

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

August 9, 2018

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

Present: Supervisor Peter Vroman, Councilpersons: John Peruzzi, John Toomey, Jr., William Armitstead; Councilman Rodney Young; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser; Highway Superintendent Timothy Jones

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

On a **motion** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Armitstead, the **agenda** was **unanimously approved**

On **motion** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey the **July 2018 minutes** were **unanimously approved**

Public Comment- Dean Diefendorf expresses concern over unregistered vehicles on neighboring property on Clinton Rd., and as such, has given the Town Code Enforcement Officer a written complaint; Supervisor Vroman responds by reading Article VI, Section A.3.9 of the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie: "Except for new or used vehicle sale lots where permitted, no more than one (1) vehicle not in current registration shall be stored outdoors, and all such vehicles shall be screened from neighboring properties." Supervisor Vroman will confer with the Town COE for next step

-Brian Gathen, representative from Nortrax invited to speak to the Board by Superintendent Jones. Explains the leasing process for a new grader; John Deere municipal leases are flexible, use State contract pricing, \$1 buyout at end of lease option, warranties included. A new grader costs between \$250K-\$300K with a snow mount. Discussion between the Board and Mr. Gathen. Superintendent Jones states that the grader needed is a year-round-use grader

TOWN SUPERVISOR- Discusses the topics of aged and disability exemptions: County Real Property suggests looking at our current exemption and update it to comply with State standard; He will look into finding more information as to what needs to be done to do so

-As to disability exemptions, the Town Assessor relayed information to the Supervisor that the Town of Minden is closest local municipality to offer the exemption; Supervisor Vroman has requested the Assessor to find out more information regarding what the Town of Minden uses as standards to grant the exemption

-Supervisor Vroman received three (3) estimates for the proposed air conditioning units for the courtroom from the following: Don's Electric, Mattice, and Welch's; No decisions made at this time

-Supervisor Vroman received notification from County Real Property that the Villages of Ames and Canajoharie need to approach the Town to request permission to keep properties exempt on the tax roll for the following water facility properties:

Village of Canajoharie-Old Fort Plain Road 63.17-1-39; Old Sharon Road 79.-4-23;
Carlisle Road 79.-4-24

Village of Ames- Brimstone Creek 121.-1-37

The Board will make decisions once requests come in from the two villages

Supervisor Vroman sets August 31st for all department heads to furnish their proposed budgets

Reminds the Board that both the ZBA and Planning Boards have an open seat; Bill Douglas term expires on the Planning Board this December, as well as David Shults term on the ZBA; Tom Price BAR term expires in September; Supervisor Vroman will approach the gentlemen to see if they are interested in continuing to serve after their terms expires; Also requests the board members to let him know of any interested parties who may want to serve on the boards

Councilman Young gives an update report on the Mohawk Solar Article 10 project; There had been a conference with the solar company, Public Service Commission judges, Town of Minden and Town of Canajoharie representatives [ie: Mr. Young, Town of Canajoharie Planning Board and ZBA Chairs] regarding what the project is going to look like; Many studies are being done;

-Barton & Loguidice concerned about storm water management studies to be done;

-**Motion** to continue Barton & Loguidice and Whiteman, Osterman & Hanna intervenor services by Councilman Young, **seconded** by Councilman Peruzzi, all in favor, ayes, Supervisor Vroman abstains, **motion carried**

Councilman Young discusses how John Walsh would like to paint and put shutters back on the Town Hall building; Councilman Young suggested to Mr. Walsh that he approach the Board for budget increase for building maintenance/repairs; Roof is still leaking, needs patching, gutters need to be cleaned

HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT- 2 of 3 trucks ordered still not going to be available, possibly done by end of this month, still have no trade-in number, won't have an amount until the ordered trucks come in; Superintendent Jones contacted town attorney,--Town is not obligated to take the trucks as there was no signed contract; Discussion with the Board as to whether to take the trucks or not; The Board reverts back to February decision to take the trucks unless they do not arrive

-Superintendent Jones has been speaking with the Highway Superintendents of Towns of Danube and Manheim regarding the process of building their town barns—those towns had grant writers which in turn, were able to present the proposed plans to their local senators and both towns received money from their senators' offices; Superintendent Jones strongly suggests obtaining a grant writer and a study to get the process of constructing the new Town barn going; Discussion regarding the previous proposal received from Barton & Loguidice for planning and engineering services in association with the development and conceptual design for a new highway garage facility, it would cost \$5,800.00 for the study

-**Motion for Barton & Loguidice to proceed with the study at the Town Garage site at a cost of \$5,800.00** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, **ayes, carried**; Supervisor Vroman will sign the proposal and return to B & L to get process started

-Superintendent Jones reports that the new shed construction is going well, electric and walls will be installed soon; Conducted 14 hours of paving past Monday; Attempting to borrow the County's grader

TOWN CLERK- Attended Charitable Reserve Funds training in Colonie; The Town can **opt** to create a charitable reserve fund and adopt a local law authorizing real property tax credit for a

taxpayer's contribution to the charitable reserve fund, the default credit is 95%, but the Town can reduce that amount via the local law; NYS has allowed municipalities to do this in order to counteract the federal tax cuts and jobs act; Not mandatory for the Town to do this;

-While at the training, it seemed that the consensus among the attendees was to wait a year or so and see how the bigger, downstate Towns implement this new policy

-Clerk will try to find how many property owners in the Town actually deducted over \$10,000.00 in property tax to see if this would be a viable program to implement; Also would like to wait for the County's official opinion of the program

BOOKKEEPER-

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-8/3/18
CASH REPORT JULY 31, 2018

CHECKING ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 62,521.90
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 25.28
Highway Town Wide	\$134,153.80
Highway Part Town	\$ 52,131.52
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 180.16</u>
Total	\$249,052.52

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 29,206.62
Highway Town Wide	\$ 84,408.33
Highway Part Town	<u>\$265,528.55</u>
Total	\$379,143.50

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS	
Consolidated Health	\$ 1,494.47
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 44,689.11
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$234,756.60
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 53,853.07</u>
Total	\$334,793.25

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S. Kretser
Town Bookkeeper

9:06pm-Motion to Enter Executive Session by Supervisor Vroman, seconded by Councilman Peruzzi, all in favor, ayes, carried

9:07pm-Motion to Exit Executive Session by Supervisor Vroman, seconded by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, carried

Motion to retain Greg Allen, Esq. for Countryside Management Assessment lawsuit by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, **all in favor, ayes, carried**

BILLS

The clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #157 through #179, totaling \$36,175.55

Highway fund vouchers #163 through #175, totaling \$7,523.27

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

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Supervisor Vroman **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk