

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
October 4, 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; Orrie Eihacker, Montgomery County Charter Commission member; two local high school students to observe the meeting; Tim Plante from Henderson, Rick Woods from Mohawk Valley Freightliner, Ray Parsons from R. L. Parsons, Russell Hershey from Superior Plus, and Arthur Cleveland, reporter for the Leader-Herald.

Mr. Allen opened the meeting at 7:30 PM and presented the evening's **agenda**. There was one addition by the Supervisor, to accept the September minutes. On a motion by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, the agenda was approved with the one addition by all.

Councilman Armitstead made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from September 6<sup>th</sup>. Councilman Toomey seconded, and all were in favor.

**LEGISLATURE**

**Truck bids**

The following sealed bids received by the Town Clerk in response to a legal notice were opened and read:

For Option One---- One new 10 wheel heavy duty Class 8 Cab and Chassis:

From Tracey Road Equipment:	\$109, 865
From Kenworth, Buffalo:	\$109,367
From Mohawk Valley Freightliner:	\$106,617 if ordered, \$110,947 in stock

For Option Two-----One new 14' flat floor rear discharge combination dump body with power tilt front hitch and full leveling wing system:

From T & T Sales:	\$57,135
From Henderson:	\$62,999
From Tracey Road Equipment:	\$75,787
From Trius:	\$73,779

For Option Three-----One new one-way snow plow with push frame:

From T & T Sales:	\$8,066
From Henderson:	\$9,723.55
From Tracey Road Equipment:	\$6,898
From Trius:	\$8,508.68

Councilman Young made a motion to wait 2 weeks before making a decision on the truck bids, in order to allow the Highway Superintendent time to look them over. The motion was seconded by Councilman Toomey, and all were in favor.

### **Propane bids**

The following following sealed bids for a contract to supply propane to the Town for heating of the highway garage, received by the Clerk, were opened and read :

From Superior Plus----

- 1.) Fluctuating price: 55 cents over Selkirk railyard rack price, currently \$1.7071/gallon
- 2.) Prepaid—5,000 gallons at \$1.58 per gallon
- 3.) Buy two 1,000 gallon tanks for \$4,000; fluctuating price currently \$1.0671/gallon

From R. L. Parsons----

- 1.) Fluctuating price: 38 cents per gallon over their cost, currently \$1.6344/gallon
- 2.) No bid for pre-buy
- 3.) Buy one 1,000 gallon tank for \$2,500; fluctuating price of 22 cents over cost, currently \$1.4744/gallon

After some discussion, and questions directed at the company representatives present, it was decided unanimously, on a motion by councilman Armitstead, seconded by Supervisor Allen, to table the decision for two weeks.

### **County Charter**

Ms. Orrie Eihacker addressed the Council to give information and answer questions about the proposed County Charter, the commission for which she is a member. The charter, which will be on the November election ballot, would revise the County government, sectioning it into 9 electoral districts. Current representation at the County level by 15 Town Supervisors would be replaced by 9 elected district representatives. A County Executive position would be created.

Ms. Eihacker explained why she felt the changes would benefit the County and make it more efficient. She also said having a County Executive in charge as an advocate for the county could increase the chances of attracting business here.

After a brief question and answer period, the Council was advised that there is a lot of information available about the proposed charter, on the Montgomery County website.

### **Resolution for snow removal, ice control and mowing**

A contract needs to be signed with the County for snow removal, ice control, and grass and brush mowing on County roads within the Town for the year 2013. The Commissioner of Public Works has submitted a contract for approval that leaves the cost at the same price per mile (\$5,250 per mile for snow and ice, \$350 per mile for mowing) as it has been, for 2013 and 2014.

Councilman Toomey sponsored the resolution to accept the contract, seconded by councilman Armitstead. The vote of the Town Board was unanimously in favor.

## **Budget**

After review of two options for a preliminary budget and discussion with the bookkeeper, Councilman Young made a motion to accept a preliminary budget with a 3% increase on most lines over 2012. The total increase stays under the state mandated 2% cap, but on the advice of the auditor the Town retained this year, it was decided to still set the framework for going over the cap, in case of an unforeseen situation.

A special meeting will be set, and advertised, for October 18<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the public hearing on the Preliminary Budget will be held, and also on a new local law authorizing the council to once again override the state's budget tax cap, if necessary.

Councilman Armitstead made the motion to take the initial steps to override the tax cap. Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion. Voting "aye" were Supervisor Allen, Councilman Armitstead, Councilwoman Burgess, Councilman Toomey, and Councilman Young.

The clerk will type this up as Resolution #8 for 2012.

## **BUILDINGS**

### **12 Mitchell Street**

Supervisor Allen mentioned there is a possible leak by the chimney, resulting in water getting into the building and causing some areas of ceiling to come down. He consulted the Council about having a mason come in to evaluate the problem.

After some discussion, it was decided to begin by having Councilman Young and Highway Superintendent Bowerman look at it first, to try and determine whether the problem is with the roof or the chimneys.

## **HIGHWAY**

Superintendent Bowerman gave his monthly report of highway activity.

He reported to the Council that he and Mr. Allen reviewed the values of the highway equipment and adjusted some, for insurance purposes. He explained that trucks that are 10 years or newer go by replacement value, where for those over 10 years old the insurance company will pay the current market value. The adjustments made by reviewing the age and values of the trucks should lower the insurance cost.

## **CSEA Contract**

A new contract for 2014 through 2017 has been agreed to by the representatives of the Town and the union. Amendments to the original contract include pay raises of 40 cents per hour the first two years, and 45 cents per hour the second two years, and the addition of 2 additional personal days per year, for a total of 3.

In addition, a new section will be added to the contract to stipulate that employees hired after October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 will be required to pay 10% of the total actual cost of their health care plan, and also will be required to work for 20 years in order to be eligible for benefits upon retirement.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the above amendments to the contract, and to authorize Supervisor Allen to sign it.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**BILLS**

The following bills were presented by the clerk for payment approval:  
General fund vouchers #176 through #191, totaling \$104,335.22, and  
Highway fund vouchers #227 through #247, totaling \$17,709.07

After review and signing, the bills were approved as presented, on a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Supervisor Allen, and approved by all.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Councilman Young made the motion to adjourn, seconded by councilman Toomey. All were in agreement and the meeting was ended at 9:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith  
Town Clerk