

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

December 5, 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., William Armitstead, and Rodney Young; 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. He then asked for an addition of a discussion of "insurance, health and other" after the discussion of fire contracts.

Councilman Toomey made a motion to accept the agenda with the above change. The motion was seconded by Councilman Armitstead and all were in favor.

Supervisor Allen made a motion to accept the minutes of the November 7th meeting. Councilman Toomey seconded the motion, and all were in favor.

LEGISLATURE

Meeting dates

The supervisor asked the council to approve of a change to the meeting schedule. After the organizational meeting on January 2, he proposed that regular meetings be held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30, beginning with January 9th. Only the organizational topics and a discussion of revaluation would be discussed on the 2nd. The council agreed to this change.

Alternates to Planning Board

After a brief discussion, the following resolution was sponsored by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Supervisor Allen:

Whereas: The Town of Canajoharie sees the need to have an alternate or alternates to the Town Planning Board, and to file a local law to allow for such alternates, and

Whereas: Local Law would allow up to 2 alternates, which would be appointed by the Town Board for a two year term, and

Whereas: The alternate(s) would only sit on the Planning Board when there is a member or members absent, and when requested personally to fill in by the Planning Board Chairman, and

Whereas: The alternate would have voting powers when filling in for an absent member,

Resolved: The Town Board will hold a public hearing and pursue a local law for the purpose of allowing alternates to the Town Planning Board.

Voting "aye" on this resolution were Councilman Toomey, Supervisor Allen, Councilman Armitstead and Councilman Young. Councilwoman Burgess was absent.

Fire Contracts

All fire contracts mailed to the fire departments have come back with approval. The Council gave Supervisor Allen authorization to sign the the contracts with the approved increases of 4% for 2014, and 2 % for 2015 and 2016.

Health Insurance Contracts

There is little change to the health insurance contracts. Retirees did not increase, and employees went up about \$7 per person per month. Co-pays are reverting to the previous plan, meaning there will be no need to reimburse employees for higher copay amounts any more.

On a motion by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the Council voted unanimously to authorize Supervisor Allen to sign the health insurance contracts.

Uniforms contract

The contract for uniforms for Highway employees will expire in February. After a discussion of rising prices with Unifirst, the current company, and prices offered by G & K Services, it was agreed to have Deputy Superintendent Klock notify both companies of the intention to switch to G & K, and to pursue a 3 year contract with no increase at the stated rate of \$57 per week.

HIGHWAY

Plow purchase

Mr. Klock asked the Council to consider authorizing him to purchase a plow for the new pickup truck, stating that it seems silly not to have it available to use for snowplowing. He produced the information on several possibilities. After a discussion of the pros and cons and prices on three different plows, Councilman Armitstead made a motion to authorize Mr. Klock to purchase an 8 foot Boss plow from Stahls, at the cost of \$5,380 installed.

Deputy Superintendent Klock gave a brief monthly report of Highway activities, and concluded with a thank you to the Board for appointing him to step in after the untimely death of Superintendent Eric Bowerman. He said that though it was not always easy and a few mistakes were made, in the end all the things Eric had hoped to accomplish in the course of the year were done. He wished Highway Superintendent Elect, David Hodge, good luck going forward.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:20 PM, the Council entered executive session to discuss personnel issues, on a motion by Superintendent Allen and seconded by Councilman Toomey.

On a motion by Superintendent Allen, seconded by Councilman Toomey, the council exited the session at 8:22. No decisions were made.

BILLS

The Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for payment approval:

General fund vouchers #201 through #221, totaling \$85,070.65; and

Highway fund vouchers #246 through #266, totaling \$12,141.98

On a motion by Councilman Toomey, seconded by Councilman Young, all vouchers presented were approved by all.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Superintendent Allen, seconded by Councilman Toomey, approved by all, the meeting was adjourned at 8:34 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan H. Smith
Town Clerk