

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

April 14, 2016

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, John Toomey, Jr., a Councilman Rodney Young and, John Peruzzi; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser, Highway Superintendent David Hodge, Town Sole Assessor Charlene Ruskowski; Village Mayor Francis Avery; Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort; Canajoharie-Palatine Chamber of Commerce President Phyllis Lapi; and various Town and Village property owners

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 Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the March meeting minutes was **approved, all in favor, and carried**

7:31pm- State of the County Address by County Executive Matthew Ossenfort; Mr. Ossenfort touched on the following topics:

-Montgomery County has taken a financial hit due to the drop in fuel prices, however, the County was conservative with the budget

-There is a \$90M distribution center deal in the works in the Town of Florida

-Former Beech Nut factory in the Village of Canajoharie: He recognizes the selling of the property for \$200K to a private developer was not an ideal situation. The County is exploring foreclosure on the property, although not a guarantee as the County does not have \$5-\$10M to demolish on own; the County is enacting three phases to help clean up the property; Mr. Ossenfort also recognizes that the State dropped the ball and left the Village holding the bag regarding this property

-the County received \$300K to improve the entire bike trail from Senator George Amedore

-Mayor Avery responded that the water treatment plant and sewer plants were made for the Beech Nut plant and that the Village has 75% losses. He informed the public that the Village has made 15% cuts in all departments, as a result, sewer, water, and property taxes will not go up this year; the Village is trying to do everything it can to help the village residents

Town Assessor- Gives update report regarding the Town-Wide Reevaluation project; Explains that the project is not completed yet, that the company, Municipal Assessment Services (MAS) will be mailing letters to those property owners who met with MAS at informal meetings with changes to their original tentative assessment findings, if changes are found—Ms. Ruskowski stated again that this is a process and many of these tentative assessments may have already changed; She explains that the tentative roll is then submitted to Montgomery County May 1st; May 24th is Grievance Day for property owners to meet with the Board of Assessment Review to grieve the tentative assessment; The next step if not happy with the BAR determination is to file a small claims court action, then the case could possibly be brought to NYS Supreme Court

-Ms. Ruskowski explains that there were several informational meetings held throughout the reevaluation process for property owners to ask questions and receive information on how the process works

-She explains that the intent of the company is not to take care of property taxes, the reevaluation is an attempt to make all property owners equitable; Also states that NYS has been actively monitoring the reevaluation step by step, and reviewing all the data collected, which includes informing the Assessor to examine mistakes that may have been made

-Ms. Ruskowski states that she has been working for all of the Town and Village property owners'

-Several property owners including, but not limited to: Laurie Weingart, Paul Marshall, and Richard Campo argue that the property owners want fair assessments

Public Comment- Phyllis Lapi, President of the Canajoharie-Palatine Chamber of Commerce speaks on behalf of the Village businesses. The entire 75-member Chamber strongly disagrees with the tentative assessments conducted by MAS. The tentative assessments as they stand would have a devastating effect to the downtown area; the assessments need to be based upon recent sales; Condemned buildings and two factories also need to be considered into the assessments;

-It is the opinion of the Chamber that the reevaluation is a huge disservice to property owners and wasted taxpayer money to hire MAS, and suggests that the reevaluation be redone

-Numerous property owners speak against the tentative assessments including but not limited to: Fred Kuntsch, Michelle McGlone, Paul Marshall, Alice Smith, Jason Peruzzi, Andrew Savoy, and Laurie Weingart; Ms. Weingart requests that the Town Board review the values for the commercial properties and to examine the comparable list she compiled

-Supervisor Allen asks Ms. Weingart to provide him her list of comparables; He would like to meet with Ms. Weingart, and meet with MAS, then call a special town meeting, if needed

Public Comment ends

Motion to Un-table proposed Local Law #4 of 2016 [which would opt-out the Town of Canajoharie from Section 487 of the Real Property Law regarding assessment for local property tax purposes related to construction of solar, wind, or farm waste energy systems], **and to abandon voting upon said proposed law due to one previously passed and filed by the Town [Local Law #1 of 2012]** by Supervisor Allen, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, **all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried**

Highway Superintendent: Loader needs 4 new tires presents the following two estimates to the Board: \$8,252.00 from Hilltop Tire, \$7,633.00 from the Tire Shop; informs the Board that he has money in his budget to purchase the tires

- Found a commercial mower at State Contract price at HRT in the amount of \$9,496.00

Motion to purchase 4 new tires for the loader and to purchase mower by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Armitstead, **all in favors, ayes, carried**

-Truck needs frame painting received the following two estimates: \$6,000.00 plus 2-year warranty from House, \$5,890.00 from Roosevelts

Motion to paint truck with Roosevelts on the condition they include a 2-year warranty by Councilman Young, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, carried

Town Clerk- Gave final tax collection report to the Board as follows:

- March collection total to the County: \$200,967.01
- Total Penalties collected to the Town: \$7,280.85
- Total Notice fees to the Town: \$60.00

- Total taxes collected from 1/1/2016 to 3/31/2016: \$2,786,026.97
- Total UNPAID taxes: \$702,204.63

Bookkeeper:

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
CASH REPORT MARCH 31, 2016

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 106,222.15	General	\$201,152.97
Fire District	\$ 39.86	Highway Town Wide	\$ 1,716.25
Consolidated Health	\$ 25.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$350,452.09</u> Highway Town
Wide	\$ 130,794.99	Total	\$553,321.31
Highway Part Town	\$ 32,180.00		
Trust & Agency	\$ 350.03		
Total	<u>\$ 269,612.31</u>		
		SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
		Consolidated Health	\$ 1,493.80
		Highway Cap Reserv	\$ 59,675.11
		Gen-Cap Res Garage	\$174,666.81
		Gen-Sale of Land	<u>\$ 53,828.86</u>
		Total	\$289,664.58

Respectfully submitted,
Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

-The books are looking good

BILLS

The clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:
General fund vouchers #65 through #86, totaling \$20,606.01
Highway fund vouchers #68 through #90, totaling \$16,375.79

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

Supervisor Allen informs the Board that the Village of Canajoharie would like a motion from the Canajoharie Town Board agreeing to the payment of \$10,000.00 a year for Village Police Department coverage on court nights upon the dissolution of the Village Court

9:40pm-Motion to enter **Executive Session** by Councilman Peruzzi, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, **all in favor, unanimous Ayes**

9:45pm-Motion to come out of **Executive Session** by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, **all in favor, unanimous Ayes**

****Motion to pay the Village of Canajoharie \$10,000.00 a year in monthly payments for police coverage on Town Court nights, conditional upon the village residents voting in favor of a Village Local Law to dissolve the Canajoharie Village Court system; therein the Town of Canajoharie Court would preside over all court matters for the Village and Town of Canajoharie,** by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Peruzzi, all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Councilman Armitstead, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 9:48 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk

**** Village of Canajoharie has requested the Town Clerk change the following wording in April 14, 2016 meeting minutes:**

Motion to pay the Village of Canajoharie \$10,000.00 a year in monthly payments for police coverage on Town Court nights, conditional upon the village residents voting in favor of a Village Local Law to dissolve the Canajoharie Village Court system; therein the Town of Canajoharie Court would preside over all court matters for the Village and Town of Canajoharie, by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Peruzzi, all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried

to:

Motion to pay the Village of Canajoharie \$10,000.00 a year in monthly payments for police coverage on Town Court nights, and as needed for the Canajoharie Town Court when special needs arise, as a Resolution by the Village of Canajoharie to ABOLISH THE VILLAGE COURT. Town of Canajoharie Court would preside over all court matters for the Village and Town of Canajoharie by Supervisor Allen, seconded by Councilman Peruzzi, all in favor, unanimous ayes, carried

Motion to correct wording of the April 14, 2016 minutes as stated by Supervisor Allen, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, carried

Respectfully corrected and submitted by,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk