

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
May 5, 2025

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

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Trustees Lori Torrey, Jeff Watkins and Bill Haddad, Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Recreation Board Member Rachel Russo; Mark Taylor, Aaron LeClair, Peggy LeClair and Frank Ilaqua.

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Doug Gustin.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the following budget modification: Increase 11304.01 (Court Contractual) by \$10,431.92; increase 3389.01 (State Aid Public Safety) by \$10,431.92 (Note: this is to accommodate the expense and revenue for the JCAP Grant). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the following budget transfer: move \$10,739.43 from 97106.02 (Debt Service) to 97107.02 (Interest on Debt Service). Passed 4 to 0.

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

- a. General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$47,653.12;
- b. Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$42,017.79.

Passed 4 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): \$157.60 for payroll dated 4/24/2025; \$157.60 for payroll dated 5/1/2025. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving an ACH transfer to be made by USDA Rural Development on May 15, 2025, in the amount of \$17,162.50 as follows: \$13,000.00 from Sewer Fund Account 97106.02 (Debt Service) and \$4,162.50 from Sewer Fund Account 97107.02 (Interest on Debt Service) for payment of principal and interest owed on the 1999 Phase II Bond. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins noticed a discrepancy in the journal entry for this matter - the year was erroneously noted as 1992. Clerk/Treasurer Williams will make the correction. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving payments totaling \$2,508.94 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from April 1, 2025 - April 30, 2025. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the attached minutes of the April 21, 2025 meeting. Passed 4 to 0.

Public Comments.

Mark Taylor asked about the fire truck funding with the Town of Lenox. The Mayor noted that we have not received anything yet.

Frank Ilacqua spoke with the Board about the clean up of the Erie Mill property which he owns. He reviewed the events that lead up to getting a bill for cleaning up the property. Mr. Ilacqua wants the Board to take up an action to reduce the bill for the clean up of the Erie Mill property because he states that he did not receive the notice from the Codes Officer telling him that he had to clean it or the Village would do the work and charge him. Mr. Ilacqua also noted that people have been telling him that it is easy to find contractors to do the work for the clean up but he has not been able to find anyone. He also stated that there is no way that he would have gotten a letter to clean up the property and would not have cleaned it up. Mayor Warner asked Mr. Ilacqua if he was asking for forgiveness on the bill. Mr. Ilacqua stated that he would at least like to not have the bill inflated like it was. He said he is just putting it up for a suggestion to the Board - if it happens it happens, if it doesn't it doesn't. Mr. Ilacqua then stated that he is selling the building because he can't do what he planned to do since his wife passed away. He offered to sell the building to the Village and then asked about the zoning on the property, noting that he does not know if it is residential, industrial or commercial. Trustee Torrey asked if DPW Foreman Holdridge gave a breakdown of the charges. Mr. Ilacqua confirmed that he did receive the breakdown.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached Service Proposal from Vestis for rugs, mats and shop supplies for the Municipal Building, Village DPW and Town Highway Department and authorizing the Mayor to execute the Service Agreement, including Annex A and attachments. (Note: We have received authorization from the Town of Lenox to add the items to the contract for their Highway Department. The Town of Lenox will pay a share of the Municipal Building Expenses and all of the Town of Lenox Highway Department Expenses.) Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, adopting the attached Resolution Authorizing the Village to Submit a Grant Application to the New York State Office of Community Renewal for Community Development Block Grant Funding on behalf of Canastota Dairy Products, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$630,000.00. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the appointment of Richard L. Johnson, Jr., to the position of full-time police officer, to fill the position vacated by Zachary Bitz, at Step 2 effective upon passing the required physical and drug screening. **Discussion:** Motion by

by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to amend the motion on the floor to add an 18 month probation period and require that no secondary employment with other law enforcement agencies will be allowed during that 18-months probationary period. Amendment to motion - Passed 4 to 0. Motion as amended - Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the following requests from the Recreation Board:

- a. to hold the Fall Harvest Craft Fair on November 23, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Theodore's in Canastota. The Vendor Fee will be \$35 with a deadline for registration of October 31, 2025 and second tables being offered on September 1, 2025;
- b. to begin Pickelball on June 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at the Canastota High School Tennis Courts. The program will run on Mondays for ten (10) weeks, broken into two (2) five-week sessions ending August 11, 2025;
- c. to offer Moonlight Bowling on June 18, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Canastota Hi-Way Bowl. The fee to participate is set at \$10/person and the bowling alley will charge the Village \$7/person. Costs will come from the Program Development Budget Line;
- d. to partner with the Canastota Running Club to host the Canastota Running Program from July 7, 2025 - July 31, 2025, from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Canastota High School Track;
- e. to host a Family Game Night on July 8, 2025 and August 12, 2025, from 6 - 7:30 p.m. at Zems in Canastota; games will be purchased from the Program Development Budget;
- f. to hold a co-ed softball league on Mondays, beginning July 21, 2025, for 8-10 weeks based on the number of teams signed up. The fee to participate is \$400 per team.

Discussion: Trustee Haddad wants contracts for services for what we are paying. Rachel Russo asked if these events can move forward. Trustee Watkins advised that these events are approved. Passed 4 to 0.

Discussion regarding the invoice from Canastota Hi-Way Bow for the second half of Senior Bowling held January - March 2025.

Trustee Haddad understands that there were names submitted from the last meeting and a spreadsheet was completed. Trustee Torrey asked which session this \$75 was for. Clerk/Treasurer

Williams explained how the spreadsheet was calculated. The attendance sheets that Hi-Way Bowl provided were reviewed and the names were separated into in-district and out-of-district participants. Only in-district participants were included in the calculation by Clerk/Treasurer Williams. The Board reviewed what was submitted by Hi-Way Bowl for the second session of senior bowling. The paperwork was not done in the second session as it was in the first session. Mark Taylor talked about his discussion with Trustee Gustin and Recreation Leader Bealer about how he would like the cost for senior bowling to work at the new rate, which is a per-lane charge instead of a per-bowler charge. Mr. Taylor noted that Trustee Gustin and Recreation Leader Bealer did not agree to anything, but said that they would take it back to the Board for consideration. Trustee Torrey asked how much the second invoice was for. The invoice from Hi-Way Bowl for the second session is \$475 and the invoice for the first session is for \$93. Trustee Watkins discussed potential scenarios for payment of the invoices. Mayor Warner did not remember anyone coming in to ask about changing the pricing. Recreation Member Rachel Russo noted that the agreement was that the Village was paying the difference between the \$3.00 that the seniors paid and the \$6.00 that the Hi-Way Bowl charged the bowlers weekly, which paid for 2 games and shoes. We paid half for residents and the resident paid the other half. Mr. Taylor asked if there was a contract and then noted that there was not.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to pay \$500.00 to Hi-Way Bowl. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins stated that we need to come up with a better system. Trustee Haddad noted that a month ago he said that all future events and programs need an agreement by services being provided that is very clear about what the services and cost is. Mr. Taylor asked about how we increased what we paid to the Over the Hill Gang last year. Trustee Haddad explained that the Board members agreed to pay the additional money from their line item before the event was held. The request was made and it was approved before it happened. Trustee Watkins asked if that \$500 will pay for both sessions. Mr. Taylor stated that it would. Passed 3 to 1 (Trustee Haddad opposing).

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the attached Second Amendment to Temporary License Agreement between the Village and Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation d/b/a National Grid and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. **Discussion:** Administrator Ryan noted that this is for the DPW project. Passed 4 to 0.

Discussion regarding the attached request from CEO Michael Adsit to begin the procedure to declare 116 Mill Street an Unsafe Structure.

Administrator Ryan gave the Board an update on the building. He noted that part of the property structure is missing because of the fire and that the building was found by the DPW, the Code Enforcement Officer and Madison County to be an unsafe structure.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to set a public hearing on May 19, 2025, for the procedure to declare 116 Mill Street an unsafe structure at 7:15 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, authorizing Clerk/Treasurer Williams to relevy the attached unpaid charges to the 2025-2026 Village Tax Roll:

- a. Unpaid water and sewer charges in the amount of \$10,066.94 as requested by OCWA;
- b. Unpaid code violation charges in the amount of \$13,403.01;
- c. Unpaid sidewalk charges in the amount of \$755.00.

Passed 4 to 0.

Correspondence.

- Email from Carla DeShaw with complaints regarding 402 Main Street and 5 Maple Avenue. The Mayor advised the Board that the Maple Street property belongs to a family member. The Mayor has not spoken with CEO Adsit on this. Administrator Ryan advised that CEO Adsit said he was working on it and that they have had conversations about this.
- Letter from Abolition Road regarding events for this year.
- Annual Report from OCWA.

The Mayor advised that we received the contract for billing from OCWA and Clerk/Treasurer Williams and the Mayor noted that it wasn't supposed to start until June 2025. We are working with them on that.

Administrator Comments.

Administrator Ryan advised the Board that Erickson Plumbing looked at the boiler and reported that it has a broken rod. The damage may be due to the uneven temperatures. He explained the possible problem. We are waiting for quotes.

Municipal websites are now required to have a .gov address. Administrator Ryan advised that we applied a couple of years ago, but this is a new process. We will work with our vendor, but suggest that we keep the canastota.com address as well.

Administrator Ryan reported that Police Clerk Patti Lyman is retiring in the summer. He and Chief are working on a replacement.

Administrator Ryan met with Mayor Warner and the school about the possibility of a joint facility. He talked about applying for new grant funds that the governor announced this year. With this being a joint project, Administrator Ryan advised that it could work well for us.

Administrator Ryan advised the Board that three (3) more companies have contacted us about purchasing property in the business park..

CSX has a contractor removing trees along the railroad. Tomorrow the street will be closed.

Memorial Day Run would like to be reversed to start at Clark Park and run to the church and then the runners can walk in the parade. There were no objections from the Board.

Two (2) sets of turnout gear were damaged from a call on the Thruway. Administrator Ryan filed a claim with our insurance. The gear was issued to interior fire fighters and they cannot wear damaged gear. The Fire Department does have money in their budget for this year. Trustee Watkins asked if it was chargeable to the Thruway. Administrator Ryan will check on that.

Robert Menikheim provided a report on the status of the Farr Brothers Building construction. He noted that they are not working on the building because of the New York Forward Project award.

Administrator Ryan reminded the Board that the Chamber of Commerce bench dedication for Jim Caldwell is on May 13, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Administrator Ryan received a request from the high school to give students from the Junior Chamber of Commerce and Student Government a tour of the fire department and our building. He will do that after the bench dedication.

The Board asked about the opening for Brown Bros. BBQ. Administrator Ryan advised that the soft opening is this week and a ribbon cutting is scheduled for May 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m.

Trustee Torrey asked about the Little League opening day being changed. We have not been given a new date for that.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Warner advised that there is an EFC grant coming out - the Mayor reached out to them to see if this grant can be used with the EPA grant for the sewer separation on State/Commerce Street and she will let us know when she has a response.

The Mayor went to Washington D.C. last week. She met with representatives from John Mannion's office and Senator Schumer's Office and she talked about the RTP grant asking if the Governor could give us money to clean up the Canal. She received responses from Mannion's Office about money that is being made available. The Mayor will do some more work on this. Mayor Warner sent the information on the grant to Jamie Kowalczyk at the County Planning Department. She also sent an email back to the person that sent the information to her and the response she received was unresponsive.

The Mayor has been fielding complaints about codes and sidewalks and noted that CEO Adsit has already done something about it.

Mayor Warner talked about the changes for the Town of Lincoln on the air pack grant. They need a 6000 psi compressor for their 6000 psi bottles. The Mayor will send that to FEMA tomorrow. Mayor Warner sent the original quote to the new Fire Chief in Wampsville. Wampsville does not have anything more that they need to be amended.

The Mayor received an email about battery storage that she forwarded to CEO Adsit.

The Mayor met with Tim O'Hara regarding the PCCMP. He will finalize the report and send it back to DEC. Mayor Warner talked about the testing requirements of the plan and noted that this was supposed to be done in 2012. The Mayor is hoping for no more questions from the DEC after we turn in these answers.

Mayor Warner reported that she keeps receiving phone calls about the black walnut trees and advised that these trees are on CSX property, not the Village of Canastota. We cannot authorize people to do anything with the trees.

The Mayor advised that we are going forward with the panic buttons. Trustee Haddad advised that he sent a suggestion for a device back when this started.

The Mayor still has not heard anything on the New York Forward projects. She reached out multiple times and the last we heard we should hear in weeks which was months ago. She spoke with Joe Griffo and sent an email - someone from his office asked what round we were applying for. The Mayor advised that we already applied and are waiting for final approvals.

Trustees Comments.

None

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Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to enter Executive Session regarding contracts and personnel at 8:00 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to exit Executive Session at 8:56 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to adjourn at 8:56 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer