

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
April 1, 2024

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 Jeff Watkins, Bill Haddad and Lori Torrey; Richard Smith, Ron Vaccaro, Dustin Murdie, Sarah Murdie, Kerry Brown, Brian Manning, Terry Horst, Mark Taylor, G.A. Sayre, Debra Golden, Meg Congden, Patty Vaccaro, Tom Congden, Thomas Ralston, Marilyn Higgins and Marion Cerio; and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the following budget transfer: move \$1,838.20 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 14204.01 (Attorney). Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve a loan from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$2,375.00 for engineering expenses incurred in the LWRP I project. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$113,484.60. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$40,758.70. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the attached Capital Fund Abstract in the amount of \$2,375.00. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to appoint John Langey, Esq. as the Village Attorney. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to appoint D'Arcangelo & Co., LLP as the Village Auditors. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to appoint the following:

Catherine E. Williams	1 Year Records Officer
Catherine E. Williams	1 Year Receiver of Taxes
Catherine E. Williams	2 Years Clerk/Treasurer
Caitlin Farr	2 Years Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
Christine Sudol	1 Year Associate Village Justice
David Sadler	1 Year Village Historian
Robert Napoli	1 Year Fair Housing Officer
Robert Duffy	5 Years Planning Board

Colleen Keane
Sena Clarke
Stephen White

5 Years Zoning Board of Appeals
3 Years Housing Authority
6 Years Recreation Board

Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to appoint the Oneida Daily Dispatch as the official newspaper. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to hold regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of each month at 7:00 p.m., except as follows: Monday, September 2, 2024, to Wednesday, September 4, 2024; Monday, January 20, 2025, to Wednesday, January 22, 2025; Monday, February 17, 2025, to Wednesday, February 19, 2025. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to set Village office hours as 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, except holidays; window hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to set next Organizational Meeting for April 7, 2025. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to authorize the Mayor as the appointing officer for all budgeted and authorized positions. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to adopt the attached Depository Resolution naming Community Bank as the official depository of the Village. Passed 4 to 0. Trustee Torrey abstaining.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to adopt the attached Audit Resolution. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to adopt the attached Mileage Resolution. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to adopt the attached Training Resolution. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to set the daily per diem rate at \$50.00 for meal reimbursement for all Village employees and volunteers who are traveling for Board-approved purposes. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to authorize Clerk/Treasurer Catherine E. Williams, Mayor Rosanne Warner and Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan, as signatories on all Village accounts. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve a request from the Recreation Commission to change the time of their meetings from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the following request from the Recreation Commission: Memorial Day 5K - Saturday, May 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the Lenox Rail Trail. Recreation will be partnering with the American Legion and VFW. Expenses not to exceed \$350 from Program Development. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if this is in their budget. The Mayor confirmed that it was. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the following request from the Recreation Commission: Extend Chalk the Walk to the week of June 24, 2024 - June 28, 2024. (Note: original request was for this to be a one-day event.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached Recreation Contract from the Town of Lenox for 2024 in the amount of \$45,000.00 and to authorize the Mayor to execute the same. (Note: this is an amendment since the March 18, 2024, meeting.) Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached request from Chief Barton to close the northbound lane of North and South Main Streets from Hickory Street north to the Thruway bridge on April 27, 2024, from 8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m. for the Little League Parade and Hickory Street from South Peterboro Street to South Main Street from 8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. for parade lineup. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to accept the attached resignation of Maddison P. Appel from her position as a part-time police officer effective March 30, 2024. **Discussion:** The Mayor noted that this is a big loss for us. She has been hired full time at North Syracuse. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve a wire transfer sent to Chase Bank from the General Fund Account No. 97106.01 (Debt Service) in the amount of \$30,000.00 and General Fund Account No. 97107.01 (Interest on Debt Service) in the amount of \$787.50, for principal and interest due on the Bruno Road Infrastructure Bond. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to schedule a public hearing on the Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be held on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 7:15 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to accept the attached resignation of Emily Sorbello from the Recreation Commission effective April 30, 2024. **Discussion:** The Mayor wanted to thank Emily for her years on the Rec Board. She will still be with us on a couple of other boards. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached Youth Program Worksite Agreement between the Village and the Madison County Department of Planning and Workforce Development for one part-time laborer to work with the Village Department of Public Works for 195 total hours beginning April 8, 2024, and continuing for 8 hours daily Monday through Thursday until the 195 hours is complete, and to authorize the Mayor to execute the same. (Note: the laborer will be paid a rate of \$15.00/hour directly by Madison County.) **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if this is only a six-week program. The Mayor noted that it is the same as last year. Trustee Watkins asked if we could extend his employment at the end. The Board talked about the summer hiring process. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the attached Electricity Supply Agreement with Constellation Energy Resources, LLC, for the purchase of electricity for the period April 18, 2024 - October 27, 2026, at the retail service price of \$0.07243/kWh and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. **Discussion:** The Mayor thanked Trustee Haddad for working with Constellation on this. Passed 5 to 0.

7:15 p.m. Public Hearing on Local Law No. B of 2024, “A Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the Village of Canastota to Change the Zoning Designation of Certain Property Zoned Industrial Park Development District B to Commercial District.”

Mayor Warner opened the public hearing at 7:15 p.m. and read the Notice of Public Hearing aloud. Mayor Warner asked if anyone wanted to speak for or against the proposed local law. The Mayor asked if anyone would like to see what Wanderer’s Rest is proposing on this site.

Richard Smith would like to see exactly what lot is being changed. The Mayor reviewed the history of the sale of the lot to former owner Utica School of Commerce. The Wanderer’s Rest Engineer, Brian Manning, showed plans for the lot and explained their intentions. The location of the property and its proximity to the residences on Port Street was discussed. Ron Vaccaro is concerned about the noise. Mr. Manning will send a .pdf of the drawings. Deb Golden spoke against the project and is concerned about the noise. Mr. Manning reviewed the proposed buffer and set backs. Trustee Watkins asked what would happen if a company came in there and had machinery running all night. Mr. Mannion noted that the building would be made sound proof and noted that they have not decided yet where the walking path will go. He continued to review the project. Mr. Vaccaro asked if it would be sound proof. Mr. Manning noted that it will be as sound proof as possible. Megan Congden spoke about the project - she asked how many animals the facility will be able to hold.

Sarah Murdie advised that it will not be more than their current facility. Mrs. Congden recognizes the need for more room for Wanderer's Rest. She is concerned about the impact on home values. She is concerned about what would happen if the dogs got loose. She is concerned about the walking path being used for the animals and is concerned about allowing her kids outside. Mr. Mannion acknowledged the concern about the noise. He noted that if the lot had been used for a solar farm there would have been noise with that. He noted that with the new design of the building, there would not be anyone going through the areas where all the animals are which causes more noise. Mrs. Murdie noted that the new design would help to make sure that the animals and humans are separated as required by guidelines, adding that they want to stay in Canastota where they have been for 40 years. Mrs. Congden asked Mrs. Murdie where they plan on walking the dogs. Mr. Manning showed where that will be on the plans. Mrs. Murdie noted that they will always be in a fenced-in area and that the dogs will be on 2 leashes at all times. Mrs. Murdie noted that a large portion of the building has been developed for community use and talked about the programs that they currently offer for the community education and what they intend to do to expand on that. Mr. Smith advised that he thinks that the Industrial Park is one of the best things about Canastota and that there are many good lots which will be devalued from if this project goes forward. He believes that if we are going to make this zone change, we are setting a precedence. He added that neighboring businesses don't need a dog pound up there. Mr. Smith stated that he understands that they need new space, but he believes that there are other locations in the Village. He asked where the money would be coming from to pay for the project. Mrs. Murdie noted that the financing is not what we are here to talk about tonight. Mr. Smith stated that this is spot zoning. The Mayor reviewed the history of the prior purchase attempt by Wanderer's Rest which ended in an Article 78 proceeding in which the Village lost. She reviewed the decision and invited suggestions for new locations. Mr. Smith is concerned that if we make this zoning change, we will not get more development in the Industrial Park. Marion Cerio believes that no matter where this goes, it will be rejected. She noted that it is so easy to say put it somewhere else but asked where that other land is. Mrs. Cerio thought that there could be some confusion where the current sound is coming from, asking if it is from the kennel or Wanderer's Rest. Marilyn Higgins asked how many dogs they have and asked about pit bulls. Mrs. Murdie answered that there are 27 dogs currently. Ms. Higgins asked if there are incidents of dogs biting people. Mrs. Murdie advised not since her tenure. Mr. Vaccaro asked how much tax money they are going to bring into the Village. The Mayor noted that they are tax-exempt. Ms. Golden noted that she lives on Port Street and has spent a lot of money to improve her property. She contributes to Wanderer's Rest. Ms. Golden asked if this is a done deal and if Wanderer's Rest owns the property yet. Mayor Warner noted that there is a contract and we have not yet changed the zone. Ms. Golden asked about the potential for an expansion of the property by Wanderer's Rest. The Board talked about who owns the adjoining property. Mr. Manning explained that the animals will be in a triple containment building - they are in a kennel, in a room, in the building behind a fence. He talked about the safety measures that are taken. Mr. Vaccaro asked about the cost of the project and asked if the Village would be giving them any money. Ms. Golden asked about what happens with animals that are euthanized. Mrs. Murdie

advised that this happens at the vet's and not at Wanderer's Rest. Mrs. Congden stated that she is not against Wanderer's Rest, she is just concerned about the noise and the loss of value of her home. She is also concerned about the safety of her children. Mrs. Golden asked about a potential other location. Thomas Ralston noted that he owns Ralston Supply located directly across the street from the property site. He purchased the airport hanger in 2002 and renovated the buildings. Mr. Ralston purchased the third building a few years ago. They have been doing work to improve the property and now are looking at expanding. He talked about the potential business expansion that he was considering which is located next to the property that Wanderer's Rest is purchasing and about the tax revenue for the Village. The Mayor explained where the business and industrial area splits in the park. Mr. Ralston talked about the work that he is anticipating to improve his property. Mrs. Murdie asked about his time line for the expansion project. Mr. Ralston stated that they are not there yet - he is still working on it. Mr. Smith talked about Micron coming soon and the potential for development in the Business Park. The Mayor stated that that was why she spoke with Mr. Smith recently about expanding the Business Park into the property adjacent to the Park. Mr. Smith does not believe that businesses will be attracted to our Park with Wanderer's Rest located there. Mr. Smith stated that he thinks that they should go back to Oneida or find somewhere else to go. Ms. Golden asked for confirmation that nothing has been decided by the Board yet and asked if the property has been purchased yet. Mayor Warner advised that no decision has been made yet and the property has not been purchased. Ms. Golden asked what the process is going forward from here. The Mayor stated that no decision has been made yet. Kerry Brown advised that they have 32 dogs there that are in a kennel. He noted that Blue Ribbon Kennels have dogs outside. Tom Congden asked if they had a record of when a dog got loose. Mrs. Murdie does not have information about any dogs getting loose. Ms. Golden asked about other locations owned by the Village in the Business Park and suggested that they apply for more grants to help with the costs. Ms. Higgins asked what Blue Ribbon Kennels are. Mrs. Murdie explained that Blue Ribbon Kennels is a kennel that boards animals when people go on vacation.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to close the public hearing at 8:10 p.m.
Discussion: Trustee Haddad asked about copies of the renderings. They will be emailed. Passed 5 to 0.

Mrs. Golden asked when the Board would be voting on this. The Mayor advised that it will be at a later date. Mr. Congden asked about the lot that is next to him that is for sale. Trustee Watkins reviewed the location of the lot with Mr. Congden. Ms. Golden asked if their assessments would be adjusted if this happens. The Mayor directed her to the Assessor and stated that there is a grievance process.

Public Comments.

None

Correspondence.

- Invitation from GLAS for the Annual Dinner
- Invitation for the Annual Dinner for the Fire Company. The Mayor noted that we may need more information from them as they requested to serve alcohol. Trustee Gustin will talk with Doug Chandler to ask if the letter can be fixed.

Mayor's Comments.

The Mayor advised that she is meeting tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. with Rick. There is a budget workshop on Wednesday. Madison County Mayor meeting on Thursday. She has a StanTech meeting next Wednesday at 2:30 to go over the New York Forward project. There is another budget workshop and meeting with the Department of State. Our next regular meeting is on April 15, 2024.

Administrator's Comments.

Administrator Ryan's report was discussed - the Mayor asked if anyone had questions or concerns. The Board discussed the issues with the lift bridge replica. Mayor Warner read Administrator Ryan's report out loud. Mayor Warner advised that the cost for the bridge painting does not include the stenciling for the \$20,000.00. The \$80,000.00 cost does. The Board talked about the request to close the office at 3:00 p.m. on April 8, 2024, for the eclipse. Trustee Watkins is opposed to closing early because the CBAs would not be closed. It was noted that the county is closing at noon that day. The Board talked about the length of time of the eclipse and what other businesses are doing. Trustee Torrey noted that the bank will be open. Trustee Haddad asked if there will be an access problem on the 15th because of the beginning of the project work. The Mayor will ask Administrator Ryan tomorrow. The Board talked about a potential alternate location for the meeting on the 15th.

Trustees Comments.

Trustee Gustin has nothing tonight.

Trustee Watkins has nothing tonight.

Trustee Haddad will not be here at the next meeting.

The Mayor noted that opening day of Little League is April 27.

Trustee Torrey asked about the update from Bob Menekheim. The Mayor reviewed the update from the last meeting with Trustee Torrey.

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Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to adjourn at 8:31 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer