

August 8th, 2016 – Canaan Town Board Monthly Meeting

Supervisor Richard Keaveney opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Supervisor Richard Keaveney
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Brenda Adams
Councilperson Terese Platten
Councilperson David Patzwahl

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE: 6

MINUTES:

MOTION: Motion made by Councilperson Terese Platten, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller to approve the July 11th, 2016 minutes, as amended.

4-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl - abstain
Motion Carried.

BILLS:

MOTION: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the payment of the: General Fund: #217- #245 in the \$16,472.41. The Highway Fund: #56-#68 in the amount of \$25,179.74. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.
Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Revenues	\$ 676.28
Highway Fund	\$ 402,809.66
Highway Fund Capital	\$ 244,147.37
Lighting Districts	\$ 2,478.18
Ambulance Districts & Fire Districts	\$.59
Building Inspector	\$ 1,074.00
Planning Board	\$ 200.00
Recreation	\$ 7,626.63
General Fund Balance	\$ 332,896.90
Court Revenues	\$ 4,427.00(June-2016)
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ -0-

Tax Collector \$ 10.09

RESOLUTION #53 – RE-APPOINTMENT OF ANNEBETH DILLON to the Town of Canaan Board of Assessment Review.

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve Resolution #53. 5-ayes

Roll-call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

RESOLUTION #54 – Tabled - Approving the East Chatham Fire Company three-year Budget and Subsequent Contract. Supervisor Keaveney said that a Public Hearing must be held before we can make any motion. The Public Hearing will be held before the September 12th, 2016 monthly board meeting.

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney asked that the Main Town Hall Sign and Paint Posts by Reilly Signs at a cost of \$2,850.00, be replaced.

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to approve the proposed motion. 5-ayes

Roll-call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

Board Discussion:

- 1. Park Recreation Equipment Installation and Repair:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that the Town Highway Department has installed the equipment and will complete working on the Tennis Backboard soon.
- 2. Solar Power Local Law Status:** Supervisor Keaveney said that the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals will review the additional revisions when completed by the Town Attorney, Andy Howard. The ZBA will have the decision of issuing permits.
- 3. Transfer Station Fire:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that Tom Hickey, manages Covanta station in Canaan, said that they are closing the Pittsfield plant and that they will not leave the good location of the Canaan station.
- 4. Canaan Cemetery Cost Increase:** Supervisor Keaveney said that the nine (9) acres of the cemetery take two days to complete. They continue to maintain tombstones and the property beyond the mowing and insurance costs that the Town helps them with. They are asking for an increase in next year's budget to help them. Councilperson David Patzwahl is concerned with the cost increase.

5. **Code Enforcement Action:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney said complaints were received from neighbors of the abandoned house in East Chatham. The Town hired a contractor to do maintenance, outside, clean-up of garbage and mowing.
6. **Berkshire Farm Beaches:** The staff beach at the Farm has never been certified, the kids beach has and is certified with the State, in order to certify the beach an engineer report is needed. The Health Department will not comply and want an engineer report done by the engineer they recommended. They say a full analysis is needed and annual inspection need to be done. Supervisor Keaveney said he is working on resolving this situation.
7. **Chatham Rescue Squad:** The rescue squad is asking for an increase of 2 ½ %. The **County (Towns)** scheduled a meeting met with the ambulance squad to discuss this request.
8. **MVP Health Care:** The new policy (**estimate**) at this time will be a 1.7% increase for 2017.
9. **Broad Band:** The committee is waiting for service maps from Charter. They also want reports on the age of the equipment and their performance. The Board Band committee is working on getting better service for Columbia County.

Councilperson Brenda Adams reported on the Berkshire Farm events. Jim Denise, new CEO, will present a “community” informational meeting at the Canaan Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 13th, 2016. Councilperson Adams said that they have two patrols for the mid-night shift for the area and a motion camera to monitor the beaches and when students leave without permission. The school and the farm are now under one management. They have returned counselors to the cottages.

ASSESSOR MONTHLY REPORT:

Exemptions -

- STAR- 3 Basic Star recipients were removed this year due to being over income (\$500,000)
- NEW STAR PROCESS- 6 new home owners have successfully registered with the STATE for the STAR CREDIT. The assessor cannot answer any questions regarding registrations. The number to call for information is 518-457-2036. All residents that had STAR on the 2015 Roll and prior are still handled by the assessor.
- With the new STAR legislation, the assessors had to remove new Star exemptions that had already been added to the roll. Then we had to put them back on with a new code so that the State could identify them. Then we were asked to remove them before the final roll. Now we need to put them back on before the tax bills. It has been crazy and each portion of the transition has been given to the counties after the time period it is actually needed. None of this being the States fault. This was all part of the new State budget and was written by people not involved in RPTL.

Equalization rate - Final equalization rate is 100%

Legal -•We did receive 2 Law suits this year concerning assessments. 1 was for a piece of vacant land and 1 is for a Commercial property. Both suits are from related companies. The Town attorney is now involved.

SALES

- I have created a new SALES book of residential sales for the residents and BAR to view as needed. I also continue to keep a spread sheet.
- All received sales have been updated and are on the attached list unless they needed mapping maintenance, etc. We do have a sale of about 80 acres of vacant land that is to be merged with a property currently receiving a not for profit exemption.

Councilperson David Patzwahl asked about the land being taken off the tax rolls and what will the impact be to residents.

HIGHWAY REPORT

ACTIVITIES:

We have installed the park equipment and straightened the tennis back board as requested.

Truck #7 is back and runs great -I am thankful to not be using my personal truck for town work. It's amazing how much stuff is carried in the 550's - everything from rain coats, hard hats, flagging equipment and marking paint to chainsaw, tools and nuts & bolts for sign repair. Don't forget the snack when I respond to the midnight 911 calls! While truck #7 was apart we replaced some compromised brake & hydraulic lines.

There are sections of Old Hudson that are failing rapidly. In an effort to prolong the life of the road we are going to shim some of the dropped sections and chip seal it when we do Frisbee Street. Weather permitting that will be the week of the 15th.

Due to the detour on County 24 Schoolhouse Road, Cemetery Road and New Concord Road are being heavily traveled. We are constantly grading in an effort to minimize the "ripples" which is caused by the speed of the traffic. These roads were sprayed with calcium in an effort to keep the dust down.

I spoke with DOT and was assured that a resolution will not be needed regarding the ADA compliance because we have no crosswalks or sidewalks on any town maintained roads.

We want to thank Farm Credit East for the donation of two credenzas, a book case and some office chairs.

DISCUSSIONS & REQUESTS:

Permission to attend the fall conference in Lake Placid September 13th - 16th.

MOTION: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to give Highway Superintendent, Bernhard Meyer, permission to attend the fall conference in Lake Placid. 5-eyes

Roll-call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.
Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Charlotte L. Cowan, MMC/RMC
Canaan Town Clerk*

Highlighted (bold) words are the amendments.