

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA  
MINUTES  
May 6, 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, Lori Torrey and Bill Haddad; Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Recreation Leader Cherie Bealer; Fire Chief Lyle Chafee; Angela Rigler, Karl Rigler, Mark Taylor, Debra Golden, Peggy LeClair, Mike Fletcher; and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: None

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached minutes of the April 15, 2024, and April 24, 2024, meetings. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving the following budget transfers: move \$2,905.00 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 14204.01 (Attorney); move \$505.92 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 16204.01 (Village Hall); move \$4,023.30 from 90158.01 (Police & Fire Retirement) to 90608.01 (Medical Insurance); move \$.03 from 19904.01 (Contingency) to 97107.01 (Interest on Debt Service); move \$285.20 from 19904.02 (Contingency) to 19905.02 (OCWA Billing Fees. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the following budget modification: increase 97307.02 (BAN Interest) by \$18,657.17. **Discussion:** The Mayor advised the Board that this is for the Sewer BAN. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$56,030.43. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$35,826.16. Passed 5 to 0.

**Public Comments.**

Debra Golden asked if any decision was made yet regarding the zone change. The Board is not ready to vote on the matter. Debra asked about the building on the corner of James and Peterboro Streets. She noted that there is a lot of traffic on James Street because of people turning around in her driveway to go back to the new store on the corner. She described recent incidents she has had where there has been near accidents. Debra advised that her employee was almost hit 3 times. The Board discussed the notifications that have been made to the owner of the building about the problems with people parking where they don't belong. Debra also talked about her conversation with Madison County DOT who noted that the signs in that area are not in compliance. She stated that you have to pull out into the road to see so that you can pull out. The Mayor advised that Wanderer's Rest is trying to set up a public information meeting next week at the Library to speak

with the public more about there proposal. Trustee Haddad would like some more organizational information. Debra Golden asked about the process of the zone change and then what happens. The Mayor talked about the process. Debra asked about the reduction in setback from 300 to 89 feet. The Mayor advised that the Planning Board could impose greater setbacks if they want to. Other locations and possibilities, as well as improvements Wanderer's Rest have made to its current location were discussed. The Mayor advised the Board that she would let them know about the meeting next week. She also asked the Board when they would like to take action on this law. The Board would like to take action on June 3. Mike Fletcher asked the Board what the benefit is to the Village to have Wanderer's Rest there. He noted that he just bought a house up there. The Board and the people in attendance at the meeting discussed the potential for noise problems with the proposed development. The people in attendance stated that they would be okay with an industrial business going into that property. Debra Golden asked if the Village would put up a sound barrier. The Board advised that that would be up to the Planning Board.

Angela Rigler approached the Board regarding a request to have the "Metzger Mile" at the head of the Rail Trail by James Street in honor of Liz Metzger, the retiring librarian, and her commitment to fitness. Signage and how this would work was discussed. The library would also like to have a clean up day on the trail in the fall that the library would sponsor so that there is no garbage in the spring when the trail opens. The Mayor noted that we have some clean up to do by the pond because the DPW has not been able to get back there yet because it is so wet. She also noted that there are some broken snowmobile signs that need to be taken care of. Trustee Torrey asked what the signage would be. Trustee Haddad thought that we have something similar on Canal Street and Main Street and thinks that we should do something like that. Trustee Haddad also asked if there is suggested artwork. Angela Rigler noted that she would be willing to do that. Administrator Ryan stated that we could do some research on it and let the library know. Angela Rigler reminded the Board of the Community Party on June 7 and wondered if we could have an answer by then. The Board discussed how to move forward with this. Administrator Ryan will look into this and get back to everyone. Angela talked to the Board about the party from 1 - 4 on Friday June 7. It is an Aloha Party since aloha means hello and goodbye and they want to welcome the new director and say goodbye to Liz. The new director is Bill Loveland.

Mark Taylor asked the Board about the information that Trustee Gustin was going to get to him at the last meeting. Trustee Gustin advised that he will bring something up later in the meeting when he can make a motion.

Cherie Bealer talked to the audience about the Cana-L-stota event coming up. A committee is being put together.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve payments totaling \$2,438.80 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from April 1, 2024 - April 30, 2024. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, appointing Scotty MacDonald to the position of Seasonal DPW Laborer effective May 17, 2024, at a salary of \$15.00/hour, for a term not to exceed 26 weeks. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, appointing Ethan Findlay to the position of part-time police officer at a rate of \$22.50/hour effective May 8, 2024. **Discussion:** The salary of the part-time officers was discussed with the residents in attendance. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, appointing Jermar Hymes to the position of part-time police officer at a rate of \$22.50/hour effective May 8, 2024. **Discussion:** Administrator Ryan noted that he and Trustee Watkins met with both candidates on Friday and were very impressed. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving an ACH transfer in the total amount of \$17,455.00 to be made by USDA Rural Development on May 15, 2024, in the amount of \$13,000.00 from Sewer Fund Account 97106.02 (Debt Service) and \$4,445.00 from Sewer Fund Account 97107.02 (Interest on Debt Service) owed on the 1999 Phase II Bond. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached Request for Use of a Village Facility from the Fire Department to allow Cathi Williams the use of the Firemen's Pole Barn on July 6, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. for a birthday party. (Note: proof of insurance has been received.) **Discussion:** The Board asked who the party was for and noted that no alcohol was allowed. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the attached request from Matt Freund, Council Secretary for the Canastota Volunteer Fire Department, to approve the membership of James Pluff and Brian Witcombe into the Canastota Volunteer Fire Department. (Note: copies of their driver's licenses have been received.) **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if the background checks have been done. Chief Chafee advised that it has been done. The Mayor asked about James Pluff working for the DPW and if it would be appropriate for him to leave for fire calls. Chief Chafee stated that they it should not abuse the position and he should only leave if it is necessary. He will talk with James about this. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving a credit in the amount of \$293.02 against the sewer charges on the March 31, 2024, OCWA bill for property owned by Michael Hopkins and located at 6 Kay Circle, Canastota, New York. (Note: The reason for the excess water consumption was due to a replaced hose end that has been corrected.) **Discussion:** Trustee Gustin asked if this was the first time. Clerk/Treasurer Williams responded that it was. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, approving the attached request from the International Boxing Hall of Fame for use of the Firemen's Field on June 8 and June 9, 2024. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached Equipment Service Contract between the Village and Mac Copy, LLC, for service of the copiers in the Police Department and Village Clerk's Office covering the period May 19, 2024 - May 18, 2025, at the rates set forth therein, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, approving the attached request from the Canastota Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to allow the Company to hire The Three Pines Restaurant to provide beer and wine for the annual dinner on May 18, 2024, contingent upon receipt of the required insurance and permits from The Three Pines Restaurant. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, authorizing Clerk/Treasurer Williams to relevy the attached unpaid water and sewer charges to the 2024-2025 Village Tax Roll as requested by OCWA. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, authorizing Clerk/Treasurer Williams to relevy the attached unpaid code violation charges to the 2024-2025 Village Tax Roll. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, adopting the attached Resolution Introducing Local Law No. C of 2024, A Local Law Authorizing Purchasing Based on Best Value. A roll call vote was conducted. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, adopting the attached Resolution Introducing Local Law No. D of 2024, A Local Law Amending Article XIA of Chapter 230 of the Code of Incorporated Village of Canastota Regarding Multifamily Dwelling Units. A roll call vote was conducted. Passed 5 to 0.

### **Correspondence.**

- Tree letter from Rachel DiGeorge. This has been sent to the DPW.

### **Village Administrator.**

Administrator Ryan advised that the Abolition Walk Committee asked to move their festivities from Canal Street to the parking lot adjacent to the Farr Brothers Building so that we don't have to close the street. It will be a tighter location for them. The Mayor thinks that this will be better for the businesses on Canal Street. Trustee Torrey asked if we will need to rope it off the night before. Administrator Ryan stated that we can do that. The Mayor noted that there were no cars in this lot this morning when she came through about 5:30 a.m. The Board talked about parking for people who do park in there.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to allow the parking lot next to the Farr Brothers Building to be used for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Abolition Walk on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 7 a.m. - noon. Passed 5 to 0.

Administrator Ryan advised that Wheelock Rides went out of business but another ride company may be able to take over for them. Administrator Ryan is waiting to hear back from them. The date may need to change.

Administrator Ryan talked to the Board about the building renovations - they are going along well and demo is just about finished. He is meeting with the contractor tomorrow for a status update and regarding options that need to be decided. Trustee Haddad asked if there is an allowance for the aesthetic pieces. Administrator Ryan advised that if we come in under, then we will get a credit for it.

Administrator Ryan advised that the Fire Department put in a training request for some aerial training in Sylvan Beach in May and June, at no cost to the Village. They need to use the van and ladder truck. The Board discussed the approval of training requests by the Mayor and/or Administrator.

Administrator Ryan advised that the auction will be closing soon and we received our CHIPS notification for next year which is approximately \$191,000.00.

Administrator Ryan has a meeting regarding the National Grid project at the DPW. Trustee Watkins asked how the OCWA building is looking for the transition of the DPW when the remediation work is going on. The Board discussed what is needed to be done.

Administrator Ryan reminded the Board of the workshop tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. in the old Red Onion space for the Comprehensive Plan. He also advised that the New York Forward local planning committee will be meeting Wednesday at the same location. He gave an update on the railroad bridge painting. We have a quote for \$20,000.00. Victory Sign will print the stencils for the "CANASTOTA" sign and we are hoping to get this done before the Boxing Hall of Fame Parade. The Mayor asked if Administrator Ryan would send out the quotes to the Board members. Administrator Ryan has previously provided copies of the quotes.

Administrator Ryan is working with OneGroup to update the village insurance information prior to renewal on June 1.

**Mayor's Comments.**

The Mayor received a thank you from Alice Rinaldo regarding the Chamber party at the Greystone. She also received a letter from the Over the Hill Gang on May 3 asking for \$1,000.00 for the Fishing Derby. The Mayor noted that we only budgeted \$500.00. Mayor Warner asked the Board what they wanted to do since the budget was for \$500.00 and they are requesting \$1,000.00. She read the request out loud. Trustee Torrey asked if they said why they needed more money. Mayor Warner advised that they did not say in the letter. She believes that it is the cost of the prizes. Trustee Torrey asked if they will still hold the event if they don't get the money. The date of the event was discussed. It was noted that we did not receive the request until after the budget process was complete.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to use \$500.00 from the Trustee's contractual line for the Over the Hill Gang Fishing Derby. Passed 5 to 0.

Trustee Haddad noted that it will go back to \$500.00 next year.

The Mayor advised that there could be a date change with the new carnival company - maybe a week earlier. Administrator Ryan will let them know as soon as it is confirmed. The Mayor noted that the Village will bet about \$2,300 more in AIM Funding with the new budget. The Mayor reminded the Board about the Sump Pump Local Law and asked the Board for their thoughts on this and if they wanted to move forward. Trustee Haddad asked if washing machines should be going into the street. Trustee Haddad will bring this to the attention of CEO Adsit tomorrow. The Mayor asked the Board for permission to fill out the permit for the Canal.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to allow the Mayor to handle whatever business is needed for Cana-L-stota for permits for the paddle and canal-a-thon. **Discussion:** The Board discussed the intent of the motion. Passed 5 to 0.

The Mayor received the approval from National Grid for the Flags of Honor. It came after we already hung the banners. The Mayor will check to see if the Brown Brothers will allow us to use their lift to hang them and noted that Russ Brown had previously offered to let us use the lift. The Mayor talked about where the banners will be hung and advised that the Legion would like to expand the area and put some more up. The Mayor noted that the banners will only last about 3 years. Administrator Ryan advised that the DPW believes that they will be able to do this without a lift.

The Mayor received an email on the LWRP II Grant. She sent in the last payment request for fees and the last status report and is waiting for an amended report from the State. The Mayor is meeting with Maria from the Department of State next week. She talked about what will be discussed and what needs to be done. The Mayor advised that a local committee will be needed and that this is for

the development of construction design for the second phase of the Canal Street Revitalization. The Mayor will find out how many people will be needed on the committee and let us know. Mayor Warner noted that we have paid EDR \$61,900 so far on this project.

Mayor Warner had a conversation with Supervisor Pinard about the proposed road from Peterboro Street to Main Street. She spoke with him about the possibility of trading the road to the County in exchange for the Diamond Street and Erie Mill properties coming to the Village at no cost to us. Trustee Watkins asked if the County took that, would they be responsible for everything. The Mayor stated that she will work that out with the County, but believes that they would do the road and we might need to take care of the sewer and water. The Board talked about the Diamond Street and Erie Mill properties. The Mayor noted that she had a conversation with Marty Bargabos and he stated that he always wanted the Erie Mill property but the Mayor thinks that it is beyond repair. She wanted to make sure that the Board would be willing to have the conversation.

The joint meeting will be held on May 22, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The Mayor spoke with Supervisor Pinard today about the sewers and what will be on the agenda. She asked if he was bringing the contracts. Mark Taylor asked what this means. The Mayor explained the history of the review of the sewer contracts that the Village has with the Town Sewer Districts and noted that there is missing information from the contracts and we have been waiting for the new contracts from the Town. The Board talked with Mark Taylor about the history of what has been done so far and what we are waiting on from the Town of Lenox.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any issues for her to bring up next week at the NYCOM meeting. Trustee Watkins would like her to ask about the marijuana laws. Administrator Ryan noted that there is a seminar next week on that subject. Trustee Watkins advised that there is new legislation in the governor's budget that gave municipalities more ways to deal with this.

### **Trustees Comments.**

Trustee Gustin made a recommendation that every 5 years we go through the Employee Handbook and that we look at this and make recommendations. Trustee Watkins would like it to be every 4 years so every Board would get to make recommendations. Trustee Watkins would like to sit on a committee to go through the handbook. The Mayor asked for volunteers to sit on the committee. Trustees Gustin, Watkins, Haddad and Torrey will be on the committee along with Administrator Ryan and Mark Taylor. The requirement to post notice of the meetings since there is a quorum of the Board members on the committee was discussed. The first meeting of the Employee Handbook Review Committee will be on May 20, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. Clerk/Treasurer Williams noted that discussion at this meeting should be limited to the handbook.

Trustee Watkins presented the Board members with the current fee schedule and with a copy of that schedule representing the changes that he is proposing shown in bold and underscored. He suggested that we give this to Code Enforcement Officer Adsit to see if he wants to adjust any of his fees. The Board discussed the proposed changes and talked about additional changes that could be looked at. Trustee Haddad suggested that we put in a definition of "Special Events". The Board talked about what would be a "Special Event" and what organizations might be charged or not. The Mayor looked up the definition of "Special Event" from the FEMA website. Trustee Watkins believes that this is something that we need to look at, discuss and decide how to move forward. He stated that there are a lot of things that happen that our Police Department and DPW perform extra work for. Trustee Haddad would like us to make a determination as to when the fees would apply so that we can let the organizations know if there would be a fee involved. The Mayor stated that she thinks it depends on the number of people involved in the event. Trustee Watkins thinks that it depends on what services are being provided. Debra Golden asked if Boxing Hall of Fame paid for our services. Trustee Watkins advised that they do not. The Board talked about the costs of providing services to the Boxing Hall of Fame for the parade and other things. The Board talked about the services that we can bill the school for as well. The Board also talked about possibly charging the school for the crossing guards. The Mayor thinks that should be a different conversation.

Trustee Haddad is good tonight.

Trustee Torrey asked for an update on the road repair near the Thruway. She asked what the DOT is waiting for. The Mayor has not heard from them since last fall. Administrator Ryan has not gotten anything new from them either. The Board talked about the repaving project. The Mayor would like contact information so that she can talk with the DOT. Trustee Torrey noted that the Village is getting bashed on social media over the road condition and people do not understand that it is the State DOT not us. Trustee Torrey asked if the Nation had a plan going forward on the old Graziano site. The Mayor advised that she had a conversation with the Nation and this will be nothing like other Maple Leaf locations - this will be state-of-the-art. Administrator Ryan noted that they expect to be done with this by the end of the year.

The Mayor asked about the request for Tony Graziano to either have a plaque put up on Maple Avenue or have the street renamed for Tony. The Mayor will check with the resident on Maple Avenue to see what their opinion is on the address change. The Board talked about the process for changing a road name. The Mayor suggested that the proposed new road between Peterboro and Main Street north of the Thruway bridge be named for Tony Graziano. Administrator Ryan talked about doing a ceremonial change on Maple Avenue that would preserve the original name of the road similar to the stretch of Route 13 north of the Village which has been memorialized for Assembly William Magee.



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Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to adjourn at 8:49 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catherine E. Williams*

Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer