VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA

MINUTES

February 7, 2022

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

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Deputy Mayor Jeff Carpenter, Trustee Doug Gustin; Trustee Watkins; resident Joel Regis, and Bruce Burke PAC 99.

ABSENT: Bill McDade

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Carpenter to approve the minutes from the January 19, 2022 meeting. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Watkins to approve the following Budget Transfers: Move $25,000.00 from 51422.01 (Snow Capital) as follows: $23,076.67 to 97856.01 (Installment Debt), $1,923.33 to 97857.01 (Interest on Installment Debt); move $1,331.49 from 90108.01 (NYS Retirement) as follows: $34.79 to 11304.01 (Court Contractual), $715.00 to 14204.01 (Attorney), $581.70 to 90408.01 (Worker’s Comp); and move $63.90 from 90108.02 (NYS Retirement) to 90408.02 (Worker’s Comp). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Carpenter to approve the following Budget Modification: increase 97856.01 (Installment Debt) by $2,218.30. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Carpenter to approve the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of $178,642.17. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter and second by Trustee Watkins to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of $38,750.66. Passed 4 to 0.

**Public Comments**

Joel Regis stated that he was in the wrong meeting, was looking for Town Lenox meeting and then left.

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Carpenter to approve the request of the Canastota Volunteer Fire Company to hold their annual fish fry which will begin on March 4, 2022, and continue for seven weeks through the Lenten season. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin to approve the attached 2022 Annual Air Compressor Maintenance Agreement with Jerome Fire Equipment in the amount of $1,685.00 and to authorize the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins second by Trustee Carpenter to appoint Zachary Bitz as a full-time police officer effective on February 9, 2022, at Step 1 with an 18-month probation period. (Note: This is to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Andrew DeGirolamo.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin to approve the appointment of Jeremy Ryan as Village Administrator effective February 22, 2022, at an annual salary of $65,000.00. (Note: This is to fill vacancy created by the resignation of Jennifer Farwell.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Watkins approving a credit in the amount of $91.45 against the sewer charges on the 12/31/21, OCWA bill for property owned by Marilyn Jordan and located at 106 Barlow St, Canastota, New York. (Note: The reason for the excess water consumption was due to a leaking hot water tank that was fixed during this billing cycle.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin approving a credit in the amount of $92.51 against the sewer charges on the 12/31/21, OCWA bill for property owned by Howard Pickard and located at 303 S. Park St, Canastota, New York. (Note: The reason for the excess water consumption was due to a toilet leak that was fixed during this billing cycle.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter and second by Trustee Gustin approving a credit in the amount of $177.94 against the sewer charges on the 12/31/21, OCWA bill for property owned by Sami Marji and located at 446 E North Canal St, Canastota, New York. (Note: The reason for the excess water consumption was due to leaking pipe that lead to the water heater that was fixed during this billing cycle.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Carpenter to accept the resignation of MEO Joshua Holtham effective February 11, 2022. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin to accept the resignation of Mechanic William Briggs effective February 24, 2022. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Carpenter adopting the attached Resolution Ratifying General Municipal Law Section 207-c Procedure. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Carpenter approving the attached Memorandum of Agreement By and Between the Village of Canastota and the Canastota Police Benevolent Association, Inc., regarding the recently ratified General Municipal Law Section 207-c Procedure and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 4 to 0.

**Correspondence**

Tree request from Mary Pickard that was sent to DPW and letter from King & King regarding capital improvement project at Roberts Street School; this was sent to DPW and Codes.

**Administrator**

None

**Mayor**

Regarding the letter to Jeremy Ryan for the Administrator position, Cathi found one spelling error to be corrected and they also need to have a place for Jeremy to sign.

Marty and Annette Bargabus from Greystone Castle are having a craft fair June 2, 2022 to June 4th, 2022 and asked if they can have people park in the pool parking lot. Trustee Watkins asked when is Boxing Hall of Fame weekend and the Mayor stated it was the next weekend, she also stated that the pool is not open at that time. Board agreed it was ok.

Received request from fire department to remind people to please clean out around hydrants. Some fireman have already gone out and did several of them. They asked if we could reach out to the town to have its residents help with cleaning snow from around the hydrants. Trustee Carpenter stated maybe we can talk with school to see if any kid want to do it for their volunteer credits.

Mayor asked the thoughts of the Board if they reviewed the Traffic Study Proposal, stated it might be helpful when moving forward with grant for funds. Trustee Carpenter stated maybe it was a good place to start to help with future grants with Canal and Center Streets. Trustee Watkins stated it never works. Trustee Gustin was ok with the idea.

Mayor stated we received two resignations from DPW, she will reach out to the County to see if they need anything and we will get them pink sheets. Stated that we should get advertising as soon as possible.

There have been issues with parking on Center St. Both the employees from Smile Solutions and a resident park on the street and the Canastota School Bus was not able to get through. Mayor told the school that we would be discussing the issue tonight. Looking at posting no parking signs on south side of street. Sgt. Barton suggested allowing parking on North side of Center St. Trustee Watkins asked if this needed to go to the Codes Committee? Trustee Carpenter stated that it did not have to go to Codes. Mayor stated looking into doing local law.

There has also been some parking issues by South Side School. People will park on both North and South side of First Street and across driveways. High Street and Second Street are having issues with parking as well. Trustee Gustin stated that some of the people parking on the street are the construction workers. Mayor talked with School Board Member Bill Haddad who stated they would try and get some of the construction guys to park by playground. Mayor also talked with Nick Panuccio and Nick Campbell at the school and he stated that it was a Village issue. School wants village tax payers to remedy the school bus and parents parking issues. Trustee Carpenter stated that it was only a matter of time before a child gets hurt. Trustee Watkins stated we should put up no parking signs around the whole school. After a discussion Board agreed to put up no parking signs on North side of First and Second Street and also East side of High Street and look into doing a local law. Trustee Carpenter stated First and High Street should be the priority.

Mayor stated that they need to start thinking about budget workshops dates; she would like to review budgets and then meet with department heads. Trustee Carpenter stated do we want a special meeting to go over budgets on Wednesday March 2nd at 6 pm. Mayor stated she was thinking of having WWTP and DPW come in at 6 pm on March 7th prior to the regular meeting. Mayor stated Sgt Barton was working on PD budget, Judge Finocchiaro put in request for court, TJ Tornatore is working on Fire Department.

Mayor has reached out to Jim Cunningham from New Water Technologies regarding the Generator for the entire plant. Mayor also spoke with Mayor of Malone who also put in a UV System at their waste water treatment plant and that it already failed. He stated he couldn’t remember the unit name but is was not a Trojan unit. Trustee Carpenter asked if we are staying the UV System and Mayor stated we had to.

EDR wanted to do a survey for Rotary Park, Mayor told them that the Village would not be paying for that since we do not own the property.

Mayor explained that the Constellation energy bill almost tripled since we went off contract. She asked Deputy Clerk/Treasure Galavotti to contact National Grid to see what they would charge us if we did not go through Constellation. Mayor received rates and the Contract could be extended till 2026. Mayor has been asking Constellation for a contract for 2 months.

Trail town reached out to the Village to see if we were interested in putting a map for location to stop at; where to stay overnight, where there is to eat and such. Trustee Gustin first stated it was not worth doing, then after reviewing more stated maybe we could email them back for more information. Trustee Watkins asked if we could get more information, may help with tourism.

Mayor stated that a request from 1971 Alumni came in; they are having a reunion and are looking for maps on where people from out of town can stay and eat. Mayor stated to contact Chamber of Commerce. Trustee Gustin stated there are 3 classes having reunion this year due to Covid. Trustee Watkins stated we need information like the maps to bring in more tourism, especially since we are right off the Thruway. Alumni would like to make June 25th Alumni Day a proclamation. Trustee Gustin stated he didn’t think that would work since the reunions were always the 4th Saturday of June and the date will change every year.

Clerk Treasure Williams asked that we reach out to Bonadio Group and Largerge same price for the ARPA money. Clerk Treasurer Williams stated not worth the price they don’t do reporting they just give you guidance.

Dutchland has been acquired by Tank Holding, attorney Langey is looking at the agreement to see if it will carry over to the new company. They still owe the Village $28,000 for the next 3 years. Village can use that money any way they want. Langey is waiting for their attorney to call him back.

Received call about someone having interest in purchasing property in industrial park. Mayor reached out to Joel Arsenault to have something put on paper and can then be reviewed by the Board. Village normally sells property at $12,500 per acre.

Solar array project on Main Street, had conversation with Attorney John Langey, he gave the Mayor a list of questions for property owner. She will call the owner this week to go over questions and then speak with Langey again.

David Thomas from Petro Gas is reconstructing a service station on the Thruway which is slated to open in May. Would like to work with Village on a Job Fair. Wanted to know if there were other businesses that might want to be a part of it. Trustee Carpenter stated that DOL is doing some virtually and recycled the information every month. Mayor stated that maybe new Administrator can help with that.

Since Judge Finocchiro is running for the Village Judge position we need to find a new Associate Judge. Mayor asked the Board if they were ok with reaching out to Judge Sudol again. Board agreed that that would be fine.

Mayor received an email on Village website from a person who would like to do murals in the village. We will need to have someone reach out to him, could have more on canal bridge. Stated we need to have the new Administrator check this email on a regular basis.

Mayor spoke about the James Street sidewalk, she stated the Code Officer Adsit sent letters to the residents about decommissioning the sidewalk, all but agreed to abandon sidewalk except two but we believe one of those has sold their house. Reaching out to Village Attorney Langey about the process to decommission sidewalk.

Mayor stated that there is a vacancy on the Planning Board, Steve DiVeronica stated he had due step down due to his work schedule. Mayor asked Trustee if they knew of anyone that may want to be on the Board.

Boat launch grant was discussed, Madison County Planning offer to assist with grant application. Village’s recreation department may be having a paddle event but has to get permission from State. Grant could bring $500-$2500 for event and possibly $5,000-$24,000 for a boat launch. County would assist with writing the grant.

Mayor stated we were having trouble with toilet in ladies room and in the utility closet every couple of months. Might need to reach out to drain masters. Trustee Watkins asked if the DPW looked with a camera? Mayor asked Deputy Clerk Treasurer Galavotti to reach out to DPW foreman to look into the issue.

Mayor asked each Board members to fill out the USDA compliance review questionnaire and get it back to her.

Received notification from Homeland Security that former Administrator Farwell was still listed with them. She has been taking off all the list and the Mayor put her name down for now.

Sidewalk plow is down, waiting for parts to get it fixed. Mayor had received several complaints about sidewalks not being plowed. The school helped clean Roberts Street. Trustee Watkins stated that the plow does not fit right on bigger CAT, to wide for the sidewalks. Mayor apologized to all the residents that called about the sidewalks and that we would try to do better. Hopefully have if fixed and out in a couple days. Trustee Watkins stated why don’t we put a message out asking the residents to clean their sidewalks, it is a courtesy that the village does them when they can. Trustee Gustin also stated that if sidewalk isn’t cleaned up to your door then mail will not be delivered, maybe put reminder on Facebook. Trustee Watkins would like to see us get into a routine of having the sidewalks completed. Mayor stated more people than not don’t clean them, that’s why the village started doing the main route. Other municipalities do the sidewalks, if we pay to replace half of them why can’t we plow them.

Madison County has a mitigation plan, they will start doing some meetings on that, went down and had a preliminary meeting with Frank.

Mayor stated she still has not received contract from Darly Company, she did reach out to them last week and asked for a fully executed copy. As soon as Peter Darly is back in the office he will get that signed and back to us.

UV Engineering for treatment plant is moving forward. DEC is letting us move forward and Tim O’Hara is working on the generator issue. Problem is it could take up to 18 months to get a generator.

We have received several compliments on our officers in the past couple of weeks with incidents handled by Officers Pannell, Forney, Barton or Correnti. Oneida Nation sent out a letter on how well our officers handle an incident down at the Save On station.

**Trustee Comments**

Trustee Carpenter – no issues, stated will not be at meeting on 23rd

Trustee Gustin – none

Trustee Watkins - none

Motion Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin to adjourn meeting at 8:16 pm. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Galavotti

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer