

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

September 6, 2012

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

Present: Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilmen William Armitstead, Judith Burgess, John Toomey, Jr. and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, Assessor Charlene Ruzkowski, Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman, and reporter for the Courier-Standard-Enterprise, Linda Kellett.

Mr. Allen opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and presented the evening's **agenda**.

On a motion by Councilwoman Burgess, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, the agenda was accepted as presented.

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, the minutes of the August meeting were unanimously approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Toomey made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss litigation regarding property assessments. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armitstead, and all were in order. Session began at 7:40 PM.

At 7:49 PM the session was ended on a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Supervisor Allen. All were in favor.

Following the session, Councilman Armitstead made a motion to accept the settlement offer from National Grid regarding their assessment complaint and litigation, and to authorize the Town's attorney to sign the stipulation to that effect.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion. All were in favor, and Resolution #5 of 2012 will be printed for the record.

JUSTICE COURT

Court Clerk Peggy Allen has requested a resolution authorizing her to apply for a grant from the state Unified Court System. She would like to seek funds to make safety and accessibility improvements to the downstairs doorway of the Town building and also funds for various equipment, including a safe.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to authorize the court clerk to apply for a grant, and the motion was seconded by Councilwoman Burgess. All were in favor. The clerk will type this resolution, #6 for 2012, for documentation for the grant process.

BUILDINGS

12 Mitchell Street

The back porch project is still on hold, awaiting price estimates. The job will be put out to bid; Eric Bowerman has given sheets to several contractors and let them know the work needs to be done before winter.

The shutters have all been removed from the building and are being stored in the shed awaiting repair or replacement. The maintenance man, John Walsh, will be contacted and

asked to set aside those shutters he cannot repair, so that they can be sent to Chuck Jones for replacement.

BUDGET

Mr. Allen said he would like to meet with each department head (Assessor, Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Justice) for an informal review of budget needs, before the budget sessions.

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Eric Bowerman gave an overview of Highway activity for the month. He then requested permission to advertise for bids for a new plow truck, to be opened at the October meeting. He reminded the Council that they can reject any and all bids. There was some discussion of the cost of the truck (about \$30,000 less than the last one) and current interest rates.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to advertise for bids for a new plow truck, the bids to be opened at 7:30 at the October 4th meeting of the Town Board.

The motion was seconded by Councilman Armitstead. All were in favor.

It was noted that bids for the 2013 propane contract still need to be solicited. Eric will put a notice in the official papers, and any bids received will be opened at the October 4th meeting at 7:35.

BOOKKEEPER

Amy Kretser addressed the board and distributed a worksheet outlining the proposals made by Mr. Bowerman at the August meeting for distribution of the FEMA storm damage reimbursement money. She included a breakdown of the actual moneys received, what is still expected to come in, and how she distributed the money among the various accounts.

A discussion ensued in which it was proposed by Mr. Bowerman to leave the amount proposed for capital reserve in fund balance, at least until the budget process has been seen through.

Amendments to the current budget and fund transfers will be submitted by Amy in her October cash report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:06, Councilman Armitstead made a motion to enter executive session to discuss employee contracts. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Allen and approved by all.

At 8:35, the session was closed on a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and approved by all.

PERSONNEL

Superintendent Bowerman requested permission to advertise for one new Highway employee to replace a retired employee.

Councilman Armitstead made the motion to authorize advertising for the position, and Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All were in favor. Employee packets will be left with the Town Clerk.

BILLS

The Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for payment approval:

General fund vouchers #161 through #175, totaling \$13,557.46; and

Highway fund vouchers # 203 through #226, totaling \$86,468.06

On a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the vouchers were unanimously approved for payment.

The Council agreed to meet for the first budget session on September 30th at 7:30.

ADJOURN

On a motion by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Toomey, it was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:45.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Town Clerk