

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

March 14, 2013

The Town Council met for a regular monthly meeting, rescheduled from March 7, 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, and Joshua Thomas of the Courier-Standard-Enterprise.

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 7:30 with the pledge of allegiance. The Supervisor then asked for a moment of silence for Eric Bowerman, who had suddenly passed away on March 7.

The evening's agenda was presented. Councilman Toomey made the motion to accept the agenda. Additions proposed by the Supervisor: review of bids received for the old truck, and the insertion of a line for "New and Old Business" following the truck bids. With these amendments, Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion to approve the agenda, and all were in favor.

On a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, the **minutes** of the February meeting were unanimously approved.

LEGISLATURE

CDPHP Health Insurance Contract

Mr. Allen asked for approval from the Council to sign the new health insurance contract with CDPHP. The Council conferred briefly with the bookkeeper to assure that the numbers fit within the 2013 budget. Councilman Toomey then made the motion to allow Supervisor Allen to sign the new contract. With no further discussion, the motion was seconded by Councilman Armitstead and unanimously approved.

Legislative Maps

Supervisor Allen shared updated maps and information about them, as approved by the County Board of Supervisors. The legislative district map had been adjusted and voting areas are under discussion. There was a lengthy discussion of voting districts, how many voters can be at one polling place, and where the polling places would be. Mr. Allen let the Council know that the County Board of Elections is working on the voting aspect, and invites anyone to join the discussion and air any concerns they may have.

Councilmen Young and Armitstead volunteered to go to the Board of Elections to talk to Terrence Smith. The maps and districting need to be finalized by April.

Recycling

The Council reviewed the recycling contract for the Town of Minden as a template for a contract to be bid out by the Town this spring.

The schedule will be to bring it up at the April meeting, advertise for bids to be opened in May, and start the contract year in June.

Festival/fundraiser regulations

Having received a call from a woman asking about possible permits required to hold a large fundraising gathering on a local farm, Mr. Allen asked the Council for input. It was suggested that Councilmen Young and Armitstead, while in Fonda visiting Board of Elections, can also stop and ask for guidance from the office of economic development. Generally, the consensus of the Council was to defer to County and State regulations in the matter.

Bids on truck for sale

Bids solicited by Highway Superintendent Bowerman for the sale of the 1990 Autocar produced an offer of \$18,400 from a buyer on Auctions International (online).

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the offer as it is the high bid. Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion. All were in favor, and payment of \$18,400 will be accepted for the truck.

OLD BUSINESS

Buildings

Councilman Young informed the Council that he has spoken to Chuck Jones about the shutters that need repair. Mr. Jones will pick them up.

TOWN CLERK

Proposed amendment to dog law

Town Clerk Susan Smith asked the Council to consider amending Local Law #1 of 2010, which provides for the licensing of dogs by the Town, to include a provision for “purebred” licenses. The Clerk explained that this provision was not included originally as the Town had no breeders or dog kennels, but that now a local resident does have a kennel with a growing number of dogs, recognized by the state. The licensing of such a large number of dogs would be much easier (and cheaper for the resident) if the Town allowed purebred licensing.

After brief discussion, it was agreed to allow the clerk to proceed with writing the amendment to the law, and to hold a public hearing on it at the April 4th meeting.

Board of Assessment Review appointment

The clerk also brought to the Council’s attention the need to address the vacancy on the BAR due to Peggy Allen’s term being expired. Mrs. Allen has agreed to be re-appointed if that is the Council’s wish.

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, the Council unanimously voted to re-appoint Peggy Allen to the Board of Assessment Review.

BOOKKEEPER

Amy Kretser submitted her monthly cash report, and noted that it includes fund transfers for Council approval.

The bookkeeper also produced her financial accounting books for 2012 to be reviewed and signed by the Council.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilman Young, the Council entered executive session at 8:15 in order to discuss assessment litigation and review attorney correspondence regarding this.

At 8:35, on a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, it was

unanimously decided to exit the executive session, no decisions having been made.

HIGHWAY

Deputy Superintendent

There was a discussion of how to handle the loss of Mr. Bowerman as Highway Superintendent, and it was noted that he had not appointed a deputy for 2013. After some discussion, a motion was put forth by Councilman Armitstead to appoint John Klock as Deputy Superintendent, and pay him overtime rates for hours he puts in tending to Superintendent duties.

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Burgess. All were in favor, and the motion passed, to appoint John Klock as Deputy Highway Superintendent, and to leave his pay at the same hourly rate but to categorize all extra acting Superintendent duties as overtime and pay accordingly.

BILLS AND TRANSFERS

The clerk submitted the following bill vouchers for payment authorization:

General fund vouchers #50 through #66, with # 63 deleted, totaling\$45,112.81; and

Highway fund vouchers #44 through #66, totaling \$137,732.57

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, it was unanimously agreed to approve the payment of the bills and the fund transfers submitted on the Bookkeeper's report.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Toomey asked to address the Council as it prepared to adjourn. He thanked everyone for the kind support of him and his family as they grieve the loss of Eric Bowerman. It was expressed by those present that Eric will be sorely missed by all.

Councilwoman Burgess made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion and all were in favor. The meeting ended at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H Smith

Town Clerk