

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**June 22, 2017**

The Town Council met for a Special Meeting at the Town Hall building, 12 Mitchell Street, Canajoharie, New York.

**Present:** Supervisor Peter Vroman, Councilpersons: John Toomey, Jr., Councilman William Armitstead, Councilman Rodney Young; Councilman Peruzzi not present [Councilman Peruzzi arrives at 7:48pm]; Highway Superintendent David Hodge

The meeting was opened by the Supervisor at 7:30pm, and the evening's agenda was presented. Supervisor Vroman informs the Board that Councilman Peruzzi will be attending the meeting late.

On a **motion** by Councilman Armitstead, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, the **agenda** was **unanimously approved, carried**.

**Public Comment-** Francis Avery addresses the Board as a concerned private citizen-he asserts that the Village and Town have a very good assessor and it is not a good idea to have the County take over Town and Village assessments; He predicts that if the County conducts the assessments in the future, there would be more full-time employees to pay and the residents of the Town and Village would be inconvenienced by not having direct access to the assessor.

-Bob Wilson, Chairman of the Board of Assessment review, speaks highly of the Town Assessor, Charlene Ruszkowski, and explains that the BAR has knowledgeable and experienced members who display fairness to all property owners that come before them; He states the BAR knows what they are doing in relation to the Town and Village, the County would not.

-Superintendent Hodge agrees with both commentators 100%.

-Supervisor Vroman explains to the Board that upon speaking with the Town Attorney, the resolutions proposed by the County that will be presented are not binding.

**RESOLUTION #12 of 2017 SUPPORTING THE MUNICIPAL CONSOLIDATION  
EFFICIENCY PLAN AS SUBMITTED BY MONTGOMERY COUNTY AND ITS  
CONSTITUENT MUNICIPALITIES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to reduce the property tax burden upon its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to simultaneously increase the quality of municipal services delivered to its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie has demonstrated its ability to work with other municipalities in Montgomery County, and Montgomery County itself, in successful efforts to share services and create municipal efficiencies; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie through the Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Plan (MCEP), will work collectively with Montgomery County and its municipal partners within the County to innovatively and fundamentally transform the manner in which local governments operate and municipal services are delivered.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Canajoharie hereby endorses, fully supports and will actively participate in the implementation of the Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Plan as submitted by Montgomery County and its municipal partners.

**SPONSOR: Councilman William Armitstead**

**SECOND: Councilman John Toomey, Jr.**

<u>VOTING:</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Peter Vroman	X			
Councilman William Armitstead	X			
Councilman John Toomey, Jr.	X			
Councilman Rodney Young		X		
Councilman John Peruzzi				X

Dated: June 22, 2017

Laurie M. Vroman

Town Clerk

-General discussion among the Board regarding proposed resolution to create modern joint court facility in former Beech-Nut plant and all of the proposed resolutions; Councilman Young needs more information/details from the County in regards to this, and the other proposed resolutions; Councilman Armitstead states that these proposed resolutions are a beginning to find out more

-Discussion with Village Mayor Avery regarding the resolutions the Village was presented with by the County; Asserts that if the Village were to dissolve, the Village would need to maintain their services; Mr. Wilson concern if dissolution happens, the Village would end up with little to nothing

-Councilman Peruzzi arrives at 7:48pm

-Supervisor Vroman once again states the proposed resolution and all of the proposed resolutions are non-binding

**RESOLUTION #13 of 2017 SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF A MODERN JOINT COURT FACILITY IN THE FORMER BEECH-NUT PLANT AND EXPRESSING THE DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to reduce the property tax burden upon its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to simultaneously increase the quality of municipal services delivered to its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie specifically seeks to improve quality of its court facilities and ensure that its court facilities comply with Office of Court Administration (OCA) standards for space, security, arraignment procedures and prisoner holding capacity; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie, through the Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Plan (MCEP), will work collectively with Montgomery County and its municipal partners in the Western

part of the County to develop a modern centralized Court facility in the former Beech-Nut Building in Canajoharie; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie recognizes that the capital costs of the referenced court facility will be underwritten through grant funding and that operational costs for its court will be reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Canajoharie hereby endorses, fully supports and will actively participate development of a modern, centralized Court facility to be shared with other municipal partners.

