

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

June 6, 2013

The Town Council met for a regular monthly meeting at 7:30 PM at the Town office building, 12 Mitchell Street.

Present: Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons William Armitstead, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser; Canajoharie Mayor Francis Avery, Canajoharie Village Trustee Jena Coppernoll; Canajoharie Fire Chief Frank Nestle, South Minden Fire Chief Dwayne Rockwell, and Richard Rockwell, former chief.

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 7:30 with the pledge of allegiance.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the **agenda** as presented by Supervisor Allen. Councilman Young seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the May 2nd and May 16th meeting minutes. Councilman Armitstead seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

LEGISLATURE

Fire Contracts

Supervisor Allen opened a preliminary discussion of 2014 fire contracts, saying he had invited the fire chiefs to the meeting in order to connect with the departments in advance of the budget sessions. He then opened the floor to the fire chiefs to share whatever information they wished.

South Minden Fire Chief Dwayne Rockwell shared his financial report, and a list of calls and manhours used for 2012. He mentioned that they usually recieved a \$250 per year increase, but that the last two years remained the same. Mr. Allen reminded all present that the lack of raises was due to the difficulties with staying within the 2% tax cap. The department is trying to continue to put money aside for equipment, and an increase this year will be welcome. Mr. Rockwell offered to come more often to the meetings, noting he attends the meetings in Minden.

Chief Nestle of the Canajoharie Fire Department followed with his report for the past 9 months. He said they are asking for a 5% increase to make up for the lack of an increase over the past 2 years. He said their operating budget is \$89,000, but they also serve other communities. In going over the expenses they need to cover, he discussed things like gear that needs to be replaced regularly due to liability, at a cost of \$2500 per man.

Mr. Allen said that the Ames Fire Department could not make this meeting, but he expected them to attend the July meeting. He then mentioned he would like to have all the fire company representatives back at budget time.

There was some further discussion of expenses, with Mayor Avery mentioning that all gear needed to be replaced after the flood of 2006 and that they are attempting to replace it on a rotating basis, hoping to not have to replace everything at once ever again.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Supervisor Allen has been in touch with the Department of Social Services regarding their work

experience program. He will be meeting with a representative next week to talk about the Town hosting a temporary worker.

Council members received a report on the fuel oil tank inspection.

The equalization rate for the town's real property dropped from 66% to 61%. The tentative estimated full value fell 8.2%. This prompted a brief discussion of the merits of doing a full revaluation, which would cause the roll to be updated annually automatically and the equalization rate to remain at 100%.

Amy Kretser reported on Planning Board activity. There is no further information about the proposed Muslim cemetery and school. The Countryman subdivision is completed. There has been a lot of activity and interest in the subject of dog kennels, several of which are starting in the Town.

Councilman Young reported on a meeting he attended. The meeting centered on the interests of the western part of the county, and forming a group to represent it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Allen made a motion to enter executive session to discuss the litigation regarding assessments. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion, and all were in favor; the session began at 8:12.

At 8:23, Councilman Toomey made a motion to exit the executive session, seconded by Councilman Armitstead and approved by all. Session was exited.

BILLS

The clerk presented the following bills vouchers for payment authorization:

General fund vouchers #104 through #123, totaling \$18,312.30; and

Highway fund vouchers #100 through #134, totaling \$12,842.23

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

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Toomey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Young. All were in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith

Town Clerk