

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING – JUNE 08TH, 2015

Supervisor Richard Keaveney opened the monthly meeting at 7:00 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

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE: 10

Supervisor Richard Keaveney announced that Councilperson Carrie Bither is resigning because she will be moving out of the State. Supervisor Keaveney “Thanked” her for her ten (10) years of service and her service to the Town. Supervisor Keaveney presented her with a large bouquet of flowers.

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion with second by Councilperson Alan Miller, to accept the minutes of the May 11th, 2015, as amended correcting spelling errors.

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

Motion carried.

BILLS:

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve the payment of the General Fund Bills: #144-#180 in the amount of \$11,687.33 and the Highway Fund, #55-#65 in the amount of \$49,783.15.

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

Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Monthly Finance Report

Town Clerk	\$ 301.67
Highway Fund:	\$454,714.89
Highway Fund – Capital:	\$233,524.64
Lighting Districts:	\$ 3,354.29
Ambulance Districts	
And Fire District:	\$.59
Building Inspector:	\$ 25,996.00
Planning Board:	\$ 0
Recreation:	\$ 7,720.63
General Fund Balance:	\$356,595.59

Court Revenues: \$ 5,675.00 (April-2015)
Zoning Board of Appeals: \$ 0
Tax Collector: \$ 12,393.27

RESOLUTION #59– Town of Canaan to Participate in the Local Government Efficiency Plan

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Benda Adams, to adopt resolution #59.

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

Resolution #59 adopted.

RESOLUTION #60 – Approving an Engineer (Timothy Schroder) to Temporarily Assist the Code Enforcement Officer with inspections of the Love’s Project.

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion with second by Councilperson Carrie Bither, to adopt Resolution #60. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes

Resolution #60 adopted.

RESOLUTION #61 – 2015 Budget Adjustment Regarding Engineer Expenses for Love’s Project

MOTION: Motion by Councilperson Brenda Adams with second by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to adopt Resolution #61. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
Councilperson Alan Miller - yes
Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
Councilperson Carrie Bither – yes
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes

Resolution #61 adopted

Board Discussion

- 1 Love’s – They are moving along quickly and plan the project to be completed by December 1, 2015.
- 2 Transfer Station – Councilperson David Patzwahl asked about the change of disposal vehicles at the station. There seems to be containers that may be difficult for residents to dispose of their garbage. There also is a charge for disposing of mattresses being enforced (\$25.00).
- 3 County Debt – Councilperson Brenda Adams asked about the County debt. Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that a restructure of serial bonds with a fixed interest rate will improve this issue. The maintenance of bridges, and the nursing home issues are all being addressed.
- 4 Berkshire Farm – President and Chief Executive Officer Timothy Giacchetta, and Director of Communications and Media Relations Kevin Robinson, were present.

Kevin Robinson presented this release:

Safety Effort Leads to Arrests at Berkshire Farm Center – June 8th, 2015

CANAAN, N.Y. – A plan to enhance the safety and security of students, staff, and the community around Berkshire Farm Center led to the Saturday arrests of four resident students on burglary and criminal mischief charges related to breaking into and vandalizing an administrative building on the Canaan campus.

“Berkshire Farm Center is a residential treatment center, not a substitute for jail,” explained President and CEO Timothy Giacchetta. “We will not tolerate criminal behavior. We have worked closely with law enforcement to find these individuals and we pressed charges to hold them accountable. As CEO, I am committed to the safety and security of our campus and our community because both are crucial to our success.”

About a month ago Giacchetta and other administrators began to implement an enhanced safety plan to deal with a recent uptick in misbehavior at the center and its associated school, Berkshire Jr/Sr High School. The misbehavior included vandalism of campus buildings, theft of money and school property, and leaving campus without permission.

“I know recent, misbehavior at Berkshire Farm has caused concern among neighbors” Giacchetta said. “For that I am truly sorry. Today’s events, however, demonstrate our focus on keeping Berkshire Farm Center safe for our student, the staff, and the broader Canaan community. That focus will continue.”

The plan’s includes enhanced security at the campus, changes in leadership in the residential treatment cottages, and more staff on-hand inside the cottages. Other changes inside restructured clinical care, improved recreational opportunities for students, enhanced family engagement, and a revamped process for new student orientation and mentoring.

“The plan overall goal is to ensure that our youth are actively engaged,” Giacchetta explained. “This is part of how we help motivate them to make positive choices and avoid misbehaviors.”

Berkshire Farm Center serves youth who have not been successful in a traditional school or whose families have disintegrated. Youth come to the farm in two ways. Family court judges send youth to Berkshire when their families are not able to properly supervise or care for them. In addition, youth come to Berkshire Farm because they have special educational needs that their local school districts are unable to meet.

Most of the youth at the Canaan campus have experienced physical or emotional trauma which leads to inappropriate behaviors at school and in their home communities. Berkshire Farm provides intensive counseling programs and specialized education to help youth learn To manage their emotions and succeed at school and beyond. Students, however, sometimes return to the behaviors that led to their needing Berkshire Farm in the first place. Giacchetta said that the recent level of misbehavior is unusual.

“Berkshire Farm Center’s goal is to become the best treatment center of its kind in New York and across the country,” Giacchetta said. “We are constantly learning and adapting to make the care we provide safer and more effective than ever.”

Supervisor Richard Keaveney expressed the concern of residents at Berkshire Farm and the average children going “AWOL”. The Town Board is concerned with the lack of communication.

They responded saying that they have increase staff and supervision in the cottages.

Justice Delena Schaefer expressed concern about communication and not having a Berkshire Farm representative accompany a youth when brought before the judge, and not being able to contact anyone at the Farm.

Councilperson Brenda Adams asked about Town residents reporting residents who have left the campus. **Kevin Robinson, Director of Communications and Media Relations**, said that the State Police wish to be notified as soon as a student is known to be missing. They wish to be a “good neighbor” and will work on better forms of communication.

ASSESSOR'S Monthly Report:

Grievance -

- As usual the month of May was consumed with "Sitting with the Roll" and preparations for Grievance day.
- The Board of assessment review has completed a report for the board that details the Grievances.
- Although, we do not have record amounts of complaints we have more than I would like to see. I was very busy all month meeting with people and reviewing information. Sometimes, in the field.
- I still feel the need to look forward to a reassessment.

Data Verification-

- We have slowly started the Data Verification in the field again. This means the additional work around the office has started also, (managing the Data collection, reviewing field data, entering data, processing and uploading photos and attaching them to files, refileing of property records, etc.)
- If time allows I myself will be collecting the Data in the Queechy Lake area along with the assessor clerk.
- The remaining mapping and organization for this project was put on hold over the winter also but has started again and should be complete by the next meeting.

Highway Report – Highway Superintendent Bernhard Meyer read the Highway Report.

Highway Superintendent Bernard Meyer read his monthly report

Took a different approach to grading gravel roads due to extremely dry conditions. Spot grade real rough spots, used water truck to wet down any material applied & rolled immediately. This method worked better but still not perfect

Main effort this month was concentrated on prepping Frisbee Street for paving. We replaced an old CMP culvert which had a rusted out bottom. Repaired a sink hole and totally reconstructed the Maple Drive entrance with extensive drainage. We are paving tomorrow 6/9 or when Mother Nature allows.

Attended highway school which was very good in content. A heavy emphasis was placed on Right of Ways on user roads.

Had to purchase a new tire for the old pull behind York rake.

We installed a new Peaceful Valley sign on Rt. 22 which was missing.

Love's truck stop is in full swing. Please pay attention to signage & flaggers. Peaceful Valley will soon be moved.

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Carrie Bither, to allow Supervisor Richard Keaveney, "proof of payment" of Town employees' medical services be reimbursed due to MVP system problems with issuing proper cards. 5-ayes

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

Motion carried.

Public Discussion:

1. Town Historian, Ann Pearce, asked for any information concerning the missing "Grist Mill" sign.
2. Ms. Vivian Vispo asked about the installation of the cross-walk street light at the Town Hall. Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that he has contacted the electric company but has not received any word on a time.

MOTION: Motion by Councilperson Brenda Adams, seconded by Councilperson Carrie Bither, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. 5-ayes

Roll call: Supervisor Richard Keaveney – yes
 Councilperson Alan Miller – yes
 Councilperson Brenda Adams – yes
 Councilperson Carrie Bither yes
 Councilperson David Patzwahl - yes

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Cowan, MMC/RMC