

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

March 12, 2015

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

Present: Supervisor Herbert Allen, Councilpersons: William Armitstead, Judith Burgess, John Toomey, Jr., and Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, Highway Superintendent David Hodge; William Roehr-Montgomery County Senior Planner

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 7:30pm, and the evening's agenda was presented

On a **motion** by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the agenda was **approved, all in favor, and carried**

On a **motion** by Councilwoman Burgess, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the February meeting minutes was **approved, all in favor, and carried**

Supervisor Allen introduces Resolution #6 of 2015; Councilman Armitstead inquires about the payment schedule with MAS [Municipal Assessment Services]; Supervisor Allen answers 30 months in agreement with MAS

Discussion concerning MAS bid offers: Councilman Armitstead understood that the offer was \$139,000.00 with the Town Assessor and an assistant to collect the necessary property data, not MAS to collect the data;

Supervisor Allen understood it was a full reval, as the Board decided that they did not want the Town Assessor to go out into the field

Councilman Young understood that it would be a full reval; He agreed that there was previous discussion to possibly have the Town Assessor and an assistant to collect the data, however, the Board decided against going that route as it is more beneficial to have the company be responsible for grievances and complaints, not the Town to be responsible.

Bookkeeper Kretser indicates that the company includes professional assessors whose business is to do revals, if the Town were ever to be sued, it is the company that computed the reval, not the Town

Councilman Armitstead reads from February meeting minutes: "*... Councilman Armitstead states he was impressed with MAS, and they have the lowest bid; Councilwoman Burgess agrees; Mayor Avery also is pleased with MAS.*"

Councilman Armitstead states that MAS is not the lowest bid, however, agrees with going forward with MAS and the full revaluation

RESOLUTION # 6 OF 2015 Bonding for Town Wide Property Revaluation

Whereas, the Town of Canajoharie is Bonding for Town Wide Revaluation

Whereas, the principal amount of the Bond is \$90,000.00 with accrued interest of \$1,800.00, for a total of indebtedness of \$91,800.00,

RESOLVED: The Town Council authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign a B.A.N For \$ 90,000.00, Issue Date 3/19/15 For One (1) year to be due 3/19/16.

SPONSOR: Councilman John Toomey
SECOND: Councilman Rodney Young

VOTING AYE:

Supervisor: Herbert T. Allen
Councilman: William Armitstead
Councilman: John Toomey
Councilman: Rodney Young
Councilwoman: Judith Burgess

Laurie M. Vroman
Town Clerk
March 12, 2015

Supervisor Allen requests a motion for him to sign the article of agreement with MAS;

Motion for Supervisor Allen to sign article of agreement with MAS made by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilwoman Burgess, **unanimous ayes, motion carried**

Councilman Young inquires what are the projected start-end dates for the reval; Supervisor Allen indicates 1/1/-2015 to 7/1/2015; Reval will be available for 2016 school taxes and 2017 Town/County taxes

Councilman Young ask if there is a way to verify that the Town will be receiving the full amount of sales tax from the County once the Town is 100%; Bookkeeper Kretser answers the sales tax reports compare the quarters

7:55pm-Public Comment: William Roehr, Montgomery County Senior Planner, speaks about the tax rebate program and the Local Government Efficiency Plan; All municipalities have to enact an efficiency plan; Most towns he has spoken to will most likely participate in the plan that the County will do county-wide; Towns will have to sign an agreement to make best faith efforts to implement the plan and result in savings

Supervisor Allen asks if the 1% takes into consideration that everything else goes up ie: Salt prices; Mr. Roehr states it would if there was a good faith effort; Mr. Roehr recognizes that the plan does not consider the issues towns deal with everyday, but it is a good idea to test the thought of more

efficiencies, although it may be tough to do so

Superintendent Hodge states that shared services have been going on for years, this plan seems like a way to “force” towns into shared services

Supervisor Allen states the Town already does the County’s ditching, thawing culverts, etc.

Councilman Armitstead asks if the shared services already in place count towards the efficiency plan

Councilman Toomey asks if the Town agrees to partake in the County-wide plan, does our Town have to do everything the other participants do; Mr. Roehr indicates the plan does not limit local autonomy, it is the local prerogative to join in some/all shared services

Mr. Roehr states part of the benefit of working at it county-wide is they are trying to save everyone the time of preparing their own plan, and they want to hit targets collectively; He recognizes that it is tough for municipalities to predict how to do a 3% savings

Councilman Young asks if towns can join on an as-needed basis, long-term commitment is difficult; Mr. Roehr hopes the County can roll out different programs, then others can join

Mr. Roehr acknowledges that the County cannot guarantee anything, but wants to try

Councilman Young states that if some join, but some do not, the ones that do are going to want to record participation, how to do that?; Mr. Roehr states possibly a simple web-based application can be devised to do electronic tracking to simplify tracking

Mr. Roehr requests that the Town make a decision as to whether or not it intends to participate in the County-wide efficiency plan by April

8:35pm: Presentation ends

Supervisor Allen asks the Board if they should replace the Town Hall windows. Councilman Young does not agree with the windows that the contractor is proposing to use, (he agrees that they would be better than the windows currently on the building); He also states that the building is historic, and that the current windows should be preserved, whether or not they are replaced

Councilman Armitstead agrees with saving original windows if the Town decides to sell the building in the future

Bookkeeper Kretser informs the Board there’s only about \$2,000.00 left from Court grant

Councilman Young asks if the money can be used to improve something else in the building

Supervisor Allen will inquire about fixing the front steps of the building

Procurement Policy-Councilman Toomey approves it; **Motion** to Amend the Procurement Policy by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Supervisor Allen, **all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried**

Boiler was inspected and heating line sprung leak; Don’s Electric doing the work

Supervisor Allen sets March 13, 2015 at 1pm to sign the reevaluation agreement with MAS

Highway Superintendent- RFP bids for Happy Hollow FEMA project. Received two: 1. Jeff Johnson Recovery bid \$25,000.00-\$26,000.00/year with 30% up front for 2 year contract, charges 10% off the top for any potential scope changes; 2. Simmons Recovery charges hourly rate not to exceed \$25,000.00 for 2 year contract, does not charge for scope changes

Superintendent Hodge will be asking for a scope change; The FEMA money as of January 2015 is now \$171,000.00, down from \$256,000.00; Superintendent Hodge recommends Simmons Recovery as they do not charge 10% off the top for scope change

Motion by Councilwoman Burgess to hire Simmons Recovery for FEMA money recovery, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, **all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried**

Highway Department purchased a new sander

Town Clerk-nothing to report

Bookkeeper-

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
CASH REPORT FEBRUARY 28, 2015
AS OF 3/10/15

CHECKING ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 153,014.82
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 15.28
Highway Town Wide	\$ 186,115.94
Highway Part Town	<u>\$219,798.42</u>
Total	\$558,984.32

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$160,599.68
Highway Town Wide	\$ 1,712.54
Highway Part Town	<u>\$115,415.72</u>
Total	\$277,727.94

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
Consolidated Health	\$ 1,503.43
Highway Cap Reserv	\$ 49,661.67
Gen-Cap Reserve	\$134,636.50
Gen-Sale of Land	<u>\$ 53,805.43</u>
Total	\$239,607.03

Respectfully submitted,
Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

BILLS

The clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #45 through #66, totaling \$33,306.65;

Highway fund vouchers #48 through #80, totaling \$55,517.52

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

9:35pm-Motion to enter **Executive Session** by Councilman Armitstead, **seconded** by Councilwoman Burgess, **all in favor, unanimous Ayes**

9:50pm-Motion to come out of **Executive Session** by Councilman Armitstead, **seconded** by Councilperson Burgess, **all in favor, unanimous Ayes**

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk