

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
March 1, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Town Council was held at the Town office building, 12 Mitchell Street, Canajoharie.

Present: Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons William Armitstead, Judith Burgess, and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser and Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman.

Mr. Allen opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and presented the evening's **agenda**. On a motion by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, the agenda was approved as presented, by all.

Councilman Young made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 2nd meeting. Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

PLANNING/ZONING

There was no meeting of the Canajoharie Planning Board in February.

Windmill law- Local Law #1, 2012

On March 22 the County Planning Board will review the draft of Local Law #1 pertaining to wind mill facilities, and return it with recommendations to Planning Chairman Ivor Jones. Mr. Allen will bring this information to the April meeting, at which time a public hearing will be held on the law.

LEGISLATURE

Audit

The audit of financial books and record keeping done by Craig Speers has been completed. At the request of the Supervisor, Mr. Speers reviewed the records kept by the court, bookkeeper, and town clerk. A few minor changes were suggested, but overall the records were found to be well and correctly maintained.

There was also an informal discussion of Mr. Speer's opinion that the Town was wise to generate the local law overriding the State tax cap, and advised that it be done again this year. His reasoning was that it should be in place in case of unforeseen expenses, such as those caused by last year's tropical storms.

Dangerous stray housing

A sample contract has been received from Dr. Chen at the Fort Plain Animal Hospital in response to the town's request for information about the cost of housing dangerous stray dogs. The Town needs to contract with a facility to take dogs in the event they have bitten someone and need to be quarantined, yet an owner cannot be found.

Councilman Armitstead will contact his brother, Dr. Tom Armitstead, for a second quote.

Recycling contracts

The contract for recycling pick up has been ongoing for many years. The Supervisor will review the information and contract at the April meeting, as it should be put out to bid.

Assessment lawsuits

Supervisor Allen asked the Council whether they would like to have a joint meeting with the assessor, lawyer, Superintendent of Schools and Canajoharie mayor regarding the assessment lawsuits that are in process. The Council agreed that for now, it will be sufficient for Mr. Allen to continue bringing any new information to them.

Grant possibility/combination of services

Doug Greene of the County Office of Economic Development and Planning has shared information with Mr. Allen and Mayor Avery regarding grants to study possible mergers of Town and Village highway garages and services. He needs to know if the Town is interested in pursuing this, and if so, show where we would be able to save money with such a merger.

It was noted that a shared garage would have to be sited in the Village, and that it would be helpful if Town and Village offices could be included in the plan.

The Council agreed that Supervisor Allen should talk with Mayor Avery and Mr. Greene about this.

HIGHWAY

Mr. Bowerman's monthly report of Highway activity included the following:

- The delivery of the new pickup truck has been delayed, and is now due on March 19th.
- CHIPS funding is unchanged from last year, but the state DOT has a 52% increase in their budget. Local highway departments pleaded their case in Albany, hoping for a shift in funding that could mean more CHIPS money.
- Work is being done on expanding the Minimum Maintenance law, including more classifications regarding residential vs. agricultural use. Control of these decisions would be at the local level.
- Several bridges in the Town are deficient, but there is no money available this year for bridgework. The McEwan Rd bridge is in the worst shape, and has been posted for weight limits due to scaling. All bridges are regularly inspected by the State DOT.
- The Superintendent informed the Council that he needs a new wood chipper. Under new state laws, brush cannot be routinely burned, and has to be disposed of somehow. New chippers run about \$20,000 but good used ones are available, and Mr. Bowerman requested permission to spend between \$8,000 and \$10,000 of the \$30,000 left in the budget line for equipment.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to authorize Highway Superintendent Bowerman to spend up to \$9,500 to purchase a used wood chipper. The motion was seconded by councilwoman Burgess, and was accepted unanimously.

BILLS

The Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for payment approval:

General fund vouchers #53 through #70, totaling \$20,149.99 and

Highway fund vouchers #52 through #81, totaling \$18,177.91

Councilman Armitstead made a motion to accept and pay the bills as presented.
Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by
Councilman Armitstead, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Town Clerk