

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA  
MINUTES  
April 19, 2021

Mayor Warner called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Deputy Mayor Jeffrey Carpenter; Trustees Jeffrey Watkins; Bill McDade (via Webex) and Douglas Gustin; Village Administrator Jenn Farwell; DPW Foreman Mark Maxwell; Police Sergeant Sean Barton; Code Enforcement Officer Mike Adsit; Recreation Leader Nichole Boston; Dan Cunningham of NWT (via Webex); and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: None.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to approve the minutes from the March 8, 2021, special meeting. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the minutes from the March 15, 2021, meeting. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the minutes from the March 29, 2021, special meeting. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee McDade, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2021, public hearing. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee McDade, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the following budget transfers: move \$1,723.70 from 90108.02 (Retirement) to 19905.02 (OCWA Billing Fees); move \$1,000.00 from 14204.02 (Attorney Fees) to 19905.02 (OCWA Billing Fees); move \$158.76 from 90108.02 (Retirement) to 90608.02 (Health Insurance); \$1,284.79 from 73101.01 (Recreation Personal Services) to 14204.01 (Attorney). Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$134,651.31. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$33,205.88. Passed 5 to 0.

**Public Comments.**

None

**Department Head Reports.**

DPW Foreman Maxwell asked the Board if they had any questions on his report. He advised the Board that the DPW has been working on plow damage and sewer calls and the mechanic has been

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DPW Foreman reported that they are working on the concession stand at the Recreation Field and getting ready for everything to start down there. The Mayor advised Foreman Maxwell that Ed Cerasia has a concern about the condition of Delano Avenue and areas that need attention. DPW Foreman Maxwell has never spoken with Mr. Cerasia but noted that there are other streets that are in more need of repair. The Board discussed the status of the road with Foreman Maxwell. Trustee Watkins asked for the time line for the work at the ball fields. DPW Foreman Maxwell gave a status report and advised what work they will be doing next. The Mayor noted that the work that the DPW has done at the concession stand at the Rec Park looks very nice. She asked about the next work to be done. Foreman Maxwell noted that they are waiting for Little League to finish their work. The Mayor asked about the work on the bathrooms. Foreman Maxwell advised that there isn't much work left to be done, but they need the other work in there to be ready to go before they can do the plumbing. (Department Head comments paused to open Public Hearing.)

**7:15 Public Hearing regarding granting a cable television franchise agreement by and between the Village of Canastota and Spectrum Northeast, LLC.**

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing and read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Mayor Warner asked three (3) times if there was anyone here to speak for or against the Agreement between the Village of Canastota and Spectrum. She received no response. Trustee Carpenter asked if the 5% applied to cable not accessed through a cable. Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

**Department Head Reports (cont'd).**

Trustee Watkins asked if the ball fields are ready to go with seed. DPW Foreman Maxwell advised that they have not seeded yet, but everything is filled in. They are doing some more work on the minor recreation field.

Code Enforcement Officer Adsit referenced his submitted report and asked the Board if they had any questions. He advised that things are starting to pick up and people are building. CEO Adsit informed the Board that we are back at 125 Rasbach Street - there was a break in a couple of weeks ago. A violation notice was sent and there was no response. The DPW was given a work order and the building will be boarded up. He also advised that the hole will have a fence put up to take care of that violation. CEO Adsit talked about what he and DPW Foreman Maxwell observed when they were inspecting the property today. CEO Adsit noted that Rasbach 125 still has not paid the fine previously imposed by the Court.

CEO Adsit gave an update on the status of 508 State Street. Violation notices were sent to the property owner and tenants. There is still some time to take care of things. He talked about some of the violations and what has happened with the neighbors. The Mayor asked if we figured out what

~~transcribed by the Board. The Mayor asked about the fire~~  
Diemolding building - Administrator Farwell noted that she talked with the Village attorney on Friday and the property must be brought up to code which means that the hole with a fence is not acceptable. The Board talked about some of the damage that was found in the building.

Sgt. Barton reviewed the Police Department stats with the Board. He advised the Board that the Nate Race will be held on June 12 - they have not received a letter yet. Mayor Warner advised that Annette Bargabos informed her that Greystone Castle will have food truck vendors and a craft fair that day. Mayor Warner asked about people crossing through the race path to get to Greystone. Sgt. Barton does not think that this will be a problem - they will cross people between runners. The Board discussed the length of time planned for the race.

Recreation Leader Nichole Boston advised the Board that the Easter Egg Hunt was a great success. They had over 175 kids participate and it went well. The Spring Break Program at the Library was held and was geared towards "tweens", but had kids from 4 - 17 years old participate (about 60 in total). The Library kept the leftover bags and will continue to hand them out. Rec Leader Boston reported that they are working on activities for May and June and will have those plans solidified soon. She is hoping to get two (2) events scheduled a month to get Recreation back and running. They are working on getting the organizations that use the Rec Field together to share their information for a calendar to make scheduling easier. The Mayor asked about Smile Putt - Rec Leader Boston stated that this event was done before. It is putt putt golf - Smile Putt is for the end of school "bring on summer" - it will be laid out by Recreation and she will bring the information back to the Board. The Mayor noted that we still have no answer on the pool, adding that the biggest thing is the swim lessons. Mayor Warner advised that we need to have more conversations with the Department of Health. The Board talked about how to do lessons at the pool this year. Clerk/Treasurer Williams suggested that the Board talk to Marge Morgan, our Pool Director, about what has to be done and how to do it. Foreman Maxwell noted that we are still under 2020 guidance and are waiting for updated guidance to be published. Trustee Watkins asked to have Pool Director Marge Morgan come to the next meeting on May 3. The Board talked about the process for opening the pool and the time line. Mayor Warner noted that we are talking with other communities to see what they are doing. Trustee Watkins stated that we still need to open the pool and get it running even if we do not have lessons. The Mayor believes that the pool should be opened even if we cannot have lessons as she does not believe that it was ever intended to be a money-maker and the taxpayers pay to have the pool open. Foreman Maxwell again stated that we are waiting for guidance on opening the pool, but nothing has come down yet. Mayor Warner asked Rec Leader Boston if she could be here on May 3 with Pool Director Morgan. The Mayor thanked Rec Leader Boston and noted that she has done a great job.

Dan Cunningham of New Water Technologies reviewed their report with the Board. He believes that the flow will be back up by the end of the month. Mr. Cunningham talked about the blowers and what they are doing with them. They are trying to slow down the blowers to save energy and

~~in and look at it. Mr. Cunningham talked about the effect of UV on the sewer sample effluent. The Mayor asked if he knew who to call to look at the blower. Mr. Cunningham will have their electrician look at it first to see if it is a simple matter. The Mayor asked if sometime in May the Board could do a site visit. She will get in touch with NWT. Mr. Cunningham suggested that a Monday or Tuesday would be best. CEO Adsit asked about the PILOT program and noted that he has been in touch with Jason Dean and Syracuse University. He talked about what needs to be done. CEO Adsit is still waiting on a letter from DEC regarding the extension. He and Mr. Cunningham talked about the status and what needs to be done. Mr. Cunningham will send the test results that the just got from recent samples. The Mayor noted that she did send an email today to try to get the extension letter.~~

Administrator Farwell gave Fire Chief Tornatore's report to the Board. They are painting the ceiling in two (2) weeks and then it will be done - there is too much moisture now. Chief Tornatore's report noted that the Council discussed the list of what they would like to purchase with the money from the Town of Lenox and they are working on this list. The Mayor appreciates the Fire Council's report. Administrator Farwell will pass that along to the Chief Barker.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, adopting the attached Resolution granting the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast, LLC for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission. **Discussion:** The Board discussed whether to vote on this or wait for Trustee Carpenter's questions to be answered. (Trustee McDade left the meeting at 8:01 due to technical difficulties and returned at 8:02 and noted on this motion.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee McDade, to approve the attached Repair Work Order from TK Elevator Corporation in the amount of \$1,823.36 to furnish and install an ADA compliant, autodial telephone in the elevator cab control panel of the elevator in the Municipal Building and to authorize the Mayor to execute the same. (Note: this expense will be shared with the Town of Lenox.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving the following wire transfer sent to The Depository Trust Company on April 15, 2021, from the General Fund (97107.01 Interest on Debt Service) in the amount of \$4,721.91, for interest owed on the 2019 Public Improvement Bond for the Downtown Enhancement Project. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to confirm the election of Antonio Tornatore as Chief of the Canastota Volunteer Fire Department, pursuant to the attached correspondence dated April 11, 2021, from the Canastota Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. Passed 4 to 0 to 1 Trustee Watkins abstaining.

~~Min by Trustee Watkins~~ ~~Sec by Trustee McDade~~ ~~Date of Meeting~~ ~~Meeting~~

as Assistant Chief of the Canastota Volunteer Fire Department, pursuant to the attached correspondence dated April 11, 2021, from the Canastota Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. **Discussion:** Trustee Gustin asked if we went from two (2) Assistant Chiefs to one (1). The Board discussed this matter and it was determined that no one ran for the other position. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, approving a credit in the amount of \$122.50 against the sewer charges on the March 31, 2021, OCWA bill for property owned by Gerald Taylor and located at 404 High Street, Canastota, New York. (Note: The reason for the excess water consumption was due to an outdoor remote faucet that was broken, that has been corrected.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving the attached Recreation Contract between the Village of Canastota and Town of Lenox in the amount of \$43,200.00 and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 5 to 0.

The Mayor noted that there was a voucher in tonight's abstract to give money back to the Town of Lenox.

#### **Discussion regarding Skate Park.**

Trustee Watkins stated he is a no. Trustee Gustin believes that if we take it over, the new Town Supervisor will want it back and thinks that we should be deeded the land. Trustee Gustin stated that he is against this.

Trustee Carpenter believes that if we are putting something into the park and it is not ours, he would not be in favor of this long term.

The Mayor stated that if we are not taking title to the land, she is not interested.

Administrator Farwell advised that she talked with Supervisor DiVeronica and he would be in favor of deeding the property to the Village, but he needs to talk with his Board. Mayor Warner advised that the Village Board would be interested if the Town is willing to give the property to the Village.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving the appointment of Ethan Findlay as a summer laborer to work with the DPW effective April 21, 2021, at \$12.50/hour. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee McDade, approving the attached Fire Contract between the Village of Canastota and Town of Lenox in the amount of \$90,150 and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked when this was last negotiated. The

~~Mayor Warner would like to have the Board use the report that should be filled in. The Mayor noted that we normally get this in February or March. Trustee Watkins would like us to take a look at this for the next fiscal year. The Mayor suggested that we begin this over the summer. Trustee Watkins would also like us to use different legal council for contracts with the Town since the Town and Village use the same attorney. Passed 5 to 0.~~

### **Discussion regarding Tentative Budget Updates to include a review of Industrial User Rates**

Mayor Warner advised that she met this morning with Ken Skibinski and Jim Cunningham regarding industrial sewer rates and the sewer budget. The Mayor talked to the Board about the her discussions, noting that nothing changed on the General Fund side of the budget. The Mayor did recommend to the Board that we increase the Industrial User Rates. She has not had a call back from Queensboro Farm Products despite making two (2) phone calls requesting a return call. The increase is suggested at 30% ; however, the level that is needed based on the evaluation is 70%, but the Mayor believes that is too high. Mayor Warner also noted that even with the 30% figure, our Industrial User Rate is a lower rate than an industrial user would pay if their operation was in Onondaga County. Trustee Watkins stated that he is particularly concerned about how far off we are on the TKN rate from the rate that Onondaga County charges. Mayor Warner noted that she found a file from former Mayor Rouse with notes in it from Mayor DeShaw where it was noted that the loadings were higher than it had ever been but Queensboro was paying the lowest rates in the area. The Mayor did hear that Queensboro may be picking up production and maybe there will be more revenue, adding that this is not a new problem for the Village and we cannot continue to “kick the can down the road.” Trustee Watkins added that the cost of doing business has increased.

The Board talked about how to make the changes in the rates. Mayor Warner advised that she also added some changes on the appropriation side to include costs for some repairs needed by DPW Foreman Maxwell for the pump stations and an increase in the cold patch numbers. The full amount of the repair to the fan was included - we will know more after we receive the report from Tim O’Hara. The Mayor advised that money was also put in for pump repairs. Mayor Warner talked about some of the other changes. The Board reviewed the changes on the revenue side of the sewer budget and talked about the increase in the residential rate and the increase in the industrial user rate. The Board also talked about how to make up the difference. Mayor Warner noted that the environmentally-friendly appliances are causing lower than normal water consumption. The Board would like to set a meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021, at 6:00 to adopt the budget.

