

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

January 3, 2013

The Town Council met for a regular monthly meeting, and for the reorganization meeting for 2013.

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

ORGANIZATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Resolution #1 2013

Sponsor: Councilman John Toomey, Jr.

Second: Councilman William Armitstead

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

Deputy Town Supervisor: Rodney Young

Deputy Highway Superintendent: to be announced at Feb. meeting

Deputy Town Clerk: Lois Manzi

Deputy Registrar (Subregistrar): Sherry Donnenwirth

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 off in recognition of the extra duties of his deputy.

Utility bills may be paid ahead of monthly council meeting.

Postage for the postage meter may be paid for ahead of the monthly council meeting.

Resolution #1 was unanimously approved.

LEGISLATURE

Animal Shelter Contract

The annual contract with the Ayres Animal Shelter, for housing of stray dogs, needs to be renewed and paid. The amount is the same as prior years, \$4,500.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to renew and sign the contract with the Ayres Shelter for 2013. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Burgess. All were in favor; motion passed.

Buildings – heating

The upgrade to the heating system at the Town office building has been completed by Don's Electric. There are new thermostats, set on timers, and new duct work. With thermostats in the clerk's office and court office, as well as the courtroom, the heat should be better distributed.

Buildings – porch work

The work to cover the back doorway should be started next week, as all information and a contract have been received from Double O Builders.

Agreement for expenditure of highway moneys

The Highway Superintendent brought the annual agreement for expenditure of highway moneys to the Council for signature approval. This agreement between Montgomery County and the Town allows for the sum of \$258,060 to be set aside for general repairs on 35.44 miles of Town roads, and for \$61,200 in CHIPS money for permanent improvements. The roads to be worked on with CHIPS money are yet to be determined, but Mr. Bowerman said they would probably include Old Fort Plain and Sprakers Roads.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Allen presented a list of items that should be addressed in the coming year, including:

- Look at the recycling contract
- Complete the project, previously discussed, of taking out the closet on the first floor and making a hallway to the boiler room
- The enactment of a local law to allow for contracts to be awarded on the basis of "best value" and not only on lowest bid

- The enactment of a local law, once again, to allow for override of the State tax cap
- An earlier discussion of fire contracts (August)
- Reappointment of the assessor, whose term expires in September
- Finding land for the site of a new town garage

HIGHWAY

Superintendent Bowerman reported on activity for the past month. The propane supplied by Suburban Propane is being used up, and once the second tank is empty, Suburban will be called to come remove the tanks. A first delivery at the rate of \$1.56 per gallon was received from Parsons. Next month, the Town will be billed to buy the tank from Parsons, and then will go to the lower per gallon price, as formerly agreed.

The bond for the new truck will need to be taken care of by the attorney, though this can't be done too far ahead of receipt of the truck. Mr. Bowerman suggested the possibility of paying ahead for the nose plow, and not including it in the bond, to save interest on the loan.

TOWN CLERK

Clerk/Collector Susan Smith reported that the 2013 County/Town property taxes are coming out late this year, and should be received by January 11th. The first deadline for payment will be extended to February 10th.

Ms. Smith also let the council know that the Town website, an offshoot of the Montgomery County website, is now up and running. She will email a link to the councilmembers.

The annual Clerk's report is included in the informational packet.

BOOKKEEPER

Bookkeeper Amy Kretser reported briefly on her cash report, which includes a lot of fund transfers to be approved. She said she still has some budget gaps to catch up with, and will be bringing everything into balance. (Report is copied on next page.)

BILLS

The clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #1 through #22, totaling \$50,869.72; and

Highway fund vouchers #1 through #16, totaling \$34,504.61

On a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the bills were unanimously approved for payment, and all fund transfers outlined in the cash report were also approved.

Adjournment

On a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith

Town Clerk