

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
TOWN OF LENOX
MINUTES
September 21, 2015

Mayor DeShaw called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Carla DeShaw; Deputy Mayor Rapasadi; Trustees Rosanne Warner, Jeffrey Carpenter and Bill Haddad; Administrator Larry Carpenter; Lenox Supervisor John Pinard; Councilmen Richard Wimmer, Tom Bush, and John Hadyk, and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: Councilman Anthony Palamara.

Downtown Project update.

Mayor DeShaw noted that we are setting meetings for the public for the Downtown Project. We have received one TAP and one TEP grant for just shy of \$1 million. Delta has been selected as the architect for the project and they have partnered with an Ithaca landscaping company. Construction will start the day after the Boxing Hall of Fame parade in 2016. The Mayor advised that there is a lot of work to do in the meantime. She asked Town Supervisor Pinard how involved the Town wanted to be in the project, inviting their board members to attend the meetings. The Mayor just wants to make sure that the Town is in the loop in case they are asked questions about the project. The Mayor talked about how the meetings will be structured - she will be meeting with the downtown business owners separately. There will also be community meetings with the design group as the Mayor would like to give the community a chance to give input, look at the designs and be a part of the project. Mayor DeShaw noted that we do not do downtown projects very often - the last time it was done was in the 1970s. This is a great opportunity to do something nice in the area and to highlight the Canal. Mayor DeShaw is hoping to have a couple of meetings in the first part of October. Administrator Carpenter advised that he has been working on a couple of date for that week. He explained that we don't want to look like every other community - the current designs include bump-outs with curbs on Peterboro Street near the Canal with additional landscaping. The street lights will be replaced. The current lights are from the 1950s - National Grid has been contacted. Sidewalks will be looked at for ideas - all kinds of treatments can be used now. Mayor DeShaw noted that the intersection of Peterboro and Canal Streets needs to be cleaned up and made safer. We are thinking about using stamped concrete for a crosswalk there and at another location. The Mayor further advised that the architects are looking for ways to let people know they are passing over the Erie Canal for people who would not know. Administrator Carpenter advised that we are also a co-sponsor on a grant application that the County put together for Madison, Oneida and Onondaga Counties regarding a plan to improve the 36 miles of the old Erie Canal. We should know if we received the grant in December and, if received, will tie in nicely with the Peterboro Street project. Administrator Carpenter informed the Board that there will be a third piece for the Peterboro Street project this winter that will take us from Chapel to Canal Streets, making the whole project from Chapel to Railroad Streets. Mayor DeShaw is excited about the project. The Village will send a meeting invite to the Town offices to be distributed to the Councilmen. Mayor DeShaw

advised that we are finalizing the newsletter for the fall and the meeting dates will be in there.

Supervisor Pinard advised that the State had been mowing from Buck Street to BeeBee Bridge Road - they are not doing that any more. The Town will mow it a couple of times during the summer. The Town also mowed its property along the railroad all the way down to Wampsville. Supervisor Pinard spoke with Scott Ingmire, the County Planning Director, about people being able to walk in that area. Trustee Warner asked if the Town owed all of the property from the Skate Park to Wampsville. Supervisor Pinard advised that the Town owns most of it. He described the route to Wampsville. Administrator Carpenter asked if the State was mowing along the Canal between Canastota and Wampsville. Supervisor Pinard noted that the State is not taking care of that area. Trustee Warner believes that the State mowed that once this year. The Boards discussed who is responsible for mowing the area long the Canal. Supervisor Pinard wants to keep the Canal open for walkers. Administrator Carpenter noted that there are three departments that you have to work with for matters involving the Canal.

Supervisor Pinard advised that the Town has a committee of 2 with 6 people in the background that are working an expansion of the Skate Park with different vendors. They have spoken with the semi-pro hockey team in Utica for ideas about what to do with the area. They may be putting in an ice hockey rink behind the Skate Park. They have commitments from Heun Electric for the lights and power, National Grid is making a donation and local companies have also volunteered their services. Joyce Leinberger and Chrissy Palamara are on the committee. Mayor DeShaw asked if they did a needs survey. Supervisor Pinard advised that it was conducted at the school. The Mayor asked about the insurance for the hockey rink. Supervisor Pinard checked into this - it is less than they pay for the Skate Park. Administrator Carpenter asked if this would be a recreation program. Supervisor Pinard advised that it would fund itself. Trustee Carpenter asked about the plan to keep up the ice. Supervisor Pinard stated that he is not on the committee, but that he would bring it up with them. He noted that there is a lot of community momentum behind this. They have looked at other types of courts, such as hand ball courts. There will also be rest rooms. Administrator Carpenter asked about soccer fields. Supervisor Pinard noted that Rick Stevens is looking for 10 acres to put in memorial soccer fields at his expense. Mayor DeShaw has offered to work with them. Trustee Warner noticed that some of the ramps at the Skate Park looked like they needed some attention. Supervisor Pinard advised that the Town put 27 new sheets of decking on the equipment this year. Mayor DeShaw asked if the staffing for the rink will be self-funded. Supervisor Pinard noted that the Skate Park comes close. Trustee Haddad asked if the Village should not open our ice skating rink this winter. Supervisor Pinard believes that the Village should go ahead with the ice skating this winter. The Town would like this project to be ready for this season, but it probably will not be.

Discussion regarding services provided to the Oneida Indian Nation by the Village and Town.

Administrator Carpenter noted that the Village has services that we provide to the Oneida Indian Nation - sewer and fire protection - and there is a sewer debt charge on the tax bills. Supervisor Pinard advised that the Nation is not paying anything on a tax bill. The Boards discussed how the Nation is billed for services. Administrator Carpenter wants to know how the Village can get paid for the services that we provide to the Nation. Late notices for overdue tax bills were sent out and the Nation received late notices for sewer debt unit charges that were owing for several of the properties that they own in the Village. The Nation called to ask why they received the late notices. According to the settlement with the County, the Nation is not paying property taxes. Clerk/Treasurer Williams explained that sewer charges had been left on the tax bills by the County which is why the Nation received the late notices. Trustee Haddad asked how the Town can negotiate on behalf of the Village. Supervisor Pinard advised that Becky from the County Treasurer's Office sent out tax bills to the Nation. Some were paid and some were returned. He explained how he came to be the person who is negotiating with the Nation as a result. Trustee Haddad wants to know if the Village needs to negotiate directly for the services that we provide or is Supervisor Pinard doing this for us. Supervisor Pinard stated that he does not understand why the Village was not made a part of the negotiations between the County and the Nation. Mayor DeShaw believes that Administrator Carpenter and Clerk/Treasurer Williams should be involved in those negotiations. Administrator Carpenter advised that he had offered to help with negotiations. Supervisor Pinard just wants to make sure that we are working together on this. Mayor DeShaw would like Administrator Carpenter to work with Supervisor Pinard on this matter. The Mayor asked Clerk/Treasurer Williams if the Nation seemed to be in favor of paying for the sewer charges. Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised that when speaking with the representative from the Nation, the representative asked how these sewer charges were handled with respect to churches, other not-for-profits and the schools in the Village. Clerk/Treasurer Williams advised the Nation representative that these entities also receive tax bills showing a full exemption for property taxes and the appropriate unit charge for the sewer debt. The sewer debt unit charge is collected from every property owner in the Village and is not a tax based upon the assessed value of the property but a share of the debt for improvements to our sewer system that is imposed upon every property in the Village that is connected or could be connected to the sewer system. The representative seemed to understand that the sewer charge is not a tax but just collected through the tax bills. Supervisor Pinard advised that Town Clerk Charlene Barres has a template of what was worked out with the Nation to be used to bill charges other than taxes. The Mayor asked Administrator Carpenter and Clerk/Treasurer Williams to work with Town Clerk Barres on this.

Building appearance.

Deputy Mayor Rapasadi advised that when he asked to have this placed on the agenda, he was concerned about the brick area in front of the Municipal Building as there was grass growing in the

bricks. He is also concerned about Patane Park - he has been told that John Patane is taking care of this, but Trustee Rapasadi has walked by on several occasions and has taken care of the garbage that has collected in the park area. Trustee Rapasadi thinks that we should improve the appearance of the building - the dirty windows, trash, etc. Administrator Carpenter advised that the Patanes do take care of the park, but they can't do the top of the pine trees. Trustee Rapasadi is also concerned about the sidewalks around the building. The Mayor advised that the grants will be taking care of the sidewalks. Trustee Rapasadi noted that he has done some painting himself - he painted the rails by the Canal. The Mayor asked if he has brought his concerns to Administrator Carpenter or DPW Foreman Tornatore. The Board discussed the clock outside of the building.

Bridge appearance in Village and Town.

Deputy Mayor Rapasadi advised that since he asked to have this on the agenda, the trees around the bridges have been trimmed and the fence on Maple Street has been painted and James and Lewis Streets have been taken care of also. Supervisor Pinard asked if the Village could replace the sidewalk over the bridge on the north side of Lewis Street. Administrator Carpenter noted that the fence at the bridge next to Joe Stagnitti on Wilson Avenue needs to be fixed. Councilman Bush advised that the Town is supposed to be taking care of that.

Mayor DeShaw asked if the Trustees or Councilmen wanted to add anything.

Supervisor Pinard noticed that the parking lot on Railroad Street behind the medical building has become an overflow parking lot for court parking. He would like to make that the primary lot for court parking and our parking lot adjacent to the Municipal Building will be the overflow lot. There are 29 slots in the Town lot. Joel Arsenault has asked for 4 signs for the PAs that are coming into the medical building. The Town will provide the signs and the Village will put them up.

Trustee Warner noted that the maroon paint on the Main Street railroad bridge is starting to peel. Administrator Carpenter advised that we will probably do that next spring as we are doing Peterboro Street too.

Councilman Wimmer is concerned about the UCP house on Rosewood Circle and asked if we had any control over that - there is garbage around the house and they leave their cans out well after the garbage has been collected. The Mayor asked Code Enforcement Officer if he would give the owners a call.

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Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Warner, to adjourn at 6:54 p.m. Passed 9 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Williams

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer