

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
March 17, 2025

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

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Deputy Mayor Doug Gustin; Trustees Bill Haddad, Lori Torrey, and Jeff Watkins; Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Police Chief Sean Barton; 2nd Assistant Fire Chief Markus Labarbera; Code Enforcement Officer Mike Adsit; DPW Foreman Doug Holdridge; Village Historian David Sadler; Dan Cunningham of CWT; Recreation Leader Cherie Bealer; Mark Taylor; Steve Miller and Eric Stone of Canastota Dairy; Frank Ilaqua; and Meghan Coe-Samsel.

ABSENT: None.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the following budget modification: Increase 51422.01 (Snow Capital) by \$22,825.69; increase 2680.01 (Insurance Recoveries) by \$22,825.89 (Note: this is for the CV repair and insurance recovery); increase 31202.01 (Police Capital) by \$106,014.00; increase 3390.01 (State Aid DCJS Letech Grant) by \$106,014.00. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the following loans from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund: \$14,150.00 for the LWRP II project for engineering expenses; and \$26,160.67 for the FEMA Air Pack project. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve payment of the following abstracts:

- a. General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$108,574.85;
- b. Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$31,612.00;
- c. Capital Fund Abstract in the amount of \$40,310.67.

Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the following payments to AccuData from General Fund Account No. 16204.01.155 (Payroll Service): \$156.45 for payroll dated 3/6/25; \$150.90 for payroll dated 3/13/2025. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving payments totaling \$3,061.41 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from February 1, 2025 - February 28, 2025. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached minutes of the February 26, 2025; March 3, 2025 and March 5, 2025 meetings. Passed 5 to 0.

Public Comments.

None.

Department Head Comments.

2nd Assistant Fire Chief Markus Labarbera asked the Board about the change orders regarding the fire truck. The Mayor noted that it is later in the agenda. Chief Labarbera noted that the fire department had a lot of calls yesterday. The Mayor thanked the fire department for the good job they did on the change orders for the truck.

Dan Cunningham went over his report with the Board. He advised that the DEC inspection was on March 5 at the treatment plant and the headworks - it went very well. Dan reported that we had a CSO on March 5 - March 6, 2025, and he reviewed some work that has been done at the plant and headworks. The Mayor talked with Dan about the flows over the past year. Trustee Watkins asked about how the plant is handling things now. Dan indicated that it is going well now. He hopes that was the last CSO. Trustee Haddad asked about the DEC inspection report. Dan noted that it will take a little while. Trustee Haddad would like to see it. Mayor Warner would like to meet with Dan when Tim O'Hara has the Post Construction Compliance Monitoring Report ready.

Chief Barton asked the Board if they have his numbers. He noted that it has been a busy month.

DPW Foreman Holdridge reviewed his report. He talked about some of the things that the DPW found when cleaning up Mill Street. He is having trouble finding a place to bring the solar panel that they found. He talked about what he has done to find someplace to dispose of it and what he found. Doug advised that they had the bench for Jim Caldwell powder coated and it looks great. Doug talked about the work that the County did on the bridge on Canal Street and what they will be doing to fix the sidewalk. Trustee Watkins asked who is responsible. The Mayor noted that the County put the concrete in there. The Board discussed with Foreman Holdridge the Village's involvement in the repairs. Doug has been looking at roads for the paving project - Delano from Route 5 to Second Street and from First Street to Galavotti Place; Prospect from East Hickory to Route 5 and Clark from Roberts to Canal. Doug noted that this will take all of the CHIPS money.

Code Enforcement Officer Adsit asked the Board if they got his report. He will be out doing property checks and inspections now that spring is here. He wrote 4 violations on properties today. He "thanked his Facebook friends" and noted that he is out every day.

Historian Sadler has two historical markers approved - one for the Village for the 200th celebration of the Canal and the other for the Town of Lincoln for the 190th anniversary of the abolition walk. He advised that we should receive the check this week from the Pomeroy Foundation. The Mayor

asked about the location of the marker. David noted that the GPS was established before the grant application was submitted - it is where he and the Mayor discussed.

Department Head comments were postponed for the 7:15 public hearing.

Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant Planning Application of Canastota Dairy - 7:15 p.m.

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. The Mayor reviewed the history of the Block Grant with Canastota Dairy. She advised that we held a public hearing in July of 2024, but it has been too long so it needed to be done again. Steve Miller of Canastota Dairy advised the Board that the purpose of the grant is to add equipment and jobs. The Mayor asked if it will create more production and more sewer flow. Mr. Miller explained how it will affect the flows. Eric Stone of Canastota Dairy talked about a process that they will be putting in that will help control the pH. Trustee Watkins asked about the smell. Mr. Miller talked about the problem that they had with the chemical company and the problems they had. The Mayor introduced Eric Stone to Dan Cunningham, the owner of Clean Water Technology and operators of our treatment plant. Mayor Warner advised that she asked about the flows because the flows are down and the revenues from Canastota Dairy are down. The Mayor asked three (3) times if there were anyone in attendance who had questions about the application or wished to speak. Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to close the public hearing at 7:19 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Resumption of Department Head Comments.

Recreation Leader Cherie Bealer noted that the Paint and Sip is this Saturday and close to 20 participants and close to 50 vendors for the Craft Fair in April. She is working on Canastota. They are looking at going back through the centuries for every day of the 4-day celebration. Cherie talked about some of the preliminary plans. They are also planning pop-up events that will be going on throughout the Village. The Mayor talked about the 60 recreational events that we held last year and advised that they were included in the Comprehensive Plan.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached Fire Contract with the Town of Lenox and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the attached Recreation Contract with the Town of Lenox and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Gustin, adopting the attached Resolution for Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination and Corridor Management

Plan Adoption. **Discussion:** The Mayor advised that it is planned for Route 5 through most of the state. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the request of the IBHOF Parade Co-Chairs to use the Fireman's Pole Barn for parade lineup on June 7 and 8, 2025. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if the request was sent to the Fire Department. The Mayor noted that they only uses the field and not the barn. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving Jason T. Evans as a member of the Canastota Fire Department based on the attached request from Council Secretary Matt Freund. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Warner, seconded by Trustee Torrey, authorizing Mayor Warner and Administrator Ryan to attend the NYCOM Annual Meeting on May 28 - 30, 2025, at a cost of \$525.00 per person for conference registration (including meals) and \$856.00 per person for hotel rooms. **Discussion:** The Mayor noted that it is being held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after Memorial Day this year. The Board talked about the cost. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, appointing James Reed and Alan Mittelstaedt to the position of Seasonal Laborer beginning May 1, 2025, at the budgeted rate of \$16.00/hr. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the attached Change Order from Spartan ERV dated March 10, 2025, resulting in a savings of \$22,608.00 in the cost of Truck #225013-01 and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if there could be any more savings. He asked Chief Labarbera why we didn't find these savings in the original spec. Chief Labarbera explained why they were able to make some of the changes resulting in savings. Trustee Watkins asked if there would be any other change orders. Chief Labarbera doesn't think so. Passed 5 to 0.

Public Hearing to consider the proposed local law entitled, "A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-c for the 2025-2026 fiscal year." - 7:30 p.m.

The Mayor read the Notice of Public Hearing and asked three (3) times if anyone wanted to speak for or against the local law to exceed the tax cap. Eric Stone asked if it was for business and residential. The Mayor explained why we are enacting this law, noting that we do it just in case we go over the cap. There were no others in attendance that wished to speak. Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to close the public hearing at 7:31 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to adopt the attached Local Law 1-2025 entitled "A local law authorizing a property tax levy in excess of the limit established in General Municipal Law section 3-c for the 2025-2026 fiscal year." Roll vote: Mayor Warner - Aye; Trustee Gustin - Aye; Trustee Watkins - Aye; Trustee Haddad - Aye; Trustee Torrey - Aye. Passed 5 to 0.

Correspondence.

- We received 30-days notices of intent to apply for a liquor license for Lauro's on Route 5 and Low Bridge Station on Canal Street. The Mayor congratulated Justin Pratt on his purchase of the old 1854 Tavern on Canal Street.
- We received a letter from the Pomeroy Foundation regarding the historical marker grant.

Administrator Comments.

Administrator Ryan reported that he, DPW Foreman Holdridge and Recreation Leader Bealer met with AYSO regarding field space. They will be using some of the space on East Grago Blvd. This should help because Peterboro Street School fields are not available. The Mayor asked how flat that area is. Administrator Ryan discussed how the land looked.

Administrator Ryan reported that the Ford F-550 and CV 515 are both back in service.

The Beautification Committee is planning a marker clean up on April 25 with Historian Sadler. The Mayor asked about the paint for the markers. Administrator Ryan noted that we know what color it is and we can get it. The Mayor would like Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Farr to get the paint. Administrator Ryan advised that we are getting cleaning supplies for the marker cleanup project.

Administrator Ryan is working on a smoke and carbon monoxide detection system. He applied for a grant from PERMA and he will let us know how that does. The cost of the detection system is \$15,000 to be split with the Town of Lenox. The grant is for \$5,000. Trustee Haddad asked where this has been and why could it not have been done with the renovations.

National Grid reached out today regarding street lights out on on Peterboro Street. They want to replace all of our lights with LEDs so they are all the same. There will be no up front cost to the Village. The electric cost should go down. Trustee Haddad asked if it will be the same in all of the residential neighborhoods. The Board talked about the reporting process for street lights that are out. Trustee Haddad just wants to make sure that Peterboro Street is lit. Fire Chief Labarbera noted that the color will be different with the LEDs. Chief Barton talked about the problem with how bright the lights are. Chief Labarbera suggested that we make sure that National Grid keeps the plugs on the poles working. The Board talked about what was going to be done and talked about other projects that could be done. Mayor Warner advised that on West Park Street between South Park

and State Street there is a light that never shuts off which was reported to her by a resident on the street.

Mayor's Comments.

The Mayor talked about the Thruway pass - we need to address our credit card policy at the next meeting.

Mayor Warner asked about the Employee Handbook. Trustees Haddad and Torrey thought that we had sent it to the attorney. The Mayor asked what was decided about insurance for elected officials. Trustee Haddad stated that it is done. The Mayor will send the revisions to the attorney.

Mayor Warner advised the Board that Officer Gregory received a letter for a great job assisting a resident in a delicate situation.

The Mayor had to send the truck contract back for a signature.

Mayor Warner asked about the truck fund - we talked about asking the Town of Lenox for more money to help with payment on the new truck. Trustee Gustin advised that the Town is waiting for us to come up with an amount. Trustee Torrey remembers that the Mayor told them that we will not give them a number, that they need to come up with something. The Mayor talked about her discussions with Supervisor Pinard and the Board talked about an amount. They will tell the Town that we want \$45,000.00. Trustee Watkins would like to see this reflected in the Fire Contract. The Mayor asked the Town if they will put it into the Fire Contract. She reviewed her discussions with Supervisor Pinard. Trustee Watkins and the Mayor discussed the possibility of a fire district. Trustee Haddad asked if the Town would be willing to pay something up front on the truck purchase. Mayor Warner advised that the Town has \$20,000 that they will put into reserves and hold themselves to give us when the truck is delivered. Trustee Haddad would like the Town to come up with \$200,000 like we are coming up with \$200,000 and then \$45,000 annually. Trustee Gustin would like to have a joint meeting with the Town. The Mayor believes that we should talk about sewers, too.

Trustees Comments.

Trustees Gustin, Watkins, Haddad and Torrey and all set tonight.

Frank Ilaqua stated that he got a phone call from CEO Adsit yesterday regarding debris that is blowing in the Canal. The Mayor noted that there was a lot of talk on Facebook regarding the debris that is blowing into the Canal and talked about someone calling the DEC about the problems with Mr. Ilaqua's property. Mr. Ilaqua advised that he will get it done and the property will look

beautiful. He also advised that the people that he had to help him are gone now because of the time that it took to do the asbestos survey. He stated that it has also been cold and people don't want to work in the cold. Trustee Watkins asked for the timetable for completion. Mr. Ilaqua said it should be only a few weeks. He also asked if we knew anyone that could do the work. The Mayor thanked Mr. Ilaqua. She asked him to keep CEO Adsit up-to-date and she noted that the zone change has gone to the lawyer, but she will not bring that to the Board until the property gets cleaned up. The Mayor discussed with Mr. Ilaqua the timetable and the asbestos survey and why he had to leave the debris and garbage on the ground. Trustee Haddad added that after 30 days, he is going to ask the CEO to move forward with what has to be done.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the meeting on Thursday at 5:15 to deliver the budget.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer