VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA

MINUTES

February 22,2023

Mayor Warner called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Administrator Jeremy Ryan, Trustee Lori Torrey, Trustee Bill Haddad; Trustee Jeffrey Watkins; Deputy Mayor Doug Gustin, Town Councilman Thomas Bush, Code Officer Mike Adsit, Chief Sean Barton, Historian David Sadler, Foreman Douglas Holdridge, Captain Markus Labarbera, and Bruce Burke from PAC 99.

ABSENT: Clerk/Treasurer Cathi Williams

Motion by Trustee Haddad to move item #13: Bid opening for the municipal building custodial services contract to the front of the meeting. Second by Trustee Watkins. Passed 5 to 0

Bid openings for custodial contracts: DJ’s Cleaning Services, deposit and insurance included for $1,400.00 monthly; Boo’s Cleaning, deposit and insurance included $2,091.66 per month; ServiceMaster, deposit and insurance included $3,950.00 per month; Cuse Cleaning, deposit and insurance included $3,366.67 per month.

Jeremy reported that the current contract ends on February 28th. The next board meeting is in 10 days. Trustees would like to review the complete bids prior to making a decision to be sure the bids compare the same way. Trustee Haddad asked that the bid be out in December 2024 for the next contract to be sure there is enough time to review the bid. Joe Stagnitti, the current custodian, agreed to extend his agreement until the March 6th board meeting when the decision will be made.

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Watkins to approve minutes for 9/7/22, 9/19/22, 12/5/22, 12/19/22 Board of Trustees meetings. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Torrey to approve the following budget transfer: move $199.93 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 11304.01 (Court Contractual); move $5,595.00 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 14204.01 (Village Attorney). Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Gustin and second by Trustee Haddad to approve to authorize the interfund transfer of $21,336.04 from the BAN proceeds held in the capital projects fund to the sewer fund for reimbursement of the engineering expenses paid from Account No. 81304.02.52 (WWTP Engineering) for the UV project. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Torrey and second by Trustee Watkins authorizing the interfund transfer of $21,336.04 from the BAN proceeds held in the Capital Projects fund to the sewer fund for reimbursement of engineering expenses paid from Account NO. 81304.02.52 (WWTP Engineering) for the UV project. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Haddad and second by Trustee Gustin approving the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of $64,805.37. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Torrey to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of $29,275.56. Passed 5 to 0.

**Public Comments**

Greater Lenox Ambulance Service members Mike Bischoff and Simon Sumner spoke before the board. $30,000 deficit last year and needs additional funding moving forward. Acknowledged the funds that already came from the village and town. Payroll overtime is hurting them and they are in a wage race with other EMS agencies. Also had to increase their hours from 20 to 24 hour pay. Increased payroll taxes and everything else, revenue has not increased over that same time period. Insurances pay patients and that is totaling $90.00. they hired a collection attorney to assist in getting money back on these unpaid claims. It is helping but not enough to keep them afloat. Cannot balance bill as part of New York State law. Board of Directors met a few months ago and agreed to ask Lincoln, Lenox, Canastota and Wampsville to establish a taxing district. Other communities are already doing that. Estimate that they have enough funds in their accounts to make it about 3 years before they go bankrupt. Would ask the villages to pass a resolution to establish the district. Town & county tax is where the district tax would show up. Jeff asked why they are coming to the village if it is a town tax. Mike explained that the villages have to approve the tax as well as the towns. Fund raiser letter was presented to the village board for review. He estimated $.49/thousand to each taxpayer in the municipalities. Jeff noted that the town fire tax is $.53/thousand. Mike said he was not a fan of the additional tax but noted that it needs to be done. Bill asked what would happen if the village of Wampsville said not. Mike stated that it would fail. Jeff noted that the county is establishing a countywide Ems district. It was noted that the county is not establishing a taxing district but is instead proposing to use general funds to assist Ems agencies in the county. Jessica looked into the contracting rates of the insurance companies and it would negatively impact their revenue even more. Mike stated that payroll is reviewed to be sure they are in line with other agencies in the area and they are in line. Bill stated that he was surprised after doing review that Ems employees are very poorly paid. Noted that this was a large discussion at the recent NYCOM legislative meetings. Fundraiser copy provided to the board and will be mailed out to the residents in the district. Mike stated that Lincoln is slated to review the proposal for adoption first.

**Department Heads**

Codes – Report in packet. No questions. Coes Officer Mike Adsit stated that he was out doing violation notices. Stated that Hyland Partners did come in to get a permit for the roof.

DPW – Report in packet. No questions. Board thanked DPW for hard work. Foreman Doug Holdridge stated that new MEO Edward Smith started and is working out great. He brings a lot of knowledge. Mechanic Jack Niles has a CDL road test scheduled for March 1st at 9:15 am. Doug expects that he will do well on the test. Headworks has been taking a lot of their time. Found 2 more floats that were broken. Engineer Tim O’Hara has been there a lot lately and they had electrician come in to check electrical system. Made repairs, floats still do not work. Tim called AquaLogics, who installed the original system to come in and trouble shoot the problems.

Fire Department – Firefighter Markus LaBarbara attended in place of the fire chiefs. No questions on the new Darley truck. Markus stated that Darley was great to work with. He also reported that the tires are being replaced at no extra cost. It was noted that Zack will be installing 2 aluminum rims and there may be a charge for balancing the tires once they are mounted. Radio purchased by fire company and was overnighted to Darley already. Markus stated that Chief Chaffee already spoke with the county to make sure the county radio would be programmed correctly. Markus said as soon as the truck is delivered it will be taken care of. Lights are being installed at the fire house. More rebates were identified so a new contract was sent over. Markus asked about additional lights being added for holiday purposes and to acknowledge deaths in the department.

Historian – David Sadler received an email that the Old Phoebe plaque was shipped. Dave stated that it was received at the DPW. Great fire application was approved $1440. That check should be here this week. Genealogy request by Amy-Jo Watkins. 213 James Street is also being researched. Discussion about the small village-owned building near McDonald’s, and Dave agreed to curate the building. He noted that it could be the smallest museum in the world and quite possibly the smallest park. Dave asked to get the square footage of the building and surrounding property.

Police Department – Chief Sean Barton’s report is in the packet. $20,000 grant for body cams. Has meeting with Axon next week to obtain some numbers. Also includes tazer quotes. Sean noted that he has money in his budget for some of the tazers. He will have numbers at the next meeting. Policy and hiring standards change made by state. He developed the policies and they were approved by the state. Bill asked if there were other policies that he is working on. Sean noted that the state is going through all of the agencies in the state. He stated that he has about 2 more months to complete the remainder of the administrative policies. The mayor asked that the administrative policies be reviewed and approved by the village. Bill asked for clarification on the compliance of the department. Sean stated that the village is compliant with the standards of the state at this time and they will be near accredited standards.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Gustin to allow Darley to show the new fire truck at the FDIC show in Indianapolis in April 2023. Passed 5 to 0.

Trustee Haddad asked where we are with the liquidated damages and wanted to know about the $100/day. It was noted that the late fee does not impact FEMA and they do not collect that money. It is a fee assessed by the village. This fee will not make a difference in the date of delivery. Rosanne stated that the grant process does not conclude until the summer so there would be no effect on the grant process. It was noted that the truck will be delivered after the show. Bill wanted to make sure that the village would not be in jeopardy for not being here on time. Bill also asked if Darley paid for their rooms to go inspect the truck. Markus stated that the airfare and rooms were paid for by the company. The email that was noted by Chief Barker was for rooms and tickets to the FDIC show.

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Torrey approving the attached customer service agreement with Unifirst for rug and rags at the DPW and authorizing the mayor to execute the same. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Haddad approving a credit in the amount of $79.63 against the sewer charges on the December 31 ,2022 OCWA bill for the property owned by James Rapasadi and located at 115 E Chapel Street, Canastota. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Haddad and second by Trustee Torrey to accept resignation of Janet Pynn from her position as DPW Laborer as of April 25, 2023 and authorization for the mayor to execute the settlement agreement and release. Passed 4 to 1 with Trustee Watkins dissenting.

No motion placed in regards to the increase of the annual salary for the Recreation Leader to $7000.00

Motion by Trustee Watkins and second by Trustee Haddad to approve an ACH payment to USDA Rural Development on December 20, 2022 in the amount of $7,290.00 from the sewer fund account 97107.02 for the payment of interest owed on the 2003 interceptor project. Passed 5 to 0

Motion by Trustee Haddad and second by Trustee Gustin adopting the attached resolution authorizing the execution of a termination and release of restrictive covenants relative to a warranty deed with lien covenant between the Village of Canastota and Mahoney’s Properties, LLC dated July 21,2008 and recorded in Madison County Clerks Office on July 24, 2008, in the book of deeds 1447 at page 326. Roll Call Vote: Mayor Warner – Aye; Trustee Gustin – Aye; Trustee Watkins – Aye; Trustee Haddad – Aye; Trustee Torrey – Aye. Passed 5 to 0.

Trustee Watkins asked if this is the beginning of the finalization of the sale. Mayor Warner explained that this was to remove all restrictions and covenants placed on the property by the planning board back in 2008.

**Mayor’s Comments**

Canal Tourism grant written by Marilyn Higgins. Grant application is $24,000 with a match of $10,000. Bill felt this was not the right time to apply for this grant. Too short of a timeline, where to be placed, and there is no budget for this. It was noted that Dutchland funds could be used. There were concerns about the items being damaged. It was noted that it was a tight timeframe and this could be applied for next time. Mr. Watkins asked for a breakdown for the Dutchland fund proposal for the next meeting.

**Administrator’s Comments**

From Administrator Ryan:

Doug Holdridge and I are working on revising the list of streets to be paved this year. I sent you all an email with the preliminary list from Dolemite, as well as our thoughts on other streets that are in need. We should be able to finalize the list within the next couple of weeks.

As mentioned last week, the Main Street bridge over the Thruway will be closed for replacement from early April to mid-November. I posted information, including a detour map, on the village website.

Mayor Warner, Clerk/Treasurer Williams and I plan to meet with the various department heads over the next couple of weeks to start to refine plans for next year’s budget. First up is the DPW on Friday. The other meetings will take place after Cathi returns from vacation.

I have received three estimates to replace the roof of the former OCWA building on Deppoliti Ave. They range from $34,000 to $55,000 The plan is to replace the current flat rubber roof with a pitched metal corrugated roof, which should last for approximately 40 years.

The culvert for the Pleasant Street project has been ordered. Once it arrives, we’ll be able to schedule a date for work to take place. It will likely be late summer.

I would like to post the job listings for seasonal summer lifeguards and DPW laborers. The pay rate for both basic lifeguard and laborer was $13.75 per hour last year. Minimum wage in update New York is now $14.20. Is the board comfortable with that rate, or would you like to go higher? Discussion: Bill stated that Governor Hochul is proposing $20 an hour for lifeguards last June. Jeremy noted that there was money left in the recreation budget last year because we were unable to hire enough lifeguards last year. Lori asked if we would find staff at $15/hour? Mayor Warner stated that she had polled the mayors last year and found that we were low as compared to our neighboring municipalities. She also noted that the kids like Marge and come to work for her, not so much the money. Salaries set at $15/hour for lifeguard, $15.50 for instructors, $15 for DPW summer help.

**Trustees’ Comments**

Deputy Mayor Gustin – Recreation Leader pay: Doug noted that the village cannot afford what was asked for by other candidates in the past. He did not feel there were issues with making incremental increases over time but not all at once. Jeff stated that he could not justify a 55% increase in once year. Jeremy stated that he felt that the recreation leader has a huge job and it is difficult to quantify entertainment value. He stated that the individual who resigned stated that if there was more money involved, she would return. Bill stated that the discussion was not about a person but about money. Jeremy stated that he posted the position in multiple places and there were no qualified candidates. Doug stated that the salary needs to be increased over time but to find a qualified person he expects that it needs to be increased. Jeremy stated that there have been hiccups in programming in the last 2 months. Jeremy stated that the Town of Lenox has stated that they will assist in the salary increase. Jeff was concerned about the demands for more money and felt it would not stop. Bill asked about the posting verbiage. Mayor noted that the $7,000 ask for this position is not a lot to ask but further noted that it was not much less than the position of Mayor is paid. She suggested that duties for the recreation commission be included in the deputy clerk’s duties. Bill would like the job description to be reviewed and rewritten.

Trustee Watkins – No comments.

Trustee Haddad – In the wake of the train derailment in Ohio, spoke with Chief Chaffee about the trains running through the village. News reports coming out do not require the train companies to notify the municipalities of what is carried on the trains. Mayor Warner explained about the notification process and what the railroads have to tell us and what they don’t. She reported that she requested the emergency services to do a tabletop exercise on the train. John Pinard reported to the county did an exercise in 2018 and the county felt it could be reviewed again and put in place. All of the trustees would like to participate in the tabletop exercise.

Trustee Torrey – No comments.

Budget Meeting discussion: Mayor would like to try to get this process done via email and regularly scheduled meetings. Jeff suggested that on regular meetings days we begin at 6pm. March 6th, March 20th. April 3rd is proposed to be the public hearing. Adoption proposed on April 20th.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to adjourn meeting at 10:00 p.m. Passed 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosanne Warner  
Mayor

Jeremy Ryan  
Administrator