

**February 09<sup>th</sup>, 2015 – Town Board Audit Meeting**

Supervisor Richard Keaveney opened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. with the Annual Audit of the Supervisor, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and the Court records.

Supervisor Richard Keaveney and Councilperson Brenda Adams reviewed the Town Court records with the Court Clerk, Darsi Frederick.

Councilperson David Patzwahl reviewed the Supervisor annual banking statements.

Councilperson Carrie Bither, Councilperson David Patzwahl, and Councilperson Alan Miller, reviewed the Town Clerk, Sporting license sales, and the Tax Collector records for 2014.

**MOTION:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to close the audit review at 7:07 p.m. 5-ayes,

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

**MONTHLY MEETING: February 09<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

Supervisor Richard Keaveney opened the monthly meeting at 7:09 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 Carrie Bither  
Councilperson David Patzwahl  
Superintendent of Highways, Bernhard Meyer  
Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Charlotte Cowan

**AUDIENCE:** 6

**MINUTES:** Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 Town Board minutes. 5-ayes

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

**BILLS: MOTION:** Councilperson Carrie Bither made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve the payment of the: General: #15 - #50 in the amount of \$6,824.23; Highway #1 - #16 in the amount of \$14,990.36. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;  
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;  
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;  
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes; and

Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

**SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT**

Town Clerk Revenues	\$ 460.52
Highway Fund	\$ 509.47
Highway Fund Capital	\$ 233,486.56
Lighting Districts	\$ 4,877.38
Ambulance Districts & Fire Districts	\$ .59
Building Inspector	\$ 385.00
Planning Board	\$ -0-
Recreation	\$ 7,720.63
General Fund Balance	\$ 407,585.92
Court Revenues	\$ 6,285.00(December-2014)
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ -0-
Tax Collector	\$1,403,11233

**RESOLUTION #44 – 2014 Budget Transfers.**

**MOTION:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to adopt Resolution #44. 5-ayes

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

**MOTION:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve all of the 2014 financial books audited by the Town Board. 5-ayes

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

**MOTION:** Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to appoint Councilperson Carrie Bither to act as Deputy Supervisor for the year 2015. 5-ayes

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

**Board Discussion:**

1. Stoddard Field – Non-Smoking- Motion or Resolution?

A discussion among the Board members with the decision of placing a sign stating “No Smoking” or enforcing a “No Smoking Allowed” resolution/motion. Supervisor

Keaveney will be meeting with the Recreation Commission next week and will ask for their opinion.

**MOTION:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to table said decision until next month's meeting. 5-ayes

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

2. Stoddard Field – Maintenance: Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that things to be done at the park are: power spray the tennis courts, remove the gardens along the pond, remove the model ship in the playground, and contact the Army Core of Engineers to have the pond cleared.
3. Councilperson Alan Miller offered a motion to change all of the Town Hall lighting. Supervisor Keaveney suggested that we gather all the information about the cost of electricity at the Town Hall because all of the lights were recently refurbished. It was decided to gather all electrical bills for the Town Hall and the Highway and observe the costs before changing things at the Town Hall.
4. Loves: Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that all of the buildings are removed. They have gotten all permits. They hope to start the project in the spring.

#### **ASSESSOR MONTHLY REPORT:**

##### **Exemptions-**

- v • 50% of exemptions have been returned.
- ^^ • Legislation is out there concerning the STAR program but has NOT been passed. If passed, once again confusion will follow but could be a start in the right direction. We are unsure if they are speaking of BASIC STAR or ALL STAR

Proposal is as follows:

**STAR TRANSITION:** *As part the Executive Budget, Governor Cuomo has submitted a proposal that would significantly change the way the School Tax Relief (STAR) exemption is administered. If S2009/A3009 pass their respective houses, and if signed into law, the STAR program will transition from an exemption, administered by Assessors across the state, to an income tax credit administered by the New York State (NYS) Department of Taxation and Finance. If enacted, current STAR recipients would be "grandfathered" into the existing program — the income tax credit would only apply to new home owners.*

*When it comes to the Basic STAR, the NYSAA has long advocated for one of two options; either (1) NYS resume payments to local municipalities for the cost of administering the state's program, or (2) NYS take over the program. Although this proposal is a move in the right direction, we do have some concerns as to how the legislation is currently written. As proposed, and If enacted, the local Assessor would not be allowed to approve any new STAR applications for the 2015-2016 school bill; please note, since this proposed bill has not been enacted, we are still required to accept and process all applications as presented. Unfortunately, the current proposal would have us deny any application where the current owner did not have title to the property as of taxable status date of last year. This is not acceptable. Rest assured, the NYS Assessors' Association will work with the Assembly and Senate to amend the current language to forestall it by one year.*

##### **\*\*Equalization-**

- As mentioned before, information has been compiled and sent to the state to challenge the residential trend for our market area which. The reports show a flat or -1% trend only.

**Taxes-** More proposed legislation as follows:

**CIRCUIT BREAKER:** Details are starting to take shape on the Governor's proposed property tax circuit breaker. The Circuit Breaker would apply to home owners whose income is less than \$250,000 (and renters earning less than \$150,000) and whose property taxes exceed 6% of their federal adjusted gross income. For any taxes over the 6% threshold, the state would pay one-half of the difference, with a maximum pay out of \$2,000.

**HIGHWAY REPORT** – (typed as presented to clerk )

**ACTIVITIES:**

Truck #11 has been on sick leave again. On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> we had an electrical meltdown and the truck had to be towed to Albany. As of this report it's still on sick leave - we may need to send flowers!

Truck #7 has 4 new sneakers on the rear. The former tires were retreads and ended up with side wall fatigue.

Fire extinguisher annual recertification has been done.

We are down to about 1000 tons of sand for the rest of the winter. Salt is extremely difficult to get We endured the epic Councilperson storm. Most all intersection snow piles have been pushed off to facilitate a good line of sight again.

We have had several days of early morning and weekend call ins for snow removal.

I attended many meetings this month ranging from the state highway association to the Columbia County traffic safety. Subjects included but not limited to CHIPS money, unfunded mandates, work policies, legislative affairs and county wide safety issues.

**NATURAL OCCURANCES:**

**DISCUSSIONS & REQUESTS:**

284 agreement – monies to be spent / motor-pave on Frisbee street \$100,000.00 in the agreement.

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, 5-eyes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard – yes;

Councilperson Alan Miller-yes;

Councilperson Brenda Adams-yes;

Councilperson Carrie Bither-yes; and

Councilperson David Patzwahl-yes. Motion Carried

Permission to go to bid-

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams mad a motion, seconded by Supervisor Richard Keaveney, to approve the Highway Superintendent, Bernhard Meyer, to go out to bid for sand, salt, culverts, and needed supplies. 5-eyes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;

Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;

Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes;

Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes; and

Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes. Motion Carried.

Permission to go to bid for a used roller:

**MOTION:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, for Bernhard Meyer to go out to bid for a used roller. 5-ayes

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

**MOTION:** Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Richard Keaveney, to lighting installation in the Highway Garage. 5-ayes

Roll-Call showed: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes;  
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;  
Councilperson Brenda Adams - yes;  
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes; and  
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes. Motion Carried.

Countywide inter-municipal agreement in case of a major disaster – the first 72 hours the Town is On its own before any assistance.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:** Andy Meier – asked about the tree being cut at the LOVE building site. Superintendent of Highway, Bernhard Meyer, said that there will be a replanting of trees on the North side of Peaceful Valley.

Ms. Wendy Dwyer-concerned about the pot holes, she has called the governor office for this Region 8. Ms. Dwyer would also like a “Peace Pole” placed in the Town Park.

Mrs. Vivian Vispo feels that the Town Park is too small to enforce “no smoking”.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. 5-ayes

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

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