

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
October 5, 2020

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

PRESENT: Mayor Rosanne Warner; Deputy Mayor Jeffrey Carpenter, Trustees Bill McDade (via telephone), Jeffrey Watkins and Douglas Gustin; Village Administrator Jenn Farwell; Residents Mark Taylor, Connie Burke and Paul Lang; and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

ABSENT: None.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to approve the General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$148,405.69. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$19,987.43. Passed 5 to 0.

Public Comments.

None.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve a wire transfer sent to Chase Manhattan Bank o/b/o DTC on October 1, 2020, in the amount of \$3,067.50, from the General Fund (97107.01 Interest on Debt Service) for interest owed on the 2009 Bruno Road Infrastructure Bond. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve payments totaling \$2,369.83 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from August 1, 2020 - August 31, 2020. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve payments totaling \$985.27 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from September 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020. Passed 5 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee Gustin, accepting the attached Estimate & Contract from Campany Roofing, dated October 1, 2020, in the amount of \$1,500.00, for repair of the roof at the municipal pool, and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. **Discussion:** Trustee Watkins asked if we reached out to any other company. Mayor Warner advised that we only reached out to Campany Roofing. Passed 5 to 0.

Correspondence.

- Drawing submitted by the Erie Canal Brewery depicting the proposed location of a handicap ramp to access the old Farr Brothers Building on the parking lot side of the building. This ramp may encroach into the parking lot adjacent to the building owned by New York State.

~~The Board discussed with NYSDP that they would need to contact to request~~
permission to construct the handicap ramp on the parking lot property. They also talked about what the owners of the building are planning to do with the building and why the handicap ramp is needed.

- Thank you note from the Palamara family.
- Minutes from the Rec Board. Mayor Warner noted that she has requested minutes from Recreation and Beautification to be submitted monthly.
- Notice from the Public Service Commission regarding a proposed rate increase from National Grid. The Mayor noted that the public comment period ends on October 7, 2020. Paul Lang commented on the National Grid rate increase request.
- Letter from Empire State Development notifying the Village of the public comment period on the Northeast Information Discovery Capital Project, which will be held at 5:30 p.m. on October 20, 2020. Administrator Farwell and the Mayor spoke about the project and the history of this company in the Village. The company is located in the old Utica School of Commerce Building in the Village on Route 5.

Administrator.

Administrator Farwell asked for a motion to change the check signers for the Village accounts.

Motion by Trustee Carpenter, seconded by Trustee McDade, to authorize Clerk/Treasurer Catherine Williams, Village Administrator Jenn Farwell and Mayor Rosanne Warner as authorized signors for all Village accounts at Community Bank. Passed 5 to 0.

Administrator Farwell updated the Board on 229 Canal Street. She would like to send the demolition project out for bid and reported that we will be drafting the documents as long as the Board is in agreement. She asked the Board if they wanted to call all of the site as being asbestos since we are having trouble getting an asbestos. A2Z is not able to do this survey and no other company would like to make a proposal. Mayor Warner stated that we can move forward considering the whole site as having asbestos, but it will cost us more money. The Board discussed our options and how we would get repaid. Trustee Carpenter believes that our decision is made for us as the property is a health hazard.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to send this out for bid for demolition. **Discussion:** Administrator Farwell called the County Health Department to let them know about the potential for vermin in the building. The County will start their process on this. The County has the

~~any other business that may come up and is not on the agenda~~
forward. Passed 5 to 0.

Administrator Farwell reported on the Arsenault property swap - the paperwork was completed in September and we are just waiting for the filed copies. They should be able to move forward soon with the handicap ramp.

The Lot 3A Business Park sale to Tom Ralston is just about complete. The abstract has been completed and it is now at our attorney's office. This should be moving quickly now. The building is just about cleaned out and we may have the paperwork at the next Board meeting.

Administrator Farwell advised the Board that the DOT is asking for our help getting the word out about the work on the Thruway Bridge. Typically, they would have a public meeting and presentations on this to let the public know. Options were discussed. Trustee Gustin wants to know if they have reached out to the school yet. Administrator Farwell advised that the project is scheduled for Fall of 2021.

Administrator Farwell advised that there are not any changes in the Main Street project except for the work on the Chinese restaurant started today. They will work on the outside once the weather is better. Administrator Farwell stated that the owners are excited.

Mayor.

Mayor Warner reported that she has been busy. She had a conversation with the CPAs to get the AUD completed in the next couple of weeks. Mayor Warner had a conversation with Frank McFall of the County 911 Center regarding the 911 addressing problems. Mayor Warner has spoken with some first responders who would like us to get that taken care of. There are some problem areas in the village - this is not a village-wide problem. Trustee Gustin has offered to work on this with Frank McFall.

The Mayor met with Recreation - they are putting together a list of proposed programs that they had proposed in the past but could not do. The Mayor also asked for some senior citizen programs.

Mayor Warner and Administrator Farwell will meet with National Grid next week regarding the DPW garage. The Mayor has received the report from Administrator Farwell. Administrator Farwell gave the Board the history of this matter. She advised that there was contamination of the land for which National Grid is responsible. We have had the remediation plan reviewed by an engineer and we are now ready to meet with National Grid again. Paul Lang asked about reclaiming the soil under the building.

~~Mayor Warner thinks that we should have a conversation about other animals during the next budget preparation. Mayor Warner noted that there are traps that have been placed by the residents in the Bellevue Avenue area.~~

The Mayor advised that the Village FaceBook page is an unofficial page that was started by former Board member Bill Haddad. Mayor Warner believes that we should start an official FaceBook page. Connie Burke suggested that the Village link the FaceBook page to the Village website. Trustee Carpenter is in favor, but thinks that we need to look into some things before we do. The Board talked about having a FaceBook page and our responsibilities. Administrator Farwell noted that she has been having conversations with the County about the rules for the page. Trustee Carpenter would like to help set this up. Trustee McDade asked if we could ask former Trustee Haddad for control of the page and he suggested that we would have to move forward formally with putting policy in place. Administrator Farwell noted that the Madison County press person advised that even though the page was an unofficial page, since it was run by an official of the Village, it could be considered official in the event of a lawsuit. The Board talked about how we use the page and what information was on there. The Mayor asked for more information from Administrator Farwell and help from Trustee Carpenter. Trustee McDade stated that he does not know how to manage a social media FaceBook page. The Mayor would like us to reach out to former Trustee Haddad to see if he would turn the page over to us and a Village employee could be responsible for the page.

Mayor Warner announced liaison appointments:

Codes Committee - Trustees Gustin and Carpenter

Sewer - Trustee Watkins

Police - Trustee Carpenter

Fire - Trustee Gustin

Planning/Zoning - Trustee McDade

DPW - Trustee Watkins

Beautification - Trustee Carpenter

Town of Lenox - Trustee Watkins

The Mayor asked Clerk/Treasurer Williams to add Trustee McDade to the Planning/Zoning emails.

Trustee Comments.

Trustee Carpenter asked about the rust around the lamp posts. Administrator Farwell reached out to them - they were installed in 2017 and the warranty was only 1 year. Trustee Carpenter was referring to the rust behind the sign on the replica. Administrator Farwell noted that former Mayor met with the contractor in early September. Administrator Farwell will reach out to former Mayor DeShaw for an update. The Board talked about the background on this project.

Trustee McDade has nothing tonight.

Trustee Watkins has nothing tonight.

Trustee Gustin has nothing tonight.

Administrator Farwell asked the Board for topics for the Joint Meeting on next Wednesday. The Mayor gave a list of topics to Administrator Farwell.

Paul Lang asked about the Christmas decorating contest this year. Administrator Farwell explained that Beautification runs this and we have businesses that donate prizes. The Mayor talked about what to do with the Tree Lighting - this will be discussed at a future meeting.

Adjourn.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Carpenter, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. Passed 5 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer