

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA  
TOWN OF LENOX  
CANASTOTA BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES  
October 3, 2016

Deputy Mayor Rapasadi called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA - Mayor Carla DeShaw, Deputy Mayor Scott Rapasadi, Trustees Rosanne Warner and Bill Haddad, Clerk/Treasurer Catherine Williams.

TOWN OF LENOX - Supervisor John Pinard, Councilmen Tom Bush, John Hadyk and Anthony Palamara.

BOARD OF EDUCATION/CANASTOTA SCHOOLS - President Martha Berry, Trustees Wesley Hood, Deborah New, Loran Crosby, Douglas Gustin, Tim Bazan and Bill Haddad, Superintendent June Clarke, Assistant Superintendent Jason Mitchell and Business Official Cara Stevens.

ABSENT: Village Trustee Jeffrey Carpenter and Town Councilman Richard Wimmer.

OTHERS: Lenox Resident Maureen Wood.

**Downtown Project Update.**

Administrator Carpenter gave an update on the Downtown Project. He spoke about how OCWA and DOT came to be a part of the project, as well as National Grid. He discussed the obstacles that we faced with timing of the project. Mr. Carpenter advised that CCI is the primary contractor on the project and it will be a couple of weeks before they are in town. OCWA will take a couple of weeks to finish their work. The Boards discussed the safety of the children walking to and from school and the routes that will be used during periods of construction. Superintendent Clarke confirmed that she has spoken with Chief Zophy about this and she has communicated with parents. Administrator Carpenter would like any problems communicated to him and he will take care of them. Trustee Hood asked about signage and fencing during sidewalk replacement. Administrator Carpenter noted that we will have crossing guards and signs. The Mayor added that everything will be done according to DOT requirements.

Trustee Haddad suggested that we take a moment and that we all introduce ourselves.

Superintendent Clarke reported that the Homecoming Parade has been rescheduled for Friday, October 14, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. with the game following at 7:00 p.m. The parade route was discussed.

### **Barlow Street Development Project Update.**

The Mayor gave an update on the Barlow Street Project. She advised that the contract with Empire State Development was approved at the board meeting in New York City. Finger Lakes Fish Company is calling in their investors and looking for additional investors. They are cleaning up the parcel and working with DEC. SUNY Morrisville is waiting for Finger Lakes Fish to make application for the Start Up New York program. Barlow Street Development Company LLC is also waiting on Finger Lakes Fish Company. The time frame for the project was discussed. They were hoping to start this fall. Now they are hoping for the spring. The Mayor explained that the developer is a company that deals with environmental sites and the clean up is something that they are used to. Mayor DeShaw talked about Start Up New York and its connection to this project, Canastota High School and Morrisville College. The Mayor did note that Finger Lakes Fish Company has not yet completed the Start Up New York application and she believes that they are waiting for funding to be in place. Mayor DeShaw will keep everyone posted.

### **Children's Council.**

Mayor DeShaw placed this on the agenda tonight because all of our boards support these programs. The Mayor noted that one of our Trustees works for Nice N Easy and helped Children's Council apply for and receive a \$10,000.00 grant from the Country Run. The Mayor does not think that they will receive this grant every year. Mayor DeShaw noted that the Village has continued to support Children's Council through our recreation budget, which the Town of Lenox partners. The Mayor asked the school to put some type of funding back in its budget for Children's Council, noting that many children participate and a great group of new people are on the Board. Children's Council offers programs that are important for children in the community and they are a good partner with other programs. The programs are expensive to keep going and \$10,000.00 from the recreation budget does not go far. The Mayor also noted that there is nothing like the Summer Enrichment Program in any other district that the Mayor has been to. Supervisor Pinard commented that we need to offer the kids something. School Board President Martha Berry stated that there is no question this is a valuable program and what they offer is wonderful. President Berry advised that the School Board was advised that they cannot give money to Children's Council because it is an improper gift of public funds. Superintendent Clarke stated that she is very supportive of Children's Council and that she just met with them to talk about bringing back the summer program. Superintendent Clarke noted that the school will do whatever it can to bring it back, but they cannot give them money. Supervisor Pinard asked if the school could provide support in the form of supplies for the program. Superintendent Clarke offered space for next summer even though they will be having a capital project going on at the same time. Mayor DeShaw is concerned that without funding from the school

