

May 14, 2020

At the Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen/women of the Town of Canton held at the Walter Clark Board Chambers by means of virtual Zoom Meetings, May 14, 2020 at 6:30pm with Mayor Smathers and Aldermen/women Mull, Hamlett, Smith, and Shepard present, the following proceedings were held.

A. Call to Order

Mayor Smathers called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

B. Roll Call

Mayor Smathers stated that the Manager, Town Clerk, Town Attorney and Finance Officer were present.

C. Approval of Minutes: March 12, 2020

Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the April 23, 2020 minutes as presented. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

D. Mayor Comments

N/A

Alderman Hamlett thanked the Manager and Clerk for their work to set up the zoom meeting.

E. Public Comments

N/A

F. Alderman/women Comments

G. Reports from the Manager

N/A

H. New Business

1. Resolution Authorizing Electronic meetings during State of Emergencies

Manager Burrell presented a resolution that would allow the Board to conduct electronic meetings during a State of

Emergency. Mayor Smathers commended the Manger for providing the resolution as well as Alderman Hamlett for his forethought to put this into place at the last meeting. Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the resolution as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

1. Budget Amendments:

Manager Burrell presented the Board with the end of year required budget amendments (see attached). Alderwoman Mull made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented. Alderwoman Smith seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the budget amendments.

2. Budget Workshop

Town Manager Burrell presented the proposed budget allowing the Board to ask the Department Heads any questions they might have regarding their portion of the budget.

The Manager stated that he included a 1% cost of living for the employees in this budget due tot eh impact of the pandemic, however he would revisit this idea in January to see if any additional could be provided to the employees at that point.

Manger Burrell sated that tax collections were on track due to the diligence of Wanda Lurvey to continue to collect delinquent taxes.

Mayor Smathers stated that he commended staff for including the 1% raise to the employees when most municipalities are not giving their employees a raise.

Manager Burrell sated that there would be no tax rate increase or water and sewer fee increase. Manager Burrell stated that next year the water and sewer fees would probably increase.

Manager Burrell stated that water and sewer collections have not dropped during the pandemic that much, however, staff would be putting a plan together to integrate the payment plan when the Governor opens everything up.

Manager Burrell stated that Recreation revenue was down due to the inability to rent facilities and the inability to open the pool. Manger Burrell sated that the pool would be ready to open when that time was allowed.

Manager Burrell made the Board aware that the Planning and

Economic grant funds would remain in the budget this year as well as the Fourth Plus One and Labor Day in anticipation of being able to hold the events.

Manager Burrell went over the Police Department budget and asked Chief Gaddis to give an overview of the big-ticket items in his budget. Manager Burrell complimented Captain Sluder and Chief Gaddis on their ability to seek grants to help offset the cost of equipment. Chief Gaddis stated that the recording system would be replaced in this budget with half of the cost being provided by the Governors Crime grant. Chief Gaddis stated that the tasers would be upgraded with a Governors Crime Commission grant supplementing the cost to the Town. Alderwoman Smith thanked the Chief for working so hard to get these grants. Chief Gaddis stated that the accolades needed to go to Captain Sluder as he worked very hard to get grants for the department.

Manager Burrell presented the Fire Department budget as well as introduced Chief Tim Carver. Chief Carver made the Board aware that the department was changing over to edraulics to replace hydraulics due to the health benefits and the longevity of the equipment. Alderman Shepard asked the life span of the equipment. Chief Carver stated 3 to 4 years battery life at which time new batteries could be purchased. Chief Carver stated that he added new turn out gear as its time out. Mayor Smathers asked Chief Carver if he had everything, he needed during the COVID 19 pandemic. Chief Carver stated that his department was well equipped.

Manager Burrell presented the Street Department, Traffic, and Central Services budgets with no questions for staff. Alderwoman Smith inquired about the horticulturist position. Manager Burrell stated that it operated within its own budget and that he would continue to monitor the position throughout the summer season.

Manager Burrell presented the Historical Museum budget. Curator Ponton elaborated that she was having her computers centrally located and networked. Ms. Ponton stated that she was working with an architect to upgrade the museum with donated funds and in time would share the ideas with the Board. Ms. Ponton thanked the Board for working with her in a supportive manner.

Manager Burrell presented the budget for the Water Filtration Department and recognized Mark Jones for any comments. Mr. Jones stated that the education and training for new employees. Mr. Jones stated that the Town just started a new

class in the Armory for individuals from all over the State and hopefully the certification classes will be scheduled when the pandemic subsides. Mr. Jones stated that some of his equipment is getting outdated and in need of replacement. Mr. Jones stated that the Manager was working with McGill Associates to try and get plans in place to replace some of this equipment in the future.

Manager Burrell presented the water and sewer budget pointing out that a lot of his big-ticket items is equipment leases etc. that happen every year. Alderman Hamlett inquired about the line mapping. Manager Burrell stated that this was included in the plan that McGill was in the process of completing. Manager Burrell asked Assistant Manager to chime in with the details. Alderman Shepard asked about the timeline completion date. Assistant Manager Scheuer stated that most all the materials had been collected and supplied to the engineer and the wait will be the completed project being put together and presented. Manager Burrell stated that the wastewater is treated by Evergreen Packaging, however pre-treated by the Town. This means that the cost for chlorine was increased due to this treatment to keep a state mandated residual. The mill is in the process of separating the leachate from the wastewater hoping to alleviate such a high demand of chlorine for treatment, however this is yet determined and if not successful the high amount of chlorine would have to be continued by the Town to assure the accepted chlorine residual.

Manager Burrell presented the Recreation budget highlighting the future dog park, parking, basketball court and other beautification. Manager Burrell discussed the Colonial Theater stating not much has changed this past year with exception of new heating and cooling system installation. Denise Holcombe questioned wi-fi. Manager Burrell stated that a wi-fi router had been purchased and would be installed. Manager Burrell discussed the Armory. Ms. Holcombe stated the other big-ticket item would be to refinish the Armory floors. Alderwoman Smith inquired about wi-fi for this facility. Manager Burrell stated that it was in the process as well. Manager Burrell skipped back to the Recreation Park and Camp Hope. Manager Burrell stated that new mulch would be added to the playground with other renovations. Manager Burrell stated that Camp Hope had new improvements this past year and he wanted to continue with the upgrades and better signage. Alderwoman Mull asked if the Community Garden would be back this year. Manager Burrell stated that the lease would be revisited.

Manager Burrell stated that with no other questions he would

proceed with the proposed budget (see attached) for the public hearing. Alderwoman Smith thanked the Manager for his work on the budget and she appreciated the fact that year after year we put money back in the general fund. Mayor Smathers commended the Manager and Finance Officer for their work and the goal to still move forward. Alderman Hamlett commended the Manager for being fiscally responsible and the raise for employees. Alderman Shepard thanked the Manger for taking care of the employees. Alderman Hamlett thanked all the kindness to his family during recent illness in his family.

3. Proposed Budget Public Hearing Date

Alderwoman Smith made a motion to set the public hearing for the proposed budget May 28, 2020. Alderman Hamlett seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of the motion.

I. Adjournment:

The next Regularly Scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, May 28, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. in Walter Clark Board Chambers. There being no additional business, Mayor Smathers adjourned the Meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Melisa Stinnett, Town Clerk