**SPONSOR: Councilman William Armitstead**

**SECOND: Supervisor Peter Vroman**

<u>VOTING:</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Peter Vroman	X			
Councilman William Armitstead	X			
Councilman John Toomey, Jr.		X		
Councilman Rodney Young		X		
Councilman John Peruzzi			X	

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**RESOLUTION #14 of 2017 SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A JOINT MUNICIPAL CENTER IN THE FORMER BEECH-NUT PLANT AND EXPRESSING THE DESIRE TO PARTICIPATE IN THAT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to reduce the property tax burden upon its residents; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to simultaneously recognizes the space constraints and obsolescence of its primary municipal office building; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie specifically seeks to provide a more spacious, energy-efficient, modern and functional office environment for both employees and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie, through the Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Plan (MCEP), will work collectively with Montgomery County and its municipal partners in the Western part of the County to develop a joint municipal center in the former Beech-Nut Building in Canajoharie; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie, recognizes that the capital costs of the referenced municipal center will be underwritten through grant funding and that certain operational costs will be reduced.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Canajoharie hereby endorses, fully supports and will actively participate development of a joint municipal center to be shared with other municipal partners.

**SPONSOR: Councilman William Armitstead**

**SECOND: Supervisor Peter Vroman**

<u>VOTING:</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Peter Vroman	X			
Councilman William Armitstead	X			
Councilman John Toomey, Jr.		X		
Councilman Rodney Young		X		
Councilman John Peruzzi			X	

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**RESOLUTION #15 of 2017 SUPPORTING THE ENHANCEMENT OF MUNICIPAL AND  
COUNTY IT CAPACITY AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRONIC RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS**

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie desires to reduce costs and inefficiencies associated with the utilization and storage paper-based records; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie recognizes not only the inefficiency associated with paper records storage, but is also well aware of the operational costs, in terms of space required, to store paper records; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie intends to better integrate its records; and,

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie seeks to expand the range of municipal services that can be provided via an Internet portal; and,

WHEREAS, Montgomery County, through the use of Municipal Consolidation and Efficiency Program monies will vastly improve its own IT backbone and extend the benefits of that enhancement to the local municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Canajoharie hereby endorses, fully supports and will actively participate in a new electronic records management environment and content management system.

**SPONSOR: Councilman William Armitstead**

**SECOND: Supervisor Peter Vroman**

<u>VOTING:</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Peter Vroman	X			
Councilman William Armitstead	X			
Councilman John Toomey, Jr.	X			
Councilman Rodney Young		X		
Councilman John Peruzzi	X			

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**Proposed resolution** supporting development of a consolidated vehicle/equipment maintenance and repair facility; **Sponsor**-Councilman Armitstead, **Second-NONE**; **Resolution dead**

-Supervisor Vroman expresses his disagreement for the modernization of property assessment practices

**Proposed resolution** supporting modernization of property assessment practices within Montgomery County and municipalities; **Sponsor-NONE**, **Second-NONE**; **Resolution dead**

## **Resolution #16 of 2017**

### **TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT FOR CONTROL OF GRASS AND BRUSH ON COUNTY HIGHWAYS**

**Sponsor:** Councilman Rodney Young  
**Second:** Councilman John Peruzzi

WHEREAS, the Town of Canajoharie includes 41.60 miles of County Highway (40.97 +0.63 in Village of Ames,

WHEREAS, the County of Montgomery Department of Public Works has proposed an agreement for control of grass and brush on County Highways with the Town of Canajoharie beginning June 1, 2017 and ending May 31, 2018; the amount/mile \$400.00, and total 2017/2018 Brush and Grass Control in the amount of \$16,640.00,

RESOLVED, that the Town of Canajoharie accepts the proposed 2017/2018 Grass and Brush Control Contract in the total amount of \$16,640.00,

RESOLVED, that the Town of Canajoharie agrees to the terms as set forth in said proposed Agreement for Control of Grass and Brush on County Highways, beginning June 1, 2017 and ending May 31, 2018.

VOTING:	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Supervisor Peter Vroman	X		
Councilman William Armitstead	X		
Councilman John Toomey, Jr.		X	
Councilman Rodney Young	X		
Councilman John Peruzzi	X		

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### **Adjournment**

On a **motion** by Councilman Toomey, **seconded** by Councilman Young, all in favor, ayes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:14PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk