

# VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA

## MINUTES

January 17, 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 Gusti and Trustees Lori Torrey and Bill Haddad; Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Deputy Clerk Treasurer Caitlin Farr; Chief Sean Barton; Douglas Holdridge; Markus Labarbera; Mike Adsit; Cherie Bealer; David Sadler; Dan Cunningham; Steve Williams; Lawrence Pavese; and Bruce Burke of PAC 99.

**ABSENT:** Trustee Jeff Watkins and Village Clerk Treasurer Catherine Williams.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the attached meeting minutes of the January 3, 2024 and August 21, 2023 meetings. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the following budget transfers: move \$67.99 from 90158.01 (Police/Fire Retirement) to 33204.01 (Street Signs); move \$72.91 from 90158.01 (Police/Fire Retirement) to 80104.01 (Zoning Contractual); move \$42.91 from 90158.01 (Police/Fire Retirement) to 80204.01 (Planning Contractual); move \$2,018.84 from 90158.01 (Police/Fire Retirement) to 83504.01 (Village Contribution). Passed 4 to 0.

Motion By Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$138,008.91. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the attached Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$23,733.78. Passed 4 to 0.

### **Public Comments.**

Steve Williams (resident of Village of Canastota) addresses the Village Board regarding ongoing concerns with the garage located on the corner of S. Peterboro and James St., address is 245 S. Peterboro St. The landlord of the building, Lawrence Pavese, came with Mr. Williams to address the concerns. Mr. Williams brought pictures labeled with times, dates, and notes regarding parking issues, noise issues, etc. Steve reports there is loud noise at all hours of the night. Customers vehicles are being parked on sidewalks, blocking sidewalks, and blocking fire hydrants. Mr. Williams reports that there has also been vehicles left running and unattended in the middle of James St. Mr. Williams feels that when he reports concerns about the garage, word is getting back to Tanner (person who runs business out of the garage) and Tanner then retaliates back with more noise. It is noted that the DPW had cleared out space for Tanner to park vehicles. Mayor Warner had asked Tanner to park customer vehicles there and he has refused to do so. It is also noted that vehicles are being parked right against and/or next to the newly installed no parking sign. It is suggested by Mike Adsit (Codes Officer) that the Village uses the new Public Nuisance Law to address these concerns. Mr. Lawrence Pavese (property landlord) states that he was not fully aware of everything going on at the garage. He has spoke with Tanner himself as well regarding concerns with little correction following. Mr. Pavese states that he has a plan of action to correct the issue by the end of February 2024. He continues to states that he is also having issues with Tanner himself in regards to going against what is written in the lease. The signed lease states that the garage was to be used to park customer's vehicles. It is also noted by Mr. Pavese that the area surrounding the garage needs to be salted and that Tanner has not done so because he believes the Village should be doing so. Mr. Pavese states that it is in the lease that it is Tanner's responsibility as the business owner to salt the property. Mr. Williams states there are problems daily regarding parking and people driving fast in the area. Mayor Warner states that these issues have been frustrating to the Village since day one. Mr. Pavese believes these are safety concerns; he has given tips to Tanner to correct concerns and they have not been used. It is noted that Mayor Warner thanks Mr. Pavese for

trying to help. Mr. Williams states that on January 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:02 AM, a Village officer was at the garage. Mr. Pavese was aware of this and had asked Tanner why an officer was there, Tanner told him that the officer is friend and stopped by to say hello. Trustee Torrey asked if tickets have been written, Chief Barton says yes. Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan states that tickets have been written, violations have been cited, and no parking signs have been put up. He also believes the Public Nuisance Law is the way to go. Mr. Ryan states that he has also spoken to Tanner himself. Mr. Ryan wants the Board to be aware that the Village has done things to try and correct these issues. Trustee Haddad suggests an officer to work on codes and parking issues, asks if there is a civil service position for this. Mayor Warner states that the Village will be working on the budget soon and that maybe this can be worked into it. Trustee Haddad suggests the individual should work Tuesday-Saturday. Mr. Pavese states that he would have handled the situation sooner if he had been notified of the concerns from the Village Codes Office. Chief Barton states that tickets have been written to the car owners. Mr. Pavese states that Tanner has the tickets taken care of. Trustee Haddad requests ticket information for the property for the past 12 months. Mr. Pavese states that he will handle the problem, he asked for some back up documentation from the Village. He believes what started as lots of little things have led up to larger safety concerns. Mayor Warner requests that Mike Adsit writes a letter to Tanner tomorrow (January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

### **Department Heads.**

*Dan Cunningham (Wastewater Treatment Plant)* – Dan states that their numbers for December of 2023 are as follows: a total of 59.5 million gallons, with an average of 1.93 million per day. The total numbers for all of 2023 are as follows: total of 490 million gallons, with 700 tons sent to the landfill. It is noted that Dan will need to climb into the pit to fix the flare on the blower, he believes it is clogged. Trustee Haddad is concerned with the danger factor to this fix, Mr. Cunningham reassures the Board that it can be dangerous if the blower leaks but they have prevention methods in place for that. Dan states that they had their annual inspection with Canastota Dairy on January 1, 2024. During said inspection, there was no odor noticed in the treatment area at time of the inspection. Employees of Canastota Dairy are aware of the odor complaints and are open to suggestions on correcting this issue.

*Douglas Holdridge (Department of Public Works)* – Doug refers to multiple calls at 546 S. Main St. for water in the basement. The Village has been working to identify if there is a problem in the main lines but have been unable to locate two manholes that are indicated on a map. Members of the Oneida DPW assisted with the search by bringing a camera for them to run through the pipes, the camera was able to pick up roots that are inside the pipe. DPW members jetted the lines in order to attempt to remove said roots, Oneida will come back in the Spring to see if they can get farther with the camera in order to help our DPW. Mayor Warner asks Doug to have Oneida check the lines on Wilson Ave. in the Spring as well. Doug will put together and provide a headworks report to the Village board. Recently, MSA Safety was in to review the sensors at Headworks. The sensors need to be replaced; they should be replaced every 2 years and the current ones are 4 years old. Koester will be coming by for the circuit. Doug reports that he discovered a large hole in the ground alongside the curb near the intersection of Main St. and James St. The hole was large enough that it took ¾ bucket of crusher run to fill. Doug had Brad Newman, an engineer, come out to look at it. Originally, it was believed that the repair was the town's responsibility but after review, it falls under the village's responsibility. Mayor Warner states that there is a grant available for the village to apply for to cover the repair, the application has been written and is due Friday the 19<sup>th</sup>. She continues with stating that if choosing to go with the grant, the Board will need to move forward tonight with the decision. She also states that this is the original structure built somewhere between 1900-1920 and should last approximately 2-3 more years based on the engineer's report. Trustee Gustin suggests limiting weight on the road to give more time. Mayor Warner states that the engineer does not believe weight will play a part in deteriorating the structure more, the biggest factors come from both water and temperatures. There is no concern for buses taking this route. Both Trustee Haddad and Trustee Gustin believe we should move forward with the grant for \$1.4 million. By doing so, the Village will need a Bond Anticipation note (BAN). With the grant, the Village will pay for the project up front and then be reimbursed. Tax payers would only be paying for any interest accrued on the loan. Trustee Haddad asks what the turn around is on the

grant, both Mayor Warner and Village Administrator Ryan are unsure. Doug states that both him and Brad Newman will periodically inspect the area. Trustee Haddad suggests placing steel plates over the hole.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to apply for the Bridge NY Grant for the S. Main Culvert project. Passed 4 to 0, motion carried.

*Mike Adsit (Code Enforcement)* – Mike reports that things are slowing down this time of year and is working on state reports for compliance. Trustee Haddad would like Mike to work on citations across the Village regularly with less focus on paperwork. Mike reports that he is driving the Village daily to watch for anything against Village code.

*Chief Sean Barton (Canastota Village Police Department)* – Chief Barton states that the report given to the Board does not match the report he has; the Board report is missing 5 felony arrests. Chief is currently working with Social Services to help a family whom resides at the Cedar House Apartments, he reports that the landlord is trying to evict them. He acknowledges the issues reported earlier at Tanner's garage on the corner of Main and James, he will address these. Chief reports that he has received approximately \$18,000 in grants for both rifle graded and regular tactical vests.

*Cherie Bealer (Recreation Department)* – Cherie reports that the winner of the Gingerbread house contest has been selected, they will have their picture taken with the Mayor on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. She says that 119 children signed up for basketball skills & drills and 51 signed up for the volleyball program. Cherie says that Three Pines will offer a free appetizer with any dinner purchase. She has also met with the High School Honor Society to look for volunteers at recreation events. Cherie states she asked the village residents (public) for opinions on recreation programming, she has received approximately 40 responses. She has invited residents to attend the next Recreation meeting. Mayor Warner states she would like to look into getting the RecDesk Program worked into the 2024-2025 budget. Cherie states that many people have said they are not signing up for events because they cannot get into the Village office during open hours.

*Markus Labarbera (Canastota Fire Department)* – Mayor Warner states that the monthly report given by the department is good. Markus states that Chief Chafee would like reports to be discussed in executive session. It is noted that there are no problems with Truck 122. Markus was asked to inquire about the new grant that the Fire Department presented to the Village, Mayor Warner states that they deadline is in April.

*David Sadler (Village Historian)* – David has discovered that there are a couple people missing from the WWII Monument. He discovered these individuals in Village archives and their names are on represented on the monument. He will be looking into how to add them. David also reports to the Village that he will be unavailable for a few days as he will be having a medical procedure.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, approving the attached Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Lenox for the Municipal Building Renovations Project and authorizing the Mayor to execute the same. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached request from the Canastota Fire Volunteer Company, Inc. to reinstate Chris Hannan as an active member. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve payments totaling \$2,967.33 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from December 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to approve the attached request from Hon. Peter Finocchiaro for the destruction of NYS DMV Traffic Tickets (not including DWI or DWAI's) from 2014 – 2017. Passed 4 to 0.

### **Discussion regarding archiving of Village social media accounts.**

Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan suggests that the Village select Sharp Archive for archiving Village social media accounts. The fee is \$110/month with no upfront cost. Sharp Archive requires no contract and does not auto renew.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to work with Sharp Archive for the purpose of archiving Village social media accounts at the rate of \$110/month. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve the attached bid documents for the Municipal Building Renovation Project and to authorize the Clerk/Treasurer to advertise for bids. Passed 4 to 0.

### **Correspondence.**

It is discussed that WellNow will no longer accept Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, which is the insurance company offer to Village of Canastota employees. Village of Canastota employees who take part in the health insurance plan should have received a letter notifying them of this change and providing them with a phone number to help locate medical offices within network.

The Village of Canastota received a letter from the Board of Elections expressing their intent to move Village election dates. In order for the County to continue to run Village elections, they must be moved from April to November. To keep Village elections in April, the elections must be run by the Village Clerk Treasurer. Trustee Haddad asked how the extension period will go for the transition and how do we make the move. The Board of Trustees is interested in moving the elections to November for the County to continue to run them. Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan will reach out to the Board of Elections to get more information.

### **Administrator's Comments.**

Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan states that there is no update from State DOT regarding the new start date for the Erie Canal bridge repair project on Main St. Mr. Ryan is in the process of forming a community carnival committee for the 2024 Village Carnival. The intent of this committee is to brainstorm ideas on how to expand the entertainment and food options in order to continue building a successful event. Village Administrator Ryan states that he is continuing to research internet options for both the municipal pool and rec park; contact has been made with Northland, T-Mobile, Spectrum and AT&T. Pricing is in the range of around \$100 per month per location. It is stated that Mr. Ryan will be working with DPW Foreman Douglas Holdridge to create the list of sidewalk repairs, roads to pave, and trees to be both removed and planted. Mr. Ryan plans to have this list ready to present when budget season begins. It is noted that sidewalk replacement will be a major focus for the DPW this summer. NYSERDA has contacted the village with a request to add more vehicle electric charging stations in a municipally-owned parking lot. Mr. Ryan suggested the parking lot next the fire house on E. Center St. based on the NYSERDA requirements, which include a downtown location within one mile of the NYS Thruway. NYSERDA will be providing the Village with some plans and a sample agreement for the Village to review. Trustee Torrey asks if there is an update on the Tesla facility. Mr. Ryan states that the work was slated to begin something after 1/1/24 per Mr. Carmen. Mayor Warner would like to schedule a new meeting with the Oneida Indian Nation for some updates. She suggests the idea of a dumping station at the new Mapleleaf for recreational vehicles; could split profits with the Nation and this may generate more sewer revenue.

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

Mayor Warner asked Village Historian David Sadler to sit down to discuss a committee for the Showcase located near McDonald's. Mayor Warner would like to rotate what is displayed in the Showcase; Historian

David Sadler agrees. When Spring comes, the Mayor will work with DPW Foreman Douglas Holdridge to address the sidewalks near the Showcase. The Mayor states that she is continuing to work on grant reports and addressing resident complaints.

**Trustee's Comments.**

None.

Motion by Trustee Gustin, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to enter into executive session regarding personnel and potential sale of property at 8:30 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Gustin, to exit executive session at 9:15 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to adjourn meeting at 9:20 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin M. Farr  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer