

February 10th, 2020 - Town Board Special Audit Meeting

Supervisor Brenda Adams opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Supervisor Brenda Adams
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale
Councilperson Terese Platten
Councilperson David Patzwahl

AUDIENCE: 3

Supervisor Brenda Adams read the Public Notice: Please take notice that the Canaan Town Board will hold a Special Meeting at the Canaan Town Hall, 1647 County Route 5, Canaan, New York 12029, at 6:30 p.m. on February 10th, 2020. The purpose of the meeting is to audit the town books. Following the audit, the February monthly Town board meeting will be held.

Councilperson David Patzwahl, audited the Department of Conservation books: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, audited the Supervisor records: Councilperson Alan Miller, audited the Tax records: Supervisor Brenda Adams audited the Court records: and Councilperson Terese Platten audited the Town Clerk General Fund records.

Motion: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to close the audit meeting at 6:55 p.m. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller – yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes, and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte L. Cowan

February 10th, 2020 – Town Board Meeting

Supervisor Brenda Adams opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, followed by a moment of silence.

PRESENT: Supervisor Brenda Adams
Councilperson Alan Miller
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale

DRAFT

Councilperson Terese Platten
Councilperson David Patzwahl

Audience: 11

MINUTES:

Motion: Motion made by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller to approve the January 13th, 2020 Town Board minutes, 4-ayes

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

BILLS:

Motion: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to approve the payment of the February bills: General Fund: #29 - #56 in the amount of \$8,093.43. Highway Fund bills: #02-#16 in the amount of \$34,944.72. 5-ayes

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

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Revenues	\$ 532.03
Highway Fund	\$440,337.04
Highway Fund Capital	\$178,080.12
Lighting Districts	\$005,149.85
Fire Districts	\$ - 300.00 -
Building Inspector	\$ 265.00 (Dec 2019-Jan 01,2020)
Planning Board	\$ -0-
Recreation	\$ 3,490.71
General Fund Balance	\$ 499,961.57
Court Revenues	\$ 004,807.00(Dec-2019)
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ 25.00
Tax Collector	\$1,144,742.70

82% collected and 18% uncollected in taxes

Revenues for the month of JANUARY -2020

Resolution #44 – Town Board Audit

Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to approve
DRAFT

the financials for the year 2019 of the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, **DECALS**, Supervisor, and the Judges' financials for the year 2019. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #44 adopted.

Resolution #45 – In Memory and Appreciation of Town service to the Canaan Town Board of Michael John Fabiano, Sr.

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adopt resolution #45. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #45 adopted.

Supervisor Brenda Adams read the obituary and presented the family a certificate. David Fabiano spoke for the family saying that his dad came, 65 years ago, to the Town of Canaan. He first came as an agriculture teacher at Berkshire Farm and ten years later he started teaching at Germantown Central School. He then started serving, for nineteen years, he served on the town board. David said, “it was an honor for him and for the family to serve the town.”

Resolution #46 – In Memory and Appreciation of Town Service to the Canaan Fire Company, Ralph Henry Moshimer

Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adopt resolution #46. 5 ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #46 adopted.

Supervisor Brenda Adams read Ralph's obituary and presented the family with a certificate. Randy Moshimer spoke on behalf of the family saying that his father grew up in this town and Canaan was his home.

Resolution #47 – 2019 Budget Adjustment

Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to increase the HRA Funds \$25K from money market \$18 to the Highway account \$7K to the General Fund. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;

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Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #47 adopted.

Resolution #48 – Purchasing a New Highway Truck

Councilperson Terese Platten made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, for Highway Department to purchase a 2020 MAC GR 42FR, six-wheeler for a price not to exceed \$215,358.00 paid from the Highway Capital Account. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Resolution #48 adopted.

Motion: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, for the Highway Department to dispose of useless scrap and dunnage. 5 - ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

Motion: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, for the Highway Department to purchase Barnegat road sign. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams noted that the Highway clerk, Daryl, showed the initiative, this is the sign that was damaged in an accident, to work with the vehicle owner's insurance company to replace the sign.

Motion: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to give the Highway Department permission to go out to bid. 5-ayes

Supervisor Brenda Adams would like to acknowledge the Highway clerk, Daryl Schafer, for her working with the vehicle owner's insurance company to replace the damaged sign. This is a net zero in regards to the town's expense to replace the sign.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;

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Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

Report from County Board of Supervisors

1. **Supervisor Brenda Adams:** said that the County has proposed Local Law #3 to require all camps in Columbia County: to have, campers, camp staff and camp volunteers to have vaccinations in order to attend, volunteer or to work in a camp. This requirement is in excess of what schools or many other organizations require for employment or volunteering. There will be a Public hearing in Hudson on Wednesday if anyone would like to participate in the Public Hearing.
2. **Committee assignments:** Supervisor Brenda Adams has been assigned to co-chair the newly formed Board of Election Oversight Committee; the Health and Human Services committee; and the Insurance committee.

BOARD DISCUSSION:

1. **Berkshire Farm Center** will discontinue the Residential Treatment Center (RTC) program effective immediately, Berkshire Union Free School District (BUFSD) is expected to operate thru the end of the school year. Supervisor Adams said that there is a sign-up sheet, for those interested in information concerning the farm, via email. The sheet is being passed around the room.
2. **Town of Canaan open positions:** Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), clerk; Economic Management Council County representative, Meals on Wheels drivers, and committee members for the Recreation committee.
3. **Charger Update:** Councilperson Terese Platten spoke with Sam **Chapin**, who is the tech from PlugIn Stations Online company, is waiting for one more box of technology to be in this week. Sam should be able to come over next week and installed. They would like to use the Wi-Fi router at the Town Library. We need the password for the Wi-Fi. The Wi-Fi signal will turn into cell signal, and is protected. This will also give us phone service here at the town hall. Anyone who has an electric car and an account may use the station. The town will only subsidize the town car.
4. **AUD draft** – the annual report which is due to New York State is due the end of February. Supervisor Adams asked that the town board review the draft and to let her know of any changes that can be forwarded to the accountant, Nelson Furlano.
5. **Dog Law:** Many questions concerning the Town's dog law. Supervisor Adams said she spoke to the town attorney by email. Andy Howard, town attorney, made three clarifications to our existing dog law: In the event there is a complaint by an individual, the dog control officer/a member of the Columbia County sheriff department/ NYS Police, can write the complaint. It is not limited to the dog control officer. If the property owner wishes to bring their complaint in, they may do so through their attorney or through the town attorney office by preparing a sworn complaint and request a hearing from the justice court.

- 6. Plastic Bag Ban effective March 1, 2020:** there will be no more plastic bag usage at stores in New York State. Supervisor Adams said that we could collect surplus bags to distribute for those who are not able to purchase reusable bags. We would probably start a collection center here at the town hall and distribute them here or at the senior program.

ASSESSOR Report: Supervisor Brenda Adams read the Assessor report.

Exemptions -

- All exemption renewals have been sent and are slowly coming in.

Office-

- Assessor is continuing to work on field review and valuing new construction and other permit changes.
- Reviewing and working with the State on the level of assessment for the 2020 roll
- Sales entry and review
- As time permits the assessor is in the field continuing with the Data Verification for the reassessment cycle. Parcel inventory is being updated as needed.
- Soon the planning board clerk will be working on the scanning project for the assessor. This project has been ongoing for at least 3 years.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

Superintendent of Highways, Bernhard Meyer, read his monthly report.

ACTIVITIES:

We took advantage of the mild weather to have material hauled in with anticipation of "mud season". Truck #7's sander problems required having a hydraulic pump installed. Truck #8 ended up needing a water pump and a fan clutch. We received the insurance money for the damaged Barnegat Road sign and post. I am looking at the possibility of paving the approaches to several roads in conjunction with the proposed paving on Route 22. Part of the process has been to update our Local Highway Inventory to reflect the existing approaches as being paved. This morning I found out that the paving project has been awarded to Callanan Industries and I have been in touch with them. I will meet with the project manager next week to go over best practices.

Flints Crossing is another area that has been a work in progress. I was notified that the RR is going to realign the crossing. Tractor trailers parking between Route 22 and the crossing is still a serious issue. After some in-depth research we have ordered the signs for Flints Crossing that state *No Parking No Standing Anytime*. This wording will allow the state police to issue tickets.

I would like the board to consider the idea of building a shed to house equipment that is presently stored outside. We have a lot of money invested in equipment and to leave it outside exposed to the weather is a shame.

As many of you know I am having a hip replaced tomorrow and have utmost confidence in the team at the highway department to handle anything that may come up.

REQUESTS:

I would like to go out to bid for services and material with a bid opening of March 2nd. I would like permission to order a Barnegat Road sign. I would like permission to scrap steel.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

1. Marion Lathrop asked when is the work to be done on Route 22. Superintendent Bernhard Meyer said in early summer, he will keep us posted.
2. Wendy Dwyer is very concerned about the truck traffic at the Love's truck stop. Wendy said that she is also interested in the position of Columbia County Environmental Council member for the town of Canaan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Supervisor Brenda Adams asked to go into executive session to discuss a legal matter at 8:00 p.m.

Motion: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to enter into executive session. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams Town Board returned to the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m. There were no motions or decisions made.

Motion: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to ask the town attorney to address the legal matter. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.

Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. 5-ayes

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale - yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten - yes; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Charlotte L. Cowan, Town Clerk