

MONTHLY TOWN BOARD MEETING – SEPTEMBER 14, 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 David Patzwahl
Superintendent of Highways, Bernhard Meyer
Town Clerk/Tax Collector, Charlotte Cowan

ABSENT:

AUDIENCE: 20

MINUTES:

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion with second by Councilperson Alan Miller, to accept the minutes of the August 10th, 2015 minutes.

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

Motion carried.

BILLS:

MOTION: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to approve the payment of the General Fund Bills: #264-#298 in the amount of \$10,542.45 and the Highway Fund, #89#101 in the amount of \$38,589.74.

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

Motion carried.

Supervisor’s Monthly Finance Report

Town Clerk	\$ 448.50
Highway Fund:	\$336,181.82
Highway Fund – Capital:	\$233,544.72
Lighting Districts:	\$ 2,348.75
Ambulance Districts	
And Fire District:	\$.59
Building Inspector:	\$ 1,643.50
Planning Board:	\$ 150.00
Recreation:	\$ 2,526.63
General Fund Balance:	\$336,601.00
Court Revenues:	\$ 8,485.00 (July 2015)

Zoning Board of Appeals: \$ 0
Tax Collector: \$ 10.00

RESOLUTION #66 – Appointment of Pierre Gontier as Chairperson to the Town of Canaan Planning Board for 2015. 4-eyes

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion with second by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to adopt Resolution #66. 4-eyes

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

Resolution #66 adopted.

RESOLUTION #67 – 2015 BUDGET TRANSFER

MOTION: Supervisor Richard Keaveney made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to adopt Resolution #67. 4-eyes

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

Resolution #67 adopted.

MOTION: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to purchase Ricoh copiers from Berkshire Copier refurbished Ricoh copiers. The price for the Ricoh Aficio MP C2800 digital copier (black only can be color) would be \$2,195.00 and a Table Top, Ricoh Aficio MP 201SF Black and white copier for \$595. The trade in value of the Ricoh Aficio 1035 and 2035 (existing copiers) is \$900.00. The total price for both copiers is \$1,890.00. 4 eyes

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

Motion Carried

Board Discussion

1. New Fire Alarm System: a new fire alarm system and smoke alarms have been installed in the Town Hall. The previous system was outdated and unable to be maintained. Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that a wall case for AED (audio, emergency, defibrillator) will be installed once the Town receives the case.

2. 2016 Budget Workshop/Special Meeting – October 5th:

MOTION: Councilperson Brenda Adams made a motion, seconded Councilperson Alan Miller, to hold a Workshop meeting on the Tentative 2016 Budget at 6:30p.m. followed by a Special meeting.

MOTION Amended to state that the Special meeting will be held to vote on the Tentative Budget on October 5th and the Regular monthly meeting will be held the 12th day of October. 4-ayes

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

Motion Carried

- 3. Website Review:** Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that the new web-site is ready for the Town Board to review.

ASSESSOR’S Monthly Report:

Data Verifications-

- Slow but ongoing, almost finished with Queechy Lake
- County will be working on a contract with Canaan to supply Data verification and data entry services to complete the project. I will provide more information when it is ready.

Around the office-

- Continued work on Cleaning files. Scanning of complete files has not started yet due to time constraints and other projects.
- I have been either in the field collecting data or entering data and researching facts surrounding deeds and surveys around Queechy Lake. I am also working with the County to make corrections to the tax maps surrounding the Lake.
- Normal routine office work and field review of permits and other inventory changes will resume as soon as Queechy has been completed.

- I have had a chance to meet with Dave the Assessor Liaison who can fill you in more.

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- **Other news**
- Assessor continuing Ed completed-
 1. 2 days of "agricultural issues that assessors face"
 2. Attended - Video conference -Women in Tax assessment - RPTL 520 - Mandatory Not for profit exemptions vs permissive
 3. September 24th- Special training day put together by Co. County Real Property to include ORPTS Valuation- editing and analysis, standard and custom reports, time trends, COD analysis, etc. systematic analysis. RPTL 520 - assessment of exempt property on transfer and RPTL 551 - omitted taxes on the current roll

- Columbia County Real Property office has been approved to move forward contracting with Towns for certain assessment support services/collaboration at predetermined rates per parcel. These rates are more than reasonable and less than any Reassessment company. The very successful ***New Lebanon Reassessment pilot***

project between me, as assessor and the County Valuation specialist was a part in the development of these services. We work very well as a team and I suggest Canaan use the same services for a 2017 reassessment. This will also start to ensure that many Towns across the county will be using the same methods and will provide for more equity.

- Assessors email storage had to be increased due to the amount/size of attachments involved in daily work.
- Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that the County will work with the assessor to help complete data verification, next year.

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

ACTIVITIES:

We took advantage of the hot & dry weather to install culverts on Dean Hill and Miller Road. Surprisingly there were no calls for dust control during the dry spell.

We will be doing some extensive work on Tunnel Hill Road at the Rte. 22 end. Expect delays.

To extend the life of the wings they have been sent out to be sand blasted, primed & painted.

Truck #7 has had brake work done.

The JD 301 tractor has given us some headaches. We ended up replacing the fuel injection pump. Road side mowing will be in full swing soon.

The grader has had a few hiccups - we ended up replacing an in line filter as well as the turbo booster.

On Tuesday morning I will be attending a reasonable suspicion training mandated by DOT. In the afternoon I head to the fall conference where I have been asked to give one of the educational sessions as well as moderate another one.

DISCUSSIONS & REQUESTS: Request to advertise a bid for a replacement truck

MOTION: Councilperson Alan Miller made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, for Highway Superintendent, Bernhard Meyer, to go out for bid for a used pick-up truck for less than \$50,000.00 with specific specifications. 4-ayes

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

Motion carried.

Councilperson Brenda Adams asked about the Animal/Dog control Officer, Robert Alexander's letter. The letter requests that the Town amend our Local Law to increase impoundment fees and with this increase there would be no need for citations or invoices.

Supervisor Richard Keaveney said the County Board of Supervisors' are looking into the increase fees that Columbia-Greene Humane Society will be imposing.

Public Discussion:

1. Kevin Robinson, communications and media relations, from the Berkshire Farm spoke about the changes that they are making and “sorry” about the recent incidents that have made the residents uncomfortable. The Farm has had two productive meetings with the lake residents. Kevin said that they have placed motion lights and cameras and are going to hire two additional personnel, enhance the recreational program, and assign clinical staff to individuals at specific cottages.
2. Queechy Lake residents asked questions:
 1. What would happen if the Farm closed? Would land be sold?
 2. Residents want to feel safe – robberies and assaults – could fencing be placed around cottages to prevent youth walking off campus?
 3. Why does it take several hours to report missing youth?
 4. Why can’t it be a “working” farm to build empathy and keep youth occupied, have horticultural or culinary programs?
 5. The classification of youth has changed to a higher rise and the residents are living in “fear”.

Supervisor Richard Keaveney spoke, “the landslide of criminal activity – break-ins, burglaries, car thefts and two assaults – beginning this April is due to the reduction of security and selection of youths that don’t belong in a non-secure facility. We are not the licensee, but we can influence the license. We can talk to the Office of Child and Family Services.

The Town Board “thanked” Kevin for coming.

Executive Session: Supervisor Richard Keaveney asked to enter into executive session to discuss an employee matter.

Motion: Motion made by Supervisor Richard Keaveney, seconded by Councilperson Brenda Adams, to enter into executive session at 8:40 p.m. 4-ayes

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

Motion Carried

Motion made by Councilperson Brenda Adams, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to return to the regular meeting at 9:20 p.m. 4-ayes

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

Motion Carried

Supervisor Richard Keaveney said that there were no motions or decisions made while in executive session.

Motion made by Councilperson Brenda Adams, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to financially assist a Town Employee member with medical expenses that are not covered by the Town medical insurance. 4-ayes

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

Motion Carried.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Councilperson Brenda Adams, seconded by Councilperson Alan Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:22 p.m. 4-ayes

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Cowan, MMC/RMC
Town Clerk/Tax Collector

**items are amended and correction is highlighted*