

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
January 5, 2012**

The Town Council met for a regular monthly meeting, and for the reorganization meeting for 2012.

**Present:** Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilmen Judith Burgess, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman, Justice Philip Gizzi, and Joshua Thomas of the Courier-Standard-Enterprise.

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 7:30, and the evening's agenda was presented.

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, the **agenda** was approved.

On a motion by Councilwoman Burgess, seconded by Councilman Young, the **minutes** of the December meeting were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Newly elected Town Justice Philip Gizzi introduced himself to the council and talked about his experiences thus far. He complimented his clerk, Peggy Allen, and the orderly way the court office is run. He questioned whether it was appropriate that he attend Town meetings, and the Supervisor told him that while he is always welcome, it is not mandatory.

**ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS**

**Resolution #1 2012**

**Sponsor: Councilman John Toomey, Jr.**

**Second: Councilwoman Judith Burgess**

**Whereas,** the Town of Canajoharie must make various appointments for town operation in the coming year,

**Resolved,** the following appointments are made effective immediately:

Town Attorney: Douglas Landon  
Bookkeeper: Amy Kretser  
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer: Les Hassan  
Town Historian: Kathy Hanford  
Planning Board Chairman: Ivor Jones  
Animal Control Officer: Steven Fredenburg  
Health Officer: vacant

**Further resolved,** the following miscellaneous assignments are made:

Official newspaper: The Amsterdam Recorder and the Courier –Standard-Enterprise

Official depository: NBT Bank

Mileage reimbursement rates: per IRS rules, as altered through the year  
Highway Superintendent may purchase snowplow blades, not to exceed \$6,000, without prior board approval.

Highway Superintendent, per CSEA contract and council approval, may offer additional time of in recognition of the extra duties of his deputy.

Utility bills may be paid ahead of monthly council meeting.

Resolution #1 was unanimously approved.

#### **Resolution #2 2012**

**Sponsor: Supervisor Herbert Allen**

**Second: Councilman John Toomey, Jr.**

**Whereas**, the Town Council wishes to make several activities allowable without prior approval,

**Resolved**, the Highway Superintendent, Town Clerk, Town Supervisor, Town Justice and Court Clerk may attend their respective training schools without prior board approval.

Resolution #2 was unanimously approved.

#### **LEGISLATURE**

##### **Office of the Aging**

A request for funding has been received from the County Office for the Aging. With cuts in other government funding, the agency is looking for whatever they can get to generate matching funds. The town has \$1700 in the budget for the Office for the Aging, but in 2011 was not able to pay them.

On a motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Superintendent Allen, the matter was tabled until the February meeting. All were in favor.

##### **Ames Fire Contract**

The contract sent to the Village of Ames for signatures was signed by the mayor and fire chief, but several changes were requested. One was a typographical error. Another was to add language describing the specific services offered and hours offered. These are not new, but were not spelled out in the old contract. A third change was to specify that payment for the contract needs to be received by the Village of Ames no later than May 1.

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilman Young, all approved the amendments to the Ames fire contract.

##### **New Business—animal shelter**

The Ayres Animal Shelter has been cited by the state Dept. of Agriculture and Markets for not accepting dangerous dogs. Municipalities under contract with the shelter need to contract with another entity for possible cases in which dangerous dogs are picked up and need to be housed or euthanized. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Supervisor will talk with other towns to see what they are doing.

### **New Business – audit**

Mr. Allen informed the Council that the Town of Root has had a financial audit performed by a retired auditor from the State Comptroller's Office. The fee was \$695, and the audit was completed in 2 weeks. Mr. Allen asked the council to consider whether a similar audit would be a good idea for the town.

Permission was given to the Supervisor to contact the auditor.

### **HIGHWAY**

#### **Agreement for expenditure of highway money**

The annual agreement for the expenditure of highway money needs to be signed by the Council. The Highway Superintendent passed the contract to the Council for signatures. Mr. Bowerman also filled in the Council on recent developments in receiving FEMA money to pay for damage from tropical storms Irene and Lee. The kick-off meeting for damage assessment from Lee just took place. Money to be received for Irene is at \$40,000 so far. There was a brief discussion of how to process the payments for budgetary purposes; the Bookkeeper said that they should be put through as 2011 payments from government.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:15 PM, on a motion by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Young, the Council entered executive session to discuss litigation.

At 8:25, on a motion by Councilman Young, seconded by Supervisor Allen, the Council ended the session. No decisions were made.

### **BILLS**

The Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for payment:

General Fund vouchers #1 through #32, totaling \$104,022.45, and  
Highway Fund vouchers #1 through #29, totaling \$41,104.74

The Bookkeeper presented her report for December which included some fund transfers and budget adjustments.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept and pay the bills as presented, and to approve the transfers and adjustments.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

On a motion by Councilwoman Burgess, seconded by Supervisor Allen, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H Smith  
Town Clerk