

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA  
MINUTES  
December 2, 2024

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

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Trustees Bill Haddad and Jeff Watkins; Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Mark Taylor and Frank Ilacqua (7:14 p.m.)

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Douglas Gustin and Trustee Lori Torrey

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the attached minutes of the July 1, 2024, meeting. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the following budget transfer: move \$8,166.00 from 90108.01 (Employees' Retirement) to 90158.01 (Police & Fire Retirement). Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the following budget modification: Increase 16202.01 (Building Capital) by \$74.30; increase 90158.01 (Police & Fire Retirement) by \$4,728.00. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving a loan from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund in the amount of \$1,250.00 for engineering expenses incurred for the LWRP II Grant. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$252,479.35. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$46,808.91. Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached Capital Fund Abstract in the amount of \$1,250.00. Passed 3 to 0.

**Administrator Comments.**

Administrator Ryan met with the County and our IT company last week regarding the phones. He is putting information together for them starting with our building and then will work on the Fire Department and DPW. Trustee Watkins asked if we are using the County's IT Department for this and Administrator Ryan advised that we are using them only for the phones. Mr. Ryan advised that youth basketball has started. We are using the CAC for some games and it is going well. The annual carnival is September 4 - 6, 2025. Mr. Ryan is working with Ontario Amusements on the contract. The auction for the Ford Taurus ends next week. MEID will be back tomorrow to finish the punch

list. The PD window has arrived. Administrator Ryan will coordinate with MEID and the Police Department. Mayor Warner asked if we have heard back from the plumber regarding the drinking fountain. Administrator Ryan has not but will reach out to him. The Fire Department had a flat on a fire truck yesterday. The DPW could not get there to fix it. Dick Otts came out, fixed the fire and did not charge us.

### **Public Comments.**

None

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the following payments to AccuData from General Fund Account No. 16204.01.155 (Payroll Service): \$158.50 for payroll dated 11/21/2024; \$162.00 for payroll dated 11/27/2024. **Discussion:** Trustee Haddad asked if we needed to do these. Clerk/Treasurer Williams stated that we do as they are a prepaid and still need to be approved by the Board. Passed 3 to 0.

A consent agenda was discussed.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, authorizing Clerk/Treasurer Williams to send the following wire transfers to the New York State Retirement System on or about December 13, 2024, for payment of the amounts due for 2024-2025: \$88,710.78 from General Fund Account No. 90108.01 (Employees' Retirement); \$128,729.00 from General Fund Account No. 90158.01 (Police & Fire Retirement); and \$9,581.22 from Sewer Fund Account No. 90108.02 (Employees' Retirement). Passed 3 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, approving the attached Municipal Building Janitorial Services Contract between the Village and Boo's Cleaning Service, LLC, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 3 to 0.

### **Correspondence.**

- Letter from Frank Ilacqua regarding a request for a zone change on the old Erie Mill property. The Board discussed whether this was sufficient to make the zone change request. There is an asbestos report that says there is no asbestos in the building but the Mayor noted that they need to come back and test the piles of debris. CEO Adsit is dealing with them.
- Thank you letter from Parade of Lights Event Coordinator Charlene Barres

The Mayor invited Frank Ilacqua to speak about his project. Mr. Ilacqua talked about the property that he purchased on tax sale in the City of Oneida and the old Erie Mill property in the Village. He

wants to make it an event center and talked about his plan to let people use the property for no charge. He noted that many people have thanked him for cleaning up the property. Mr. Ilacqua is working with CEO Adsit and he is doing this in memory of his late mother. He talked about his other community charity work. He doesn't want any drinking in there or bands - "nothing outrageous". Trustee Watkins asked about the time table. Mr. Ilacqua stated that it is not good. He is getting held back on some things and has some costs that he didn't expect. He would like to have it ready by the first of the year, but knows that he is nowhere near ready. Trustee Haddad noted that the biggest issue is that he cleanup is creating the debris around the property and talked about the problem areas next to the building. Mr. Ilacqua talked about his interaction with the Codes Department shutting him down for the demolition. He talked about what he has done and the cost that he has incurred so far. He has worked with the DPW to help remove the trees that were cut down. Trustee Watkins noted that we have many properties and we cannot be there on each property. Trustee Watkins asked Mr. Ilacqua if he thought about getting in touch with the Village when he bought the property. Mr. Ilacqua advised that he has properties in the City of Syracuse and does not have to do anything with codes. Trustee Watkins talked with him about requirements for permits. Mr. Ilacqua talked about code issues in the area and with the building and why he thought that he didn't need to do it. He also talked about some of the issues he has faced since buying the property at tax sale. Trustee Watkins asked if he has thought about hiring a general contractor to help him. Mr. Ilacqua is looking for someone to expand on what he has done so far. Trustee Watkins asked him about parking. Mr. Ilacqua advised that he has a limited amount of parking and will share that information with the people who rent the building from him. Trustee Haddad told him that we want him to be successful, but he needs to be in compliance. Trustee Haddad advised Mr. Ilacqua to be ahead of the "8 ball", not behind. Mr. Ilacqua stated that he wants to and he is trying. He talked about his experiences trying to get into local fire departments. Trustee Haddad reminded him to take care of the fence. Mr. Ilacqua will take care of it and talked about what he is doing to work with everything.

### **Mayor's Comments.**

The Mayor asked if the Board wanted to the time clock policy on the next agenda. The Mayor asked if everyone got the updated budget. The Mayor asked if everyone got the chance to look at the sidewalk on Stroud Street. The Board has not looked at it. Mayor Warner noted that we received a notice of defect regarding the sidewalk across the street from Village Hall. The Mayor was approached by Louis Zupan, Jr. about a piece of property that he has at the end of Barlow Street, through the fence and back to the old landfill. There are back taxes owed on the property. Mr. Zupan is proposing to give the Village the property and we would be responsible for the back taxes. He also noted that there is a problem with beavers back there. The property is 3.43 acres according to the tax map. The Mayor advised that Mr. Zupan stated that the property is no longer of use to him and if the Village does not want it, he will let it go for taxes. The Board discussed the property in

the area. Mayor Warner also talked about her conversation with Mr. Zupan. Trustee Haddad wants to see what's owed on the taxes. The Mayor will check.

Mayor Warner met today with EFC to see what grants we are eligible for for sewer separation and reported that there is nothing open until May. She also talked with the Secretary of State's office and finally received what she needed from EDR. The Mayor advised that when she received a bill from EDR she has not received the papers that she needed so she told them she would be holding the payment...she received the papers shortly thereafter.

The Mayor advised that Jamie and Jessica from County Planning are bringing a draft of the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Ilacqua asked the Board members what they had hoped would happen to the property he purchased. Trustee Watkins advised that we wanted it torn down and used for parking and a public bathroom. Mr. Ilacqua asked the Board what they wanted to see there. The Board members talked about what they thought and Mr. Ilacqua talked about his plan. He talked about what he has done with other properties he has owned. Trustee Watkins noted that the only thing that we need him to do is work with Codes before he does anything else.

The Mayor advised the Board that Worker's Compensation costs are going up again for the Village. The Mayor will start budget development after the first of the year and hopes to sit down with the Board at the end of January, beginning of February. Trustee Watkins asked about the fee schedule. The Board noted that there are still questions to be answered regarding the events and who is exempt from the costs. Trustee Haddad advised that the next handbook meeting we should be done. The Mayor has spoken with the attorney and as soon as we are finished, she will start work on it.

#### **Trustees Comments.**

Trustee Watkins has nothing.

Trustee Haddad has nothing.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to adjourn at 7:54 p.m. Passed 3 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Catherine E. Williams*

Catherine E. Williams  
Clerk/Treasurer