

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE**

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**November 7, 2013**

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

**Present** were Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons John Toomey, Jr., and Judith Burgess; Highway Superintendent-Elect David Hodge; Deputy Highway Superintendent John Klock; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, and Town Clerk-Elect Laurie Vroman.

The Supervisor called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM and presented the evening's **agenda**. Mr. Allen asked for one addition to the agenda, a resolution after the executive session. Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the agenda with the one addition. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, and all were in favor.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

The floor was opened for public comment on the 2014 budget.

No one appeared to be heard.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to approve the preliminary budget as the final budget for 2014.

Councilman Toomey seconded the motion, and all were in favor, budget adopted.

**Propane contract**

Having received a letter from R.L Parsons to the effect that the company is willing to extend their contract through the coming heating season at the current rates, Supervisor Allen made a motion to accept R.L. Parsons as the propane provider through the 2013-2014 heating season. Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

It has been established that the Town never bought the propane tanks; they belong to the propane provider.

**PLANNING**

Supervisor Allen made a motion to appoint William Douglass as Vice Chairman of the Planning Board.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

Ivor Jones plans to stay on as Chairman through the year, but will not serve on any committees.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to re-appoint Ivan Easton to the Planning Board, as his term expired.

Councilwoman Burgess seconded the motion, and all were in favor of appointing Mr. Easton for another 7 year term.

**LEGISLATURE**

### **Miscellaneous/Buildings**

Supervisor Allen received a request from a resident interested in trapping muskrats at the Town pond on Old Sharon Rd. The Council agreed it would be okay, and Mr. Allen will call the person.

The Supervisor made a suggestion to the Council that the Town hire someone to do various jobs around the Town office building. This would be on a temporary basis, not permanent, and not on payroll. Mr. Allen suggested Terry Dygert, Jr., to pay him by the hour as a self-employed worker. It was agreed Mr. Dygert could be approached about fixing the stone wall, moving stones, helping with lights upstairs, and changing locks.

Mr. Allen mentioned that there are several computers in the building that need updating. As they have Windows XP, they are candidates for upgrade to Windows 7, which would make them compatible with current programs until the year 2020. In addition, he relayed a request from the clerk and clerk-elect to have Windows Office installed on the clerk's computer. The Court will be contacting the Unified Court System to see if the upgrade on the Court computer will be done by them. For the other work, Chris Davis will be called.

### **Dog Kennels**

Packets of information on dog kennel law have been compiled and distributed to Planning Board members. There will be a rotating committee of 3 members so that the entire Planning Board is involved. The Planning Board will be serving the interest of local residents in the process, not those coming from out of town. The goal is to put a local law in place within the year and end the moratorium.

Meanwhile, Code Officer Les Hassan has written a code violation on 176 Dygert Rd., where he encountered several dogs and puppies during an inspection of a pole barn. The clerk will write a letter to the owner about licensing the dogs over 4 months, and if necessary, Dog Control Officer Steve Fredenburg will be sent out to the property.

### **Sales Tax/Revaluation**

Mr. Allen distributed an informational sheet on sales tax receipts in the county, and pointed out the difference in the amounts based on equalization rates. The Town of Canajoharie is losing sales tax revenue because the property equalization rate has fallen from 100% down to around 60%.

Councilman Toomey asked what the cost of a revaluation would be, and Mr. Allen said that the Towns of Mohawk and Minden paid in the vicinity of \$95,000 to \$100,000 for theirs. He added that he would like to put revaluation on the agenda for the December meeting and invite Mayor Avery to attend, as one option is to have the Village involved in sharing the cost.

### **Insurance**

Having met with Lance Jacksland at the Hearn Agency to discuss 2014 changes in health insurance, Mr. Allen reported that there will be no change in retiree coverage. There will be some changes to the employee coverages, and Mr. Jacksland will talk to them about that sometime this week.

### **HIGHWAY**

Deputy Superintendent John Klock reported on the month's activity in the Highway Department. He said that the work on repairing Canyon Rd after the summer flood has been completed, and the paperwork for funding has been submitted to FEMA. Happy Hollow Rd. work has not yet been submitted. The trucks are ready for winter.

### **New Superintendent**

Mr. Allen suggested that the Highway Superintendent elect might be appointed in December, as the post is currently vacant and being covered by Mr. Klock. He said Mr. Klock would stay on as deputy until January, when the new Superintendent, David Hodge, can appoint his own.

### **BILLS**

The clerk submitted the following bill vouchers for Council approval:

General fund vouchers #188 through #200, totaling \$7,714.87; and

Highway fund vouchers #229 through #245, totaling \$33,169.91

On a motion by Councilwoman Burgess, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the bills were unanimously approved for payment as submitted.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Superintendent Allen made a motion to enter executive session in order to discuss assessment litigation. The motion was seconded by Councilman Toomey, and all were in agreement. Session entered at 8:12 PM.

At 8:17, the executive session was ended on a motion by Superintendent Allen, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, approved by all.

### **Resolution to settle suit**

Mr. Allen sponsored a resolution to sign a settlement on terms negotiated by the attorneys, with Countryside Management over assessment levels. This will be contingent upon final approval of the Town Assessor and the Town Attorney.

Councilman Toomey seconded the motion. All were in favor.

### **ADJOURN**

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilwoman Burgess, all were in favor of adjourning. Meeting ended at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith

Town Clerk