

TOWN BOARD MEETING – April 13th, 2020

Meeting held via Zoom as Town Hall closed due to Executive Order

Supervisor Brenda Adams opened the Town Board meeting with a moment of silence at 7:00 p.m.

Audience:

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

All present on Zoom.

BILLS: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the General bills: #85 - #112 in the amount of \$9,447.37; Highway bills: #31 - #44 in the amount of \$25,557.32. 4-ayes. Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams - yes;
Councilperson Alan Miller- yes;
Councilperson Ginny Nightingale- yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – abstained; and
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes.
Motion Carried.

MINUTES;

Motion: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve March 9th, 2020 town board minutes. 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	\$ 110.00
Highway Fund	\$339,647.01
Highway Fund-Capital	\$ 42,874.96
Lighting Districts	\$ 4,271.00
Fire Districts	\$ 300.00
Building Inspector	\$ 2,249.00(2/01/-3/25/2020)
Planning Board	\$
Recreation	\$ 3,492.00
General Fund Balance	\$448,160.700
Court Revenues	\$
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$
Tax Collector	\$ 72,935.80

Revenues for the month of March - 2020

RESOLUTION #50 – Appointing Lynne Torello as Dog Control Officer for the Town of Canaan.

Motion: Motion made by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten,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 #50 adopted.

MOTION

1. Dog Control Law to May Public Hearing – revisions: A new draft law was provided to the board for discussion. The two changes of substance are: any property owner upon whose property a violation occurs may now file a complaint; and two, complaints may be filed with the Dog Control Officer, a police officer in the employ of the Town of Canaan, an officer of the Columbia County Sheriff 's Department or the New York State Police. Councilperson Ginny Nightingale requested that Section 2A of licensing of dogs should be revised to six months to reflect accepted vaccination practices. Councilperson Terese Platten asked for clarification on the Ag and Market Law reference in Section 6E, answer to follow in the May meeting. Supervisor Brenda Adams said she would ask the town attorney to clarify the night quarantine reference.
2. Transfer station maintenance permit: limit two per household until further notice. The board discussed that maintenance permit requests are up 50% over the same period last year. In order to stay within the annual allocations in the agreement with Waste Connections, the board discussed limiting permits for the short term until further review could be taken. Supervisor Adams asked that Councilperson David Patzwahl and Town Clerk, Charlotte Cowan, work together to review the permits and tonnage already used this year for further recommendation to the board.

Motion: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Ginny Nightingale , to issue only two maintenance permits to residents instead of four, until further notice. 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.

Report from County Board of Supervisors

1. County State of Emergency continues until May 15: Supervisor Brenda Adams said that the County Board of Supervisors and its committees are meeting via google meetings.
2. Update on COVID cases and responses: 93 tested positive, 84 in mandatory quarantine, 21 precautionary quarantine, 9 deaths, numbers are still going up.
3. Update on County budget discussions and services based on COVID 19: freeze on all non-essential expenses including hiring, sales tax, mortgage taxes and fines and forfeitures revenues are expected to be considerably lower, how much depends on when the county re-opens.
4. Hand sanitizer refills and masks will be available at the Town Hall at the end of the week; free to town residents for as long as they last.
4. March election primary rescheduled to June 23,2020: this primary combines the Republican congressional primary & the Democratic presidential primary
5. Canaan's census response as of last week is low compared to other local communities, Supervisor to reach out to local organizations to ask their members to go online and fill out the forms

Board Discussion:

1. Review changes to the Dog Control Law – action pending additional information from attorney.
2. Open positions: Supervisor Brenda Adams said that we are still have openings for a Planning Board clerk and a Zoning Board of Appeals clerk. The town clerk will ask Gary Flaherty to place an advertisement on the Canaan Fire Company board for the public to see.
3. COVID 19 update/budget impact: Supervisor Brenda Adams said that the revenues are expected to be substantially lower for sales tax, mortgage taxes and fines and forfeitures. Committees are meeting with department heads to lower expenses.
4. March election primary rescheduled to June 23.
5. Insurance proposals: The supervisor provided a 2020 summary from Marshall & Sterling that identified a number of options for the medical & dental insurance renewals. After discussion the board decided to that we stay with current plan and provider The Motion was made by Alan Miller; the second was made by Ginny Nightingale.

Motion carried

HIGHWAY MONTHLY REPORT

ACTIVITIES:

The highway department has been stringent about social distancing and disinfecting surfaces. Our usual flow of foot traffic has been very respectful of the closed signs. Due to the uncertainty of the projected revenues we have curtailed expenses and I am holding off on any major paving. The state budget contains a sentence in both the CHIPS and the Extreme Winter Recovery funding

that states that the money will not be apportioned unless approved by the State Budget Director "*without adversely affecting the funding available for essential capital projects health and safety or essential governmental services*" within the state's multi-year financial plan. Bottom line is if the state needs money elsewhere then all bets are off for reimbursement. I won't put the town in jeopardy if there is no reasonable guarantee for reimbursement. However, we are already committed to doing intersections on Route 22 in conjunction with the DOT paving project. These intersections will be from State Route 295 to Edwards Park South with an estimated cost of \$59,000.00.

While the weather was conducive to grading, we are able to address most of the dirt roads. Some still have frost coming out. Our new Mack truck #9 has been put into service. We had a lot of problems with DMV in transferring the plates - two trips to Hudson and many hours later we finally got things worked out.

Truck #8 the 2006 International had some work done on the Jake brake.

The grader has had two flat tires from stone cuts. We borrowed a used tire from the Town of Chatham.

Our hot water pressure washer is in constant need of repairs. If it's not one thing it's another. I'm trying to re-engineer the part which consistently fails.

We installed the beaver screen in the park culvert in an attempt to regulate the water level for an extended period. On the same token beavers plugged the spillway on Beebe's Pond Rd causing the water level to rise to flood stage. The team cleared out the debris and the very next day the dam was already V* built.

I was informed that Highway School in June has been cancelled and at this point our annual safety training is on hold.

We have started our summer work schedule which is Mon - Thurs 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

ASSESSOR MONTHLY REPORT:

The Assessor has been working from home and keeping up on all tasks. The file has been given to the County to produce the tentative roll.

There are no new sales to report this month because of the timing between Taxable status date and Tentative Roll.

As far as we know as of now the Tentative roll will still be filed on time for May 1st.

The grievance processes this year will be changed to comply with Covid guidelines. We are currently working on how this will be approached and as soon as the information is ready it will be updated on our website.

Public notice of inventory completed and in Newspaper.

Exemption Deadline was March 1 and now exemptions are being processed.

Sales continuing to be processed as they come in.

In process of reviewing ongoing construction and needed assessment changes.

After working with the State through the PDC process we are going to be holding a 100% Level of Assessment for the 2020 Roll.

Assessor also working on yearly assessments for Special Franchise, State owned lands, etc.

Pending Article 7 an agreement is in place and waiting for the stipulation paperwork.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Adjournment:

Supervisor Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 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
Canaan Town Clerk