carpenter does not think that it is just a fall issue. There are time when it is worse than others. The Board discussed the issues with the work at the rec field. The Mayor asked DPW Foreman Tornatore if he had a plan to take care of the work that needs to be done. The Mayor and DPW Foreman Tornatore discussed the plan. The Mayor would like to see better communication on this matter. Trustee Haddad advised that Little League would help with the mowing in “desperate times”, but there is no mower down there for them to use. Trustee Haddad attended the School Board meeting with Trustee Peters the other evening. There was a presentation on the scores - this is still a major concern. Trustee Haddad realizes that the scores are not this Board’s concern, but it will affect people moving into the community. The Mayor stated that you can look at the scores on line. The Board discussed the problems with the scoring. Trustee Haddad obtained a District Safety Plan from the school. The Fire Department was alleged to have participated - they did not. Trustee Haddad has some concerns with some of the matters in the plan. Chief Massarotti discussed some of the problems that had been discussed such as “sheltering in place”. Trustee Haddad feels that the cooperation and communication between the school and Fire Department needs to be tighter. Chief Zophy talked about how the Safety Plan meetings were noticed to the Police and Fire Departments.

The Safety Plan comes from BOCES. The Chief discussed the review process and suggested that the Fire Department could be more involved if they wanted to. The Mayor suggested that the Fire Department try to make sure that someone attends the meetings. Chief Chafee advised the Board that the meetings are at 2:00 p.m. when the firemen are working and cannot attend the meetings. They asked for later meetings. The Mayor discussed the possibility of DPW Foreman/Assistant Fire Chief Tornatore attending during working hours. The Mayor asked the Fire Department to reach out to Matt Stevens at the school regarding meeting times.

Trustee Peters will attend the Recreation meeting on September 23 and is looking for winter program ideas. The Mayor is also planning to attend that meeting to go over their budget and for a general conversation. Trustee Peters would like the Board to call her with any ideas.

Trustee Warner asked Chief Massarotti if there was a council meeting tomorrow. Chief responded that there was not. Trustee Warner noted that she was in Ballston Spa recently and they have beautiful street lights.

Trustee Rapasadi was running on Hardwood Island Road and Indian Opening Road and noticed 2 couches, 3 chairs and 4 mattresses dumped on the side of the road. This needs to be brought up to the Town Codes Officer. Trustee Rapasadi also noticed 1/4 mile down the road, the sidewalk that was taken up in the Village by the Town had been dumped in the ditches. Administrator Carpenter will follow-up with the Town.

Trustee Haddad asked about a joint meeting. Administrator Carpenter checked with the Town again today and told them that we would do any time in October. Mayor DeShaw would like to meet before our meeting on October 7 and asked Administrator Carpenter to set it up for 6:00 that evening.

Assistant Fire Chief Chafee thinks that the Village should do the 911 memorial service and the communication with the agencies and public would be better. The Mayor believes that is a good idea and would like her office to be a lead facilitator for that service.

Mechanic Maxwell encouraged the Board Members to come in and visit the DPW every once in a while. Mayor DeShaw does not want the DPW to think that the purchase of new equipment is not supported, but we need to consider the budget and tax rate and how best to finance the purchases. Mechanic Maxwell and DPW Foreman Tornatore would like the Board to come in to see what they have and their plans for replacement and rotation.

### **Delegations.**

None

Village of Canastota  
September 16, 2013  
Page 6 of 6

Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Peters, to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catherine E. Williams/s*

Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer