BOARD OF SELECTMEN’S MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2021

Regular Business 6:00 pm

Canton Town Office

*Selectmen present: Russell Adams, Kristi Carrier, Brian Keene, Scotty Kilbreth, Carole Robbins.*

*Others present: Town Clerk Carol Buzzell, Deputy Clerk Nicki Girard, Treasurer Vernice Boyce, Diane Ray, Richard Landry, Rene Ouellette, Robyn McClintock, Fire Chief Jason Vaughan, Sherri Vaughan and reporter Marianne Hutchinson.*

1. Call meeting to order – *Russell called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.*
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comment – 15 Minutes- *Diane Ray reported that the planning board will hold a public hearing for the solar project of Green Lantern Solar Farm on September 16 at 6:00pm. Diane asked if there could be a fee schedule for all fees charged by the town such as building fees, plumbing fees, junk yard and all other fees. Diane is working with Mark Blanchette to get the rest of the signs up this Saturday. Rene Ouellette thanked Carol Buzzell for doing a great job and stated she is what this town needs. He stated that the Highway Foreman had to go into executive session to get a raise and Mr Ouellette asked if Carol will be getting more money and the raise she deserves which is in the budget. Russell said they’ll be discussing this later in tonight’s agenda.*

*Treasurer Vernice Boyce reported that her and Carol Buzzell are preparing for the audit which will take place September 20th. Next meeting she’ll need to have which funds you want to carry forward and what fund balances to offset taxes. Stipend for highway foreman and part time helper was discussed. Carole Robbins motioned to direct reimburse them when receipts are submitted. Scotty second motion. All in favor. Vernice will set up an expense line for each employee. Dominic Lebel from Olivewood Energy asked if the board had any questions for him.*

1. Acceptance of Minutes – 7/22/2021- *Carole motioned to accept minutes, Brian second. All in favor.*
2. Old Business
3. Revision Energy-solar cost savings -*The board decided not to go ahead with the solar cost savings. Russ will contact them.*
4. Accepting & signing of policy revisions- *Brian made motion to accept the following updated policies, Carole Robbins second the motion. Website Policy, Tool & Equipment Use Policy, Freedom of Access to Public Records Policy, Selectmen’s meeting rules, Abatement Policy, Posted Roads Policy, Payment Policy, Work Performance Evaluation Policy, Town meeting policy, Personnel File Management Policy, Code of Conduct, Recreation Bylaws, Purchasing Policy, Policy Concerning Dishonored Checks, and Treasurer’s Disbursement Policy. All in favor.*
5. ADT-*Carol Buzzell reported the amount to cancel the contract for the town office cameras is $678.82 and would have to pay the current amount due of $856 but this amount would be prorated from June 2021. It was decided to continue with the contract until next year then get something else for security cameras.*
6. New Business
7. Richard Landry -Questions- *The cost of signs which came out of the Community Benefit Fund and was discussed at several meetings. Mr Landry questioned why the cameras at the transfer station. Russell explained it was for security reasons and had trouble with people stealing from the metal pile. Mr Landry suggested to put something like reclaim on the transfer station driveway due to the mud. Questioned the cutting of wood and stumpage at the Pine Grove Cemetery and how much was the town paid; The old school on School Street should be fixed or town down; Suggested to have 3 selectmen instead of 5; Would like to have Brian Keene resign and felt he should not be working on the computers at the town Office. Brian stated he has not worked on the town computers for two years and will definitely not resign.*
8. Special Town Meeting-Recreational Marijuana Petition & Ordinance Referendum -*The date for a special town meeting has to be determined by August 23, 2021. Carol Buzzell listed a timeline and presented the selectmen with a warrant to sign if they decided to have the special town meeting on September 28, 2021. This date would allow enough time for a public hearing and sufficient time to issue absentee ballots. Russell suggested to have the vote at the November election in which he feels would be a better representation. Russell is to contact Kevin Belanger.*
9. Signing of release deed- Vashaw- *Scotty motioned to sign the mortgage release deed for Mildred Vashaw, Brian second the motion. All in favor.*
10. Old Canton School-*Brian will get quotes to remove asbestos. Ownership should be determined before anything can be done on this building. Scotty stated the town gifted it to the Old School House Committee. It was suggested for Carol Buzzell to consult with the Town Attorney to determine ownership.*
11. RSU 56 Additional Subsidy- *It was reported that RSU 56 will be receiving additional state subsidy in 2021-2022. At the annual school budget meeting on May 11, 2021, article 21 passed which specified that 50% of any additional state subsidy would be used to decrease the local cost share expectation. Canton’s assessment is $25,189.34 less than the original figures that were shared with the towns because of this.*
12. Remote Meeting Policy*- no action taken; to be put on next meeting agenda*
13. Safe Deposit Box-*Increased from $140 to $220. Brian suggested to continue with the Safe Deposit Box rental.*
14. Staff raises -*Scotty reported that at the last selectmen’s meeting, the wages of Paul McKenna & Nicki Cook Girard were discussed and a raise was given to each. Scotty commented that according to the approved budget the Town Clerk should be receiving $25.50 per hour. Scotty made a motion to pay Carol Buzzell $25.50 per hour, Sewer attendant Dave Madison $21.50 per hour and Transfer Station attendant Jim Dyment $13.91 per hour, retroactive to July 1st. Brian seconded the motion. Treasurer Vernice Boyce commented that there are a lot of jobs out there but it’s hard to find someone that has this much experience. She just hired in another town, a deputy clerk with no experience for $2 an hour more than the suggested hourly wage for Carol. After much discussion, Motion passes.*
15. Abatements/Supplement- *none*
16. Other business of Office Staff -*Carol Buzzell reported the annual audit will take place September 20th. The town received a dividend check of $396.00 for good performance & loss prevention. Starting the week of September 6th the town office will be closed on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays. Town Office hours will be Monday & Tuesday 8-4, Thursday 8-6 & Friday 8-12.*

*Vernice Boyce questioned if the town has a Fund Balance Policy.*

1. Committee Reports-*Scotty reported that he and fire chief Jason Vaughan are scheduled to attend the Hartford Selectmen/Budget meeting on August 16th to discuss fire protection, coverage areas and per capita; The public hearing Planning Board held on the Medical Marijuana Ordinance was well attended. Comp Plan is kicking back in gear and visioning where do we want the town to go.*

*Brian reported the highway is busy and did a great job mowing before the Bicentennial events; installing culverts on Jewett Hill; the 2007 International truck is getting body & plow hooked up and the Western Star is down; Parks & Trails talking about a Haunted Walk on October 30; Two new bridges were constructed on the trails with donated wood; P&T will have a work day the second weekend in September; Budget will meet once a quarter; Brian received an estimate of $3,295 from Wiles Funeral home to move the monument which includes concrete base and moving. P&T chairman Robyn McClintock stated that several fairy houses have been placed on the trails. Scotty questioned “What are fairy houses?”. Carole Robbins motioned to accept Wiles Funeral Home estimate and take the $3,295 from highway department carry forward, Scotty second. Motion passes.*

*Kristi talked to Rene Spear from the Recreation department. She stated there are only 2 members and they don’t have official meetings at this time.*

*Carole reported that Prudy Adams did a great job painting the State of Maine with heart on the Sewer building. Carole emailed Norlands to request a long term lease for the picture of Cornelius Holland, Canton’s first Town Clerk. A special thank you to Pat White for donating the funds from the car show to the Cemetery Fund.*

*Carol Buzzell mentioned that she attended several Bicentennial events and it was nice to see how the community pulled together. Kudos to the committee for a very fun and successful event! Bicentennial committee will meet on Monday to review what funds are leftover.*

*Russell- A shadow box will be purchased for the flag and certificate. At the request of Senator Susan M. Collins this flag flew over the United States Capital for the Town of Canton, Maine in celebration of the Bicentennial on February 5, 2021.*

*The Fire Department will host an open house & ice cream social August 17 from 6:00-7:30pm.*

1. Executive Session-*none*
2. Selectmen Acceptance & Signing of Warrants:

#92 A/P $ 12,664.24

#93 A/P $ 3,597.37

# 5 Payroll $ 6,613.26

#6 A/P $ 111,643.02

#7 Payroll $ 6, 559.85

#8 A/P $ 34,995.91

#9 Payroll $ 4,857.08

*Scotty motioned to accept warrants, Brian second. All in favor.*

1. Adjournment -*Brian motioned to adjourn, Scotty second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Carol Buzzell*