the Summer Enrichment Program will be lost. The Mayor asked the school to research this some more. Superintendent Clarke advised that the school will do whatever it can to assist, such as publicity, space, sending flyers home with students. Trustee Haddad asked if it were a matter of writing a check. President Berry stated that they have been advised that it is an unlawful gift of public funds but that they are looking into whatever they can do. Mayor DeShaw explained that even though there is a fee to participate in summer enrichment, no child is turned away and all children can participate. Mayor DeShaw has been advised that partnering with and contributing to Children's Council is not an unlawful gift of public funds and asked the school to get some more information about the program and check into this again. The Boards discussed possible ways that Children's Council could partner with the Village and School to offer the Summer Enrichment Program. President Berry advised that they are meeting with their auditor at the end of the week. The Mayor believes that if the three (3) organizations are wanting this to keep going we have to find a way. The Boards discussed the cost of running the program and funding sources. Trustee Hood stated that he is familiar with the fund raising for this organization and noted that it is a lot of money. He would like to see a budget and see some accountability. Trustee Hood feels that fund raising for this program takes away from money going to other programs and does not believe that all children benefit from this program. Mayor DeShaw asked what other programs are running in the summer. Mayor DeShaw will ask Children's Council again for their budget information.

**Joint Facility.**

Supervisor Pinard asked for this to be on the agenda to keep the ball up in the air. He is not sure if it is feasible, but he wants us to talk about this for the future if this is what the Boards want to do. Supervisor Pinard believes that there is the possibility for grant funding and that a joint facility could be a great benefit. Mayor DeShaw noted that we have looked at this before. Administrator Carpenter talked about the discussions and research on this that were done on this in the past. Then Superintendent Bragan, Mayor Rouse and Supervisor DiVeronica toured the joint facility in Lyons, New York. It was ultimately determined that a joint facility was not cost effective for our school or Village. Administrator Carpenter noted that the Village had offered to share our facility. Mayor DeShaw confirmed that the Village offered to share our facility and the Town, at the time, did not want to share a facility with the Village. Supervisor Pinard asked if the Village has to do something at the Village DPW facility. Administrator Carpenter noted that it is a brownfield and that National Grid will be cleaning up the area and building the Village a new building. Supervisor Pinard advised that he just wants to keep the discussion alive. The Mayor asked what was happening with the bus garage. Trustee Hood advised that just the roof of the bus garage needs work. Superintendent Clarke stated that they are always open for ideas on shared services. Trustee Gustin asked if we could get a committee going on this. Mayor DeShaw doesn't think that the Village has an interest

in this based on prior research and data. Supervisor Pinard would like the information that the Mayor is referencing. Trustee Hood talked about purchasing from OGS and through competitive bidding. Mayor DeShaw asked the Town what they are doing with their building. Supervisor Pinard advised that their building needs some upgrades and their salt is stored outside. Trustee Hood asked about the time frame for the completion of the project by National Grid. Administrator Carpenter advised that they have dug test wells and are doing a study. He believes that it is five (5) years away from completion. Councilman Palamara asked if the Town could contract with the School for services as this was how it was done in Lyons. The Boards discussed the Lyons project and how it compared to our proposed project and they discussed the needs of the Boards and their facilities. Councilman Palamara suggested that the Town and School continue discussion on this as they may be the ones with the need. Supervisor Pinard would like to have the report copies and distributed so that they can look at it again. He suggested that perhaps they can align with the Village and make it one facility. Mayor DeShaw asked if there was a Trustee that wanted to sit in on the discussions between the Town and School. Trustees Warner and Haddad were interested.

Mayor DeShaw advised the School Board that the next items were Village and Town items and invited them to stay or leave if they would like. The School Board and school officials left the meeting.

### **Recreation and Fire Projects.**

Administrator Carpenter stated that the Village and Town share a lot of facilities that are maintained by the Village. The Village spent \$40,000 for a new roof on the fire house and is planning a new snack shack at the Recreation Park. The Village also completed a large project at the pool and all of these projects were paid for by the Village. Administrator Carpenter noted that we are also purchasing a new fire truck at a cost of nearly \$1 million. The Village received a 95% grant and will have to contribute 5% toward the cost. Administrator Carpenter stated that the Village would like the Town to participate in the capital projects that are part of the Rec and Fire Departments. Supervisor Pinard stated that the Town does participate through the contracts between the Town and Village for these departments. He noted that the Town is paying on the last fire truck that the Village purchased. Supervisor Pinard suggested that the contracts could be redrafted if we needed to. Mayor DeShaw advised the Boards that she and Supervisor Pinard talked about keeping the regular part as the operating budget and putting the special projects on the side. The Mayor asked if we should put these things with the budget. Supervisor Pinard does not think that is necessary, but he would like the Boards to talk about them. The Boards discussed having a 5-year plan for some of the repair items. Mayor DeShaw advised that the Village did not have a plan when she came into office. Supervisor Pinard wants the Village to let the Town know what we need. Administrator Carpenter

advised that the Village wants the Town to contribute on things as they come up and noted that we are in the process of purchasing a new fire truck and a vehicle for the Fire Chief. Councilman Palamara advised that the Town is in their budget process now and it is hard to start adding these things now. Administrator Carpenter stated that the Village did not know that we would be awarded the grant for the fire truck on our first application. Supervisor Pinard noted that the Town is starting to put reserves together and asked if they need to put a reserve together for this. He asked about the Fire Chief's vehicle. The Mayor told the Boards about the company that is helping the seller of the Chief's vehicle that we are looking at. The price is \$16,000.00. The Village is also looking at a new vehicle for \$38,000.00. Our current vehicle was not driven much but the frame rusted out. The Boards discussed the vehicles that we are looking at and what is included in the price. Supervisor Pinard advised that the County is buying a new car for \$30,000.00. Trustee Warner asked about the truck from Minoa and why we did not pursue that. The Boards discussed the vehicle that the County is purchasing and the Minoa truck. Mayor DeShaw stated that the Village will send information to the Town as requested.

#### **Crosswalk at Main and State/Canal Streets.**

Supervisor Pinard advised that County Highway Supervisor Joe Wisinski wants to know when we are ready and he will come up and give us the assistance that we need, but his department cannot do it themselves - that part of Main Street is not a County road. Administrator Carpenter would like the County's help and noted that the Library would also like a crosswalk by their building. Supervisor Pinard asked Administrator Carpenter to take that up with the County. Trustee Warner thought that the County needed to take care of the crosswalks. Administrator Carpenter noted that this is a Village street not a County road.

#### **Madison County Grant (Replacing Tax Revenue on OIN Properties).**

Supervisor Pinard advised that resolutions were passed by the County to pay Villages property tax money and special district money as it was last year and noted that a plan is in place for a new resolution for the properties just taken off the tax roll. He does not believe that those new properties affect the Village. Supervisor Pinard also noted that an agreement is in the works regarding fire, water and sewer. Clerk/Treasurer Williams asked how this will work for the properties in the Village as we do not have districts. Supervisor Pinard advised that they submitted O&M costs to the Nation for all of the county. The Nation does not want to see "tax" on any bill. The Boards talked about the recent bill that was introduced to give Madison County extra money for the OIN properties. Supervisor Pinard noted that it could possibly be put back for another vote to override the veto.

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Motion by Trustee Rapasadi, seconded by Trustee Warner, to adjourn at 6:39 p.m. Passed 8 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catherine E. Williams*

Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer