

VILLAGE OF CANASTOTA
MINUTES
December 17, 2025

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, Lori Torrey and Jeffrey Watkins; Village Administrator Jeremy Ryan; Code Enforcement Officer Mike Adsit; DPW Foreman Doug Holdridge; Fire Chief Lyle Chafee; Dan Cunningham of CWT; Recreation Leader Cherie Bealer; Village Historian David Sadler; Recreation Board Member Steve White; Aleace Walrath, Hailey Walrath and Mark Taylor.

ABSENT: Deputy Mayor Doug Gustin.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to approve the following items as a consent agenda:

- Approving the following budget transfer: move \$2,200.00 from 83504.01 (Village Contribution) to 36504.01 (Demolition of Unsafe Building); move \$100.00 from 83504.01 (Village Contribution) to 14014.01 (Village Clerk Contractual);
- Approving the following budget modification: increase 14204.01 (Attorney Fees) by \$10,806.25.
- Approving payment of the following abstracts:
 - a. General Fund Abstract in the amount of \$48,947.48;
 - b. Sewer Fund Abstract in the amount of \$16,885.88;
- Approving the following payments to AccuData from General Fund Account No. 16204.01.155 (Payroll Service): \$135.76 for payroll dated 12/4/2025, and \$128.63 for payroll dated 12/11/2025.
- Motion approving payments totaling \$4,955.94 from the General Fund to MBI for health insurance debit card transactions from November 1, 2025 - November 30, 2025.

Passed 4 to 0.

Public Comments.

Aleace Walrath presented the Board with a letter regarding having her 15-year-old daughter Hailey help coach the girls B basketball team. Administrator Ryan advised that he spoke with Village Attorney John Langey who advised against naming Hailey as an official assistant coach given her age and lack of a coaching certificate. Administrator Ryan further advised that Attorney Langey

stated that Hailey could help out at practices as long as she didn't take on any coaching responsibilities and she would have to sit in the bleachers not with the team during games. It was discussed that if Coach Congden or another coach were not present, Hailey could not run a practice on her own. Administrator Ryan stated that he spoke with Coach Congden and she is on board. Mrs. Walrath told the Board that Hailey was named as an assistant coach last year and her husband was the coach. The Board discussed other youth organizations' policies with regard to minors in capacities other than as players (i.e. referees, umpires, etc.) and those organizations require that the minor's parent or guardian be present. Mrs. Walrath noted that minors refereed the basketball game on Saturday. Recreation Leader Bealer explained that the league did not schedule any referees for our game so rather than send the other team away, it was decided to scrimmage and use players from the varsity girls basketball team as referees. Mayor Warner clarified that when she and Mrs. Walrath spoke last night, the Mayor was not clear that Mrs. Walrath was asking that her daughter be named an assistant "coach". Mayor Warner asked Administrator Ryan for clarification regarding Attorney Langey's concern with naming Hailey as an assistant coach - is it her age or what is the concern? Administrator Ryan advised that Attorney Langey's concern is her age and the lack of coaching training. The Board talked about the options for having Hailey be an assistant. Trustee Haddad thinks that this should go back to the Rec Board. Recreation Leader Bealer talked about the decisions that the Rec Board made regarding assistant coaches. At their meeting on Monday night, they named certain other coaches only that can help on the sidelines during games but left the decision to Coach Congden on who can help during practices. Trustee Haddad would like the Rec Board to make a policy regarding coaches that is not based on names but that could be used for years to come. Rec Board member Steve White believes that the Rec Board can put together an effective policy that could apply with students helping at practices. Mr. White does feel that this matter has been jumped over the Rec Board and that it could have been handled during the public comment period at the Rec Board meeting. Mr. White stated that as a volunteer, he feels like he is not being allowed to do his part stating that that is what the Rec Board members want to do. Trustee Haddad agrees with Rec Board member White and would like this to go back to Rec for a policy and suggested that they develop a policy for under 16 year olds and 16-17 year olds. It was noted that Rec does not meet again until the end of January, 2026. Trustee Watkins asked if this has gone to the Rec Board. Rec Leader Bealer, Administrator Ryan and Mrs. Walrath all talked about how this came to the Village Board tonight. Mayor Warner noted that it also got to her and stated that she has had calls from other parents with concerns about how this program is being run. The Mayor stated that she has seen chaos in this program this year and she is considering not funding the program or asking Rec to re-think the program. Mayor Warner advised that she does not like the JBL rule that each child only has to play one play each game and she does not believe that it is working for our kids. The Mayor also believes that the parents are causing problems and have been for a couple of years now which has put a stain on all of the Village and this program is consistently a problem. Mayor Warner thinks it is great that Hailey Walrath wants to assist, but coaching is a problem because of CPR and being able to manage children. Mrs. Walrath advised that when her husband coached last year, he did not have any certifications. The Board talked about the need for coaches

to have certain training. The Village Board asked Rec Leader Bealer and Rec Board member White if Rec Board member Campanaro is still the liaison to the Basketball Program and were advised that Mr. Campanaro stepped down a few years ago after Nichole Boston resigned as Rec Leader and Administrator Ryan took over the responsibilities of liaison to the program because there was no one else to do it. Rec Board member White and the Village Board talked about the JBL League requirements for coaches and what the Village should require for our coaches. Mr. White noted that the Rec Board will work on coming up with requirements and training for coaches. Trustee Haddad talked about training requirements for coaches involved in other programs and the school sports programs.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Torrey, to approve Hailey Walrath as a volunteer assistant under the guidance of an authorized adult to assist with the girls basketball B team practices. **Discussion:** Trustee Haddad will be a no because he believes that this needs to go back to the Rec Board. Trustee Watkins noted that Rec does not meet again until the end of January and that this decision only applies to Hailey. Passed 3 to 1. Trustee Haddad voting Nay.

Mayor Warner asked the Rec Board to put together a policy and to sit with her to look at the basketball program.

Department Heads.

Code Enforcement Officer Adsit asked the Board if there were any questions on his report. CEO Adsit is working with the Planning Board and Architectural Review Board regarding forming a committee to see what they need to go regarding his request for discretion on certain requests for building permits. He stated that both Boards were onboard with the idea of not requiring site plan approval for certain building permit requests. He is waiting to hear from the county on this. CEO Adsit reported that since April of this year, we now have 12 new single-family homes in the Village, noting that Habitat for Humanity just applied for building permits for 6 new homes on Rosewood Circle. These homes will not have a basement or a garage. Trustee Watkins asked if these homes will be on the tax roll. CEO Adsit stated that that is a question for the Assessor. The Mayor believes that once the properties are sold, they will be on the tax roll. The Mayor noted that when Habitat for Humanity came in a year ago and presented their proposal for these homes, she asked them to off set the houses so that any new owner could apply for a permit to add a garage and they would have room to do so. It does not appear that the structures were off set. CEO Adsit noted that there is only a 4-foot setback for garages and sheds in the Village so it should not be a problem.

Chief Chafee asked if the Village would put something on the Village website asking residents to keep fire hydrants cleared of snow. Administrator Ryan will take care of this.

Administrator Ryan advised the Board that Chief Barton asked to be excused from the meeting tonight. We have his numbers.

Dan Cunningham of Clean Water Technologies reviewed his report for the Board. He talked about the recent rain event which started to cause the overflow tank to fill, but noted that the rain stopped before there was an event. Dan also talked about the influent pump that had to be removed and sent out to be looked at. The cost to repair the pump was estimated at \$27,000, which is more than one-half of the cost of a new pump so Dan asked them to return the pump to the Village. The Mayor asked if the cyclone was put back together to which Dan responded that it was and talked about the schedule for purchasing extras to keep us running. He advised the Board that one of his guys welded the unit to keep it running for now.

Recreation Leader Bealer asked the Board if they had any questions about her report. Trustee Watkins asked how the gingerbread house event went and Rec Leader Bealer advised that there were 20 people and it went well. Rec Leader Bealer asked if she could have the opportunity to speak with the Board about the basketball program. She advised the Board that she is working hard on this program and she reviewed the situation that is ongoing in basketball with the Walrath family. Rec Leader Bealer stated that her perspective is from that of a Rec Leader and not a parent and advised that her child is on the girls B team. She stated to the Board that she made a decision and has brought that decision to the Rec Board because of the problems that exist with this family when the coach is not at the practice. She also stated that she is concerned that this family is exhibiting concerning behavior both during practices and when they don't get their way by going over head to the Village Board and Administrator Ryan. Rec Board member White talked about what happened after the drama in the beginning of the season and the issues with the Code of Conduct. He talked about discussions that were had with the Rec Board regarding these problems. He noted that the problems that they had in previous years caused them to be unable to participate in championship games two (2) years in a row. Rec Board member White stated that the Rec Board supports Rec Leader Bealer and acknowledges that the Walrath family has a right to feel they way they feel and does not want any more drama, adding that if there is any more, there will be action taken. Mayor Warner stated that if there are any more problems, the program will be done. The Mayor stated again that there have been problems in this program for the last 3 years and the problems are from the parents. She is concerned that with having to fight for gym space at the school, that if the problems continue the school is just going to tell us that we cannot use their facility. Rec Board member White does not want to lose this program and wants everything to move forward. Trustee Watkins wants a 15-year-old who wants to help to be able to help and wants the kids to be able to play. He asked Rec Leader Bealer to send him the schedule for the games. The Mayor wants the game schedule to be sent to the entire Village Board. Trustee Haddad would like Rec Board member Campanaro to take care of this because it is his responsibility and he does not have a child in the game. Rec Board member White again stated that the Rec Board would like any program or problem to come to the Rec Board first and he noted that under Rec Leader Bealer's leadership, the Rec

Program has grown and they want to continue this work. Mayor Warner agreed that Rec Leader Bealer has done a great job growing the programming and thanked the Rec Board members for their work. Mrs. Walrath advised the Board that her husband was never asked by Rec Leader Bealer to be a coach this year and she asked for Rec Board member White's phone number.

Village Historian Sadler advised the Board that he is working on a couple of markers and is also working on a book and is waiting on a copyright before he can give us any more information.

DPW Foreman Holdridge referenced his report for the Board. Trustee Torrey commented that it was quite a report. Trustee Haddad asked if someone asked him to do make the record of the sidewalk plowing that was attached to the report. DPW Foreman Holdridge advised that he did it for the Board. Trustee Haddad thanked DPW Foreman Holdridge for the information but does not think it is necessary. Administrator Ryan stated that he had asked DPW Foreman Holdridge to keep track of what his department did. The Board talked with DPW Foreman Holdridge about what they have done with the sidewalk plow. Trustee Watkins thanked the DPW for their work. DPW Foreman Holdridge advised that they spent a lot of time on setting up the lights, sanding and plowing and shoveling out the hydrants when they can. He advised that National Grid set the pole at the shop and that the temporary service was done on Monday. There was a problem with the service and they are currently running on a generator. The sub-contractor, Jo-Jo Electric, ran the electrical service pursuant to the plans that the National Grid engineer gave to Abscope, the contractor, but when the National Grid inspector came out to inspect the work, the inspector would not approve it the way it was designed so the electricity was not turned on. Abscope has provided a diesel generator which is running most of the shop with the exception of a couple of tools. The Board asked who is paying for the generator and filling it with diesel fuel. DPW Foreman Holdridge advised that Abscope is paying for the generator and filling it with fuel. He also advised that it is expected that the situation will be remedied and the electricity turned on by Friday. DPW Foreman Holdridge also advised that he asked the contractor to leave the 10-foot stump of the steel pole that was taken out so that no one would run over the stump. He talked about the other work that was done. The Mayor asked if they are on track for soil remediation in the spring. DPW Foreman Holdridge stated that it is supposed to begin in April. Trustee Haddad asked about the lights on the manger and DPW Foreman Holdridge stated that it was fixed and they are solar lights now.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to approve the following requests from Recreation:

- to co-sponsor the Winter Break Program with the Canastota Public Library from February 16 - 20, 2026.
- to hold the Spring Craft Fair on March 29, 2026, at Theodore's from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with 8 x 6 vendor spots being offered for \$35.00 and 10 x 10 vendor spots being offered for \$50. Registration will open on January 1, 2026 and second spots

- will be available on February 1, 2026. Registration closes on March 6, 2026, and no refunds will be given after March 6, 2026.
- to hold Glow Bowl on February 21, 2026 with time slots of 10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. The registration fee is \$12/person with a group rate of \$80 for 10 people. The fee to the bowling alley is \$10/person.

Discussion:

Mayor Warner asked if Rec would get with the Clerks with the number of sizes of the booths for the craft fair. Rec Leader Bealer said they would and she talked with the Mayor who asked why we are changing the sizes of the booths. Mayor Warner asked Rec Leader Bealer to have the information to the Clerks before registration opens. Passed 4 to 0.

Discussion of a request from the Department of Public Works to consider purchasing a used 2023 International CV dump truck at auction.

Administrator Ryan noted that when the Purchasing Policy was reviewed, it was determined that we cannot buy things at auction. The Board talked about options for purchasing this vehicle. DPW Foreman Holdridge was asked to contact the Vermont municipality that is offering the vehicle for sale through Auctions International to see if they would sell the vehicle to us directly. He has already reached out to them to get information on the vehicle and was told, after speaking with a clerk and the treasurer that he needs to speak with the Highway Commissioner. He was told that the owner of the vehicle was hoping to get \$90,000 from the sale at auction. The Board talked again about purchasing options. Trustee Watkins asked about the plan for use of the vehicle after purchase. DPW Foreman Holdridge advised the Board that his plan is to put the vehicle right on the road and then send the 6-wheeler to the side and use it when we get a storm. He would get rid of the 10-wheeler and put 4 guys in trucks to plow instead of 6. He discussed the plan with the Board - 4 guys plowing, one guy in the sidewalk plow and one in the loader working on snow banks. Trustee Watkins asked about the potential cost if our bid is not accepted. The Mayor noted that our Purchasing Policy does not preclude us from buying from another municipality, but being that the vehicle is being sold through an auction company, it is not allowed. The Board talked about the purchasing policy. The Board talked about the potential additional cost that could be added to the cost of the vehicle if we buy it directly from the municipality.

Motion by Trustee Haddad, seconded by Trustee Watkins, that we reserve \$95,000 for the purchase of a 2023 International CV dump truck currently being offered at auction by a municipality in Vermont, the total cost including all fees not to exceed \$95,000. Passed 4 to 0.

The Board spoke with DPW Foreman Holdridge about contacting the owner of the 2023 International. The Board talked about the age of the vehicles in our fleet, specifically the 10-wheeler

which they believe is a 1997 or 1998. The Mayor spoke with DPW Foreman Holdridge about the plan once the 10-wheeler is taken out of our fleet. Trustee Watkins asked if we will be able to go another few years with what we have and if we will be looking at buying another CV in a couple of years. DPW Foreman Holdridge spoke with the Town of Cazenovia and they have a Chevy 5500 which is identical to our CV which Cazenovia will be getting rid of at the end of the next year as long as they can replace it with the vehicle they want. He talked about his plan for possibly buying this truck. He thinks the 550 that we have could get enough money from the auction to be able to purchase the truck from Cazenovia. Mayor Warner thanked DPW Foreman Holdridge and noted that she appreciates everything that the DPW does, adding that the sidewalks look great. Mayor Warner noted that she took a ride around the Village after our last meeting and a lot of people were walking in the road. Once the DPW cleared the sidewalks, she no longer sees anyone walking in the road. DPW Foreman Holdridge talked about his path for sidewalk plowing and that even after plowing the sidewalks, he has seen the kids still walking in the road.

Discussion of the results of the special election.

Administrator Ryan informed the Board that the proposition passed so the Village election will move to November beginning in 2026. Each of our officials will have terms extended to match up with the new date. Our attorney has advised that our new official year now begins on the first Monday of December at noon. If the Board would like it to begin on a different date, the attorneys will look into that. Mayor Warner stated that leaving the date in November would give any incoming new members extra time to develop a budget. After discussion, the Board would like to leave the date as is with the first Monday in November at noon.

Correspondence.

- Letter from Mike McGrath, owner of MGM Auto Parts (NAPA) that he has sold the business. Mayor Warner is grateful that he found a buyer and that the store will remain open.

Administrator Comments.

Administrator Ryan reported that Auctions International will allow us to use a Bill of Sale for the jet trailer in lieu of a title. He asked Dan Cunningham to let him know if the company who looked at the pump for us wanted to purchase the pump and if not, we could sell it at auction. Administrator Ryan also asked the department heads present to get any surplus items they may have together and get a list to him so we can offer them for sale at auction. Administrator Ryan advised the Board that attorney Langey is working on the Fire Contract with the Town of Lenox.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Warner noted that we did not get the BRICKS Grant because we did not have site control of the old Erie Mill when we applied for the grant. She would like to apply again if the grant is offered again.

The Mayor advised the Board that Clark Equipment wants to remove the right of first refusal from the contract. The Board talked about whether this has been in previous contracts and if we wanted it in there again. The Mayor and Administrator Ryan stated that they have not found it in previous contracts. Trustee Watkins stated that he is for taking it out. The Mayor believes that would take away our ability to control what is in the park.

Mayor Warner advised that Administrator Ryan is working with the attorney for the extension of agreement with the Menikheims and the lien provision but we don't have anything back yet.

The Mayor noted that the LWRP committee is meeting tomorrow night and that it is not a public hearing, it is just the committee and the State will be attending on line. Mayor Warner advised that she reached out to the consultants at Syracuse University regarding when the WIIA Grant announcements will be made. This is the grant that we applied for to help with the costs of the sewer separation project on Commerce, State and South Canal Streets.

The Mayor thanked Clerk/Treasurer Williams for sending out the budget update.

Mayor Warner received an email from Cherie Chabot regarding handicap parking in front of the Post Office. DPW Foreman Holdridge and his crew went out and cleaned out the area. The Mayor also received a request about putting a handicap spot near the pizzeria. She has spoken previously with Mrs. Chabot about accessibility in the downtown. The Mayor would like to have a conversation this winter and speak with CEO Adsit to see if some of the businesses could be made accessible. Trustee Torrey commented that many of the businesses in the downtown are tenants.

Trustees Comments.

There were no Trustee Comments tonight.

Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to Executive Session regarding personnel at 8:29 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Motion by Trustee Torrey, seconded by Trustee Watkins, to exit Executive Session at 8:59 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

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Motion by Trustee Watkins, seconded by Trustee Haddad, to adjourn at 8:59 p.m. Passed 4 to 0.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine E. Williams

Catherine E. Williams
Clerk/Treasurer