

TOWN BOARD MONTHLY MEETING – AUGUST 10TH, 2020

Supervisor Brenda Adams opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge Allegiance to the Flag followed by a moment of silence.

Audience: 2

Absent: Councilperson Ginny Nightingale, Councilperson Alan Miller.

MINUTES:

Motion: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to approve the July 13th, 2020 town board minutes. 3-ayes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

BILLS:

Motion: Councilperson Terese Platten made a motion, seconded by Councilperson David Patzwahl, to approve the General bills: #188-#209 in the amount of \$10,263.56; Highway bills: #52-#54 in the amount of \$1,723.85. 3-ayes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

SUPERVISOR MONTHLY REPORT

Town Clerk Revenues	\$ 362.25
Highway Fund	\$ 333,778.24
Highway Fund-Capital	\$ 42,916.80
Lighting Districts	\$ 2,733.88
Fire District	\$ 300.00
Building Inspector	\$ -0-
Planning Board	\$ -0-
Recreation	\$ 3,496.93
General Fund Balance	\$ 399,600.26
Court Revenues	\$ 10,002.00 (for March 2020)
Zoning Board of Appeals	\$ -0-
Tax Collector	\$ 21.58
Revenues for the month of July – 2020	

Supervisor Adams would like to hold a workshop meeting at 6:30 p.m. at the September monthly Town Board meeting.

RESOLUTION #52 – 2020 Record Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (LGS-1). 3-ayes.

Motion: A motion was made by Councilperson David Patzwahl, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to approve resolution #52 to create a new “Record Retention and Disposition Schedule”. 3-ayes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Brenda Adams said that the County still has many people working remotely and expected to continue through the end of September because there is not enough office space for all to work safely under COVID-19 distancing protocols.

Supervisor Brenda Adams reported current numbers for COVID-19 in our county: We have had 509 cases, 10 active cases

now, 93 residents are under mandatory quarantine, and 23 are under cautionary quarantine. All towns are reporting some tension, some friction in terms of trying to manage the best they can. And nursing homes have a form of registration with the County and an emergency management on file. Nursing homes have the largest percentage of cases. The Governor's actions have been ordered for all local Police forces to have reform by April 1st, 2021. The County is struggling with revenue shortfall.

CANAAN NEIGHBORS HELPING CANAAN NEIGHBORS (CNHCN): Supervisor Brenda Adams said that they have launched the program with a postcard mailing to ask people to financially support the program. Gary Grill from the Queechy Lake Club, who is working with CNHC in accepting donations and distributing financial help, said that this fall there will be a real need for revenue.

Supervisor Adams said that she met with Fred Jager and some of the Fabiano family to decide where to place a bench, in memory of Mike Fabiano, near the Town library. They cleared much of the brush back to the fence line and will meet with Highway Superintendent, Bernhard Meyer, regarding the placement of a bench and how to anchor the bench.

PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY: August 7th is the anniversary of the founding of the Purple Heart by George Washington. Senator Jordon attended the Purple Heart Ceremony at the Flat Brook Cemetery. Town Historian, Dodie Gearing, coordinated the presentation with Supervisor Brenda Adams and Gary Flaherty. There are three recipients buried at the Flat Brook Cemetery.

MOTION: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Terese Platten, to adopt our Town as a Purple Heart community. 3-ayes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.
Motion Carried.

Supervisor Brenda Adams said that she met with Pastor Patty Fox from the Canaan Congregational Church and suggested ways that the church could have more community engagement. Pastor Fox suggested holding a weeknight jazz music event with the theme of “kindness” at the town park. She would like to have preregistration of 50 people for a social gathering in September.

Supervisor Brenda Adams and Councilperson David Patzwahl will meet to review and discuss preparation for a new/renewal a contract for the coming year with the transfer station.

Town Court has not been able to schedule traffic tickets and has many tickets backed up creating revenue short fall.

Assessor's Report:

Around the Office

- We have started next year processing. I am working on the 2021 Roll.
- The 2020 tax maps are printed and available. Our website and the County website have been updated with the links.
- The assessor is working with the county to correct any discrepancies between the maps and the rolls.
- Monthly reminder - Assessor will be out in the field periodically verifying inventory and taking new photos. This keeps us in compliance for State aid for the next reassessment and keeps our files current. By doing this in-house, we are saving even more tax dollars!

STAR Exemption • Taxpayers should be aware, if they have delinquent 2019 town and county taxes, they will lose their STAR exemption for the 2020 school tax bill. If taxes are paid by a certain date (set by the Commissioner of DTF) they will be shifted into the STAR credit program. They will not be allowed to have the STAR exemption (which is deducted on School Tax bills) per *Tax Law section 171-w -Chapter 56 of the Laws*

of 2020.

HIGHWAY REPORT:

ACTIVITIES:

Our roads held up very well during the tropical storm. We had some trees down and a few washes but overall, we were lucky. I want to commend the crew they were “spot on” when the storm hit, trucks and chainsaws were fueled up and they hit the road.

Due to the austerity budget, we did not pave or chip seal this year other than the 10 intersections on Rte. 22. Daryl has everything ready for the next reimbursement request, which is for paving the intersections on Route 22. That contract was signed before the austerity budget was in effect. The reimbursement request is for \$58,830.25 Let’s see what we get.

Truck #8 the 2006 International gave us some grief when the bracket that holds the s-cam on broke. It is a poor design, which through the years we have had issues with. Matter of fact, I called the Federal Products Safety Division and filed a complaint.

We completed a substantial ditch and grading project on Top of Dean.

We helped neighboring towns with their paving as part of the intermunicipal agreement. They will reciprocate when we need help.

Pothole patching is ongoing throughout town.

I think it’s time to advertise and sell truck #9 the 2003 International.

Most of the trucks have been inspected.

Vanderburgh Road:

There has been a request to replace the dead-end sign on Vanderburgh Road. My concern was having vehicles make the turn on to Vanderburgh, realize it is a dead end, and then attempt to back out onto Route 295. The placement of the original sign was not correct so I brought the situation up at the traffic safety meeting. In order to meet MUTC regulations, the suggestion is to install a dead-end sign, in a very conspicuous location/position/angle at the intersection to thwart any turns from trucks. The sign will need to be brought to the very front of the intersection. Double posting may be considered to give drivers coming from both directions ample notice. DOT is not opposed to helping and it appears that we may not need an official work order to get the signs installed.

Also, some people are interested in changing the spelling of Vanderburgh Road. After a lot of research in 2002, the board approved of the current spelling, which was verified by the town historian at that time.

I attended a state meeting and CHIPS was a major discussion. It was conveyed to spend CHIPS funding early at the current reimbursement rate of 100%. Not each project is subject to the 20% reduction but instead at the end of the cycle the balance of funding will be up for review.

RECREATION: Kristen VanNote is meeting with Pammi Price from Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center to discuss creating a nature trail in Stoddard park with simple signs about the plants and animals in the park.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION:

Ken Starka met with Councilperson Alan Miller and brought before the Town Board his concern with people swimming off the State boat launch at Queechy Lake. There are many fishermen, for whom the boat launch

was built, and so many swimmers that it has become difficult to launch a boat and fish in the area. Many cars are parking on Berkshire Farm property, and people ignoring the “No Swimming” signs. Councilperson David Patzwahl will reach out to the farm on the issues and see if they will monitor the car issue.

Adjournment: Councilperson David Patzwahl made a motion, seconded by Councilperson Terese Platten, to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. 3-eyes.

Roll-call showed: Supervisor Brenda Adams – yes;
Councilperson David Patzwahl – yes;
Councilperson Terese Platten – yes.

Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte L. Cowan, Town Clerk