

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

**June 13, 2019**

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

**Present:** Supervisor Peter Vroman, Councilpersons: William Armitstead [arrives at 8:00pm], John Toomey, Jr., Rodney Young, John Peruzzi, Sr.; Highway Superintendent Timothy Jones-not present; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser; Town Assessor Charlene Ruskowski

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

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

On a **motion** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, the May regular and special meeting minutes **were unanimously approved**

Supervisor Vroman informs the Board that the Town Assessor, Charlene Ruskowski, will be present to explain why the Town's equalization rate is down from 100% to 93.87%

Supervisor Vroman has invited a Mohawk Valley Land Bank representative to come to tonight's meeting to explain more about their organization and what they do

-Councilman Young although the Village of Canajoharie is on board with this program, he believes there are only about 4 Town properties, two which are vacant, that would even meet the criteria for the Land Bank, does not see any benefits to the Town

[no representative from the Land Bank attended the meeting]

**Public Comment-** none

**Town Assessor-** explains how the Town's equalization rate reduced from 100% to 93.87% and explains the process she used with New York State—everyone at the State is new and have changed their analysis; Assessor used 0 trends, she also was not aware she had to appeal to the State in person regarding the lower equalization rate

-Unfortunately, no changes can be made to this tentative roll, however, changes will be made to next year's roll; She will find the median sales and apply them

-Impresses upon the Board that building permits are needed

Supervisor Vroman informs the Board that a new Article 10, 300 megawatt solar project may be coming to the Town, this time at the Town of Root/Canajoharie line; he introduces Kate Millar from Invenergy

-Ms. Millar speaks regarding Invenergy: they are a wind and solar development company, the company's home base is Chicago, however, a regional office is in Ithaca, NY; They are in the very early stages of the project, namely, the land acquisition phase; Initially, they will lease more land that is ultimately needed for the completed project

**Old Business-** the Fire Contracts expire December 31<sup>st</sup>; Still one opening on the Zoning Board of Appeals; Still one opening on the Board of Assessment Review; Current BAR member, Catherine Smith, term expires September 30, 2019

**New Business-** Supervisor Vroman has been painting the front pillars of the Town Hall

- Highway Superintendent Jones and Supervisor Vroman will be meeting the owner of the Budd St. property to discuss the turnaround
- Supervisor Vroman has emailed a grant writer to inquire about his services for the new Town Garage project
  - Councilman Young would like to speak with both the Towns of Root and Russia regarding their new garages
- Supervisor Vroman plans on attending the LS Power Grid NY open house is June 17<sup>th</sup> in Fonda, re: power lines upgrade
- A town resident has brought to the Supervisor's attention that they are concerned with tractor box trailers being parked in the Town

Councilman Young- he reