

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**February 7, 2013**

The Town Council met for a regular monthly meeting at the Town office building at 12 Mitchell Street.

**Present:** Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons William Armitstead, Judith Burgess, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman, Court Clerk Peggy Allen, John Walsh (Town building maintenance), 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 Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the **agenda** was approved.

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

## **COURT**

Court Clerk Peggy Allen gave a brief report of Court activity in 2012 and presented the court's financial books for review by the Town Board. Mrs. Allen said that the court brought in \$166,441.50 in fines, of which \$59,933.00 was the Town's portion to keep. She also informed the council that between June and December, \$35,370 was received in online payments, now that the town court has a credit card machine. Using this machine causes no charge to the court, as all fees are paid by the fine payer directly to the company. Having the option to pay online by credit card is quite popular, according to Mrs. Allen, and several local villages and towns are now offering that option.

Mrs. Allen also mentioned her appreciation of having Councilwoman Burgess come in to review the court books every month, and to fill out the form for the Comptroller.

Supervisor Allen sponsored a resolution to approve the court's books for 2012. This resolution was seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, and approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Walsh, maintenance worker for the Town office building, addressed the Council to ask if there are any plans to paint the outside trim on the building this summer, as it needs it.

The Council members agreed that the job needs to be done, and the subject will be brought up at the meeting in March or April to solicit bids.

There was a discussion of the shutters, which are currently off the building to be repaired or replaced, and how to proceed with those and the painting job. Mr. Walsh also pointed out that there is water damage in the building on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and the chimneys should be checked.

## **TRUCK BOND**

The bond anticipatory note for the new truck is ready to be signed with NBT bank. The Town will, as in

the past, take out the loan for one year and then renegotiate in each subsequent year.

Councilman Toomey sponsored the resolution to authorize Supervisor Allen to sign the bond anticipatory note for the amount of \$188,462.00 at 2% interest for one year.

Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion.

All were in favor, resolution passed.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **Assessor**

An appraiser assigned to the assessment suit has been in touch with Assessor Charlene Ruskowski, but Ms. Ruskowski referred the appraiser to the County for information.

### **Tree removal**

There is a tree near the driveway of the Town office that needs to be removed. As there are also several trees along the roadways that will soon be removed, the highway superintendent will contact the County to try to coordinate and have all the trees taken down at once.

### **Ames fire department**

The Ames Volunteer Fire Department has sent the Town its 2012 report of emergency calls. The department responded to 26 calls total, with 14 of them within the town's contract area.

### **Buildings**

The roof over the back door to the Town office building has been completed. The project will continue with other cosmetic and safety measures, such as filling in the stone stairway on the side of the porch area.

### **Recycling**

A copy of the Town of Minden's bid proposal for recycling was distributed to the Council for information, to review in advance of next month's meeting when there will be a discussion of how to write such a proposal for the Town of Canajoharie.

## **TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR**

Town Clerk Susan Smith reported that tax collection is going smoothly, and that to date, 47% of the total warrant has been received. As the initial deadline was moved to Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> this year, this number will rise in the next week.

## **HIGHWAY**

Highway Superintendent Eric Bowerman reported on Highway activity. He said that the price of propane has remained steady at \$1.52- \$1.56 for all deliveries. Suburban has not yet come to pick up the old tanks; there is a small amount of fuel still left in one of them.

The new truck is in process, getting various parts in and installed. Estimated time of delivery is still mid-March, as expected.

Mr. Bowerman suggested advertising the old truck on Auctions International, as well as in the local papers for those who do not subscribe to the website. He reminded the board that any and all bids received online can be rejected.

On a motion by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Toomey, it was agreed by unanimous vote

to advertise the truck both online and in print, and to open the bids at the March meeting at 7:40 PM.

With regard to tree removal, suggested above in the announcements, Mr. Bowerman clarified that Unique Tree Service will be hired to drop and block the trees, while the highway department will haul them away to save money. Two of the trees needing removal are on Fredericks St.

### **BOOKKEEPER**

Amy Kretser submitted her monthly cash report, which included fund transfers. She informed the Council of the following additional transfers:

A1990.4 to A1355.4 in the amount of \$95.00, and

A1990.4 to A1670.4 in the amount of \$62.40

### **BILLS**

The clerk submitted the following billing vouchers for approval and payment:

General fund vouchers #23 through #49, totaling \$18,023.74; and

Highway fund vouchers #17 through #43, totaling \$34,206.57

Councilman Young made the motion to accept and pay all bills, and accept all fund transfers.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and the council was in unanimous agreement.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, agreed to by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith

Town Clerk