

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
April 5, 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, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser and Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman. Member of the public Dale Folmsbee was also present, as well as reporter for the Courier-Standard-Enterprise, Joshua Thomas.

Mr. Allen opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and presented the evening's **agenda**. After making two minor changes (move Public Comment to first item, and add a discussion of the Sheriff's Dept. request for parking on court days) the agenda was approved by all on a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the minutes of the March meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, the motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dale Folmsbee of Cunningham Road in the village addressed the Council on the subject of lower Cunningham Road, which has been closed for some time due to erosion and deterioration. Mrs. Folmsbee has attended Village meetings and learned that an engineering consultation has already been done. She said the Village would like to work with the Town to find ways to fund the road repair so it can be reopened, possibly as a one-way road. She mentioned the possibility of adding a tax amount to the Town bill to help cover it, as people in the Village pay Town taxes, too.

Mrs. Folmsbee outlined her reasons for feeling the road is needed. It is an alternate route from the East side of the village down to the Thruway without going through the village's downtown--- which she said is even more desirable with more road work coming up on down town streets, and the added traffic when the bridge in Fort Plain is out of use this summer.

Supervisor Allen mentioned that he had met with the Mayor Avery and Superintendent of Highways Eric Bowerman at the road , along with a second consulting engineer, and to see for themselves the scope of the work needed. However, he also stressed that Cunningham Road is a village street, and any capital project or tax funding would be up to the Village.

Mrs. Folmsbee left a petition containing 55 signatures in favor of opening the road, and exited the meeting. The Council briefly discussed the road and its usage. It was decided to wait for the second engineering report to discuss the matter further.

In a related discussion, it was noted that the "dummy light" in the village is now timed at a much longer delay than it used to be. Mr. Bowerman explained that it has to be in sync with the other village traffic light, which when replaced was set to new DOT regulations. Mr. Allen will look into whether the timing can be changed back so there is not such a long wait at the dummy light intersection.

LEGISLATURE

Sheriff's Dept. request

A request has come from the Sheriff's Department, via the town court, to erect a sign at the Town building's parking lot setting aside a spot for Sheriff vehicles only. This sign would only be needed on court nights, so that when the Sheriff needs to transport prisoners to court they can park near the back door.

After some discussion, the Council approved the addition of such a sign, as long as the County will supply it.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:45 the Supervisor opened the meeting for a public hearing, as advertised, on Local Law #1 governing Wind Energy Facilities.

No member of the public appeared to be heard on the subject.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess. Motion carried.

The law will be returned to the Town Planning Board to review amendments made by the County Planning Board, and then will be returned for final review by the Town Council at the May meeting. Town Attorney Doug Landon has advised Mr. Allen that a second public hearing will not be necessary unless drastic changes are made to the content of the law.

Review of County Snow removal and mowing contracts

Montgomery County is seeking a reduction in the amount paid to the towns for snow and mowing contracts. The suggestion is to receive 75% of the former amount for 2013. The Supervisor distributed a sheet outlining the numbers for each town, for information and discussion purposes only at this point.

Music on Main Street

The Town has received a request for a donation to the Music on Main Street concert series for 2012. The Town has donated in the past, but not every year.

Councilman Armitstead made a motion to donate \$100 to Music on Main Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Toomey, and all were in favor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/ INFORMATION

- Doug Greene of the County Economic Development and Planning office has invited the Town to consider joining in a local waterfront revitalization plan. The Village is apparently not interested. Mr. Allen asked the Council to read over the material about the program and decide how to respond.
- Mr. Allen had asked Craig Speers, who did last month's Town audit, for an opinion on bidding out the recycling contract. There is no formal contract now, but a notice should be placed soliciting bids in August, when the budget process begins, and the new contract should begin on January 1st.
- Neighboring towns are holding workshops on the issue of hydrofracking. The Supervisor asked the Council to consider action, possibly a 1-year moratorium. There was a discussion about what the State is doing vs. what the towns should

do. It was decided to talk to Ivor Jones and also the person who ran the informational session to explore options.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Eric Bowerman gave his monthly report on Highway activity. Sweeping is on hold until there is some rain, as it's too dusty now.

Sale of old pickup

The new pickup truck has been delivered. Mr. Bowerman requested permission to advertise the old truck for sale, both in the paper and online.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to take bids for the sale of the old pickup truck.

Supervisor Allen seconded the motion. All were in favor; motion carried. Bids will be opened at the May meeting.

Tire disposal

Mr. Bowerman informed the council that Deer Run Farms in St. Johnsville will pickup used tires for 1.25 apiece. He asked the council for permission to spend a certain amount to start whittling down the size of the pile of tires at the Town garage. The Council agreed that he could spend up to \$500 on tire disposal.

BILLS/FUND TRANSFERS

The Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for payment approval:

General fund vouchers #71 through #87, totaling \$14,254.19; and

Highway fund vouchers #82 through #105, totaling \$47,154.75

The bookkeeper distributed her cash report for March, which included some fund transfers.

Councilwoman Burgess made a motion to approve both the bill payments and the fund transfers. Councilman Armitstead seconded. All were in favor and the motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Toomey made a motion to end the meeting. Councilwoman Burgess seconded, and all were in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Town Clerk