### **Correspondence.**

- Thank you note from Elizabeth Toomey of The Central Problem Gambling Resource Center.
- Advocacy Update from NYCOM regarding the State Budget. The Mayor talked about the AIM and CHIPS proposed funding. Mayor Warner noted that an additional \$500 million

the project that he would recommend if he got the money and he said he would recommend the pipe under the Thruway. The Mayor also talked to Mayor Seymour of Wampsville about providing sewer to the Village of Wampsville. Mayor Warner advises that Jim Cunningham believes that it is doable but it hinges on Queensboro because of how much of our plant it uses. The Mayor noted that if the Village, Town of Lenox, Madison County and the Village of Wampsville all applied for a grant, it would have a better chance of being awarded.

**Administrator.**

Administrator Farwell updated the Board on the Canal Group. They are going to the Rotary meeting to talk with the whole group - more to come on the plan for Rotary Park.

Administrator Farwell advised that she met with Lenox Highway Superintendent Tornatore, DPW Foreman Maxwell and Rick Myers at the Spencer Street Park to talk about the handicap accessible park - they have a standing meeting scheduled on Fridays to talk about what happens next. Administrator Farwell gave an update on what is happening now. DPW Foreman Maxwell added that Rick is taking a look at the original layout from the playground company and he will stake out the layout to get a better visual so we can see how the whole project will look at completion to include green space to make sure that it is what we want. He is also looking at the elevation changes that may be needed, adding that water runoff is a concern that they are looking at to avoid any problems with the neighbors' property.

Administrator Farwell is working with the school's design class to get a plan for the rest of the space to be laid out. There is a student that is going to go to school for parks layout. Administrator Farwell advised that there will be more with them and that the 4-6 grade students will be working with us, also.

Administrator Farwell advised the Board that we are still working on getting the sidewalks on North Peterboro Street done since last fall - the problem has been the seven (7) trees that need to come down because of they are damaging the sidewalk. Administrator Farwell noted that the quote was at almost \$10,000 for the trees to come down. She reached out to DOT to see if they can do the work - they cannot because of the involvement of the trees with the overhead wires. DOT will, however, be changing our pedestrian crossings on the north/south directions at our intersections on Peterboro Street. The DOT rep gave Administrator Farwell a contact for someone else and she reached out to him to see if there is any other funding. Trustee Watkins asked which trees we are talking about and Administrator Farwell advised that she will follow up with an email containing the pictures.

~~Administrator Farwell advised the Board that the DPW will be conducting~~

training that will occur annually at the DPW.

Administrator Farwell reminded the Board that Canal Cleanup is this weekend at 10:00 a.m. at the Canal Town Museum if anyone is available.

**Mayor.**

Mayor Warner talked about the trees that were planted in the downtown and the need for regular pruning - she asked Administrator Farwell to check on this to make sure that we don't get behind on this. The Mayor asked if we needed to do this or could it wait. The Mayor spoke with DPW Foreman Maxwell about if we have anything left in the budget this year, the Mayor would like to buy some paint for the bridge. DPW Foreman Maxwell thinks the DPW can do the work when they can get to it. The Mayor has an update on the parking lot issue and advised that we were working with State Parks on the parking lot over the canal when we hit a snag regarding the easement. The Mayor explained that the property was going to be conveyed to us, but they are not sure what they had to do. The Mayor forwarded this to a friend of hers who advised that the problem is that in order for the State to give us the property, we may need to convey property back to the State of the same size and value. Mayor Warner may need to work on the easement again for the handicap ramp - she reached out to Senator May's office to ask for help, but has not heard back from them yet.

**Trustee Comments.**

Trustee Gustin has nothing tonight.

Trustee Watkins has nothing further tonight.

Trustee McDade has nothing tonight.

Trustee Carpenter has nothing tonight.

Administrator Farwell advised the Board that on May 8 the police department is working with the sheriff's office on a bike rodeo. A flyer has gone to the schools for pre-K - 6 grade. The Board talked about who will be able to participate in the program. The Mayor thanked the police department for doing this.



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**Adjourn.**

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to adjourn at 9:04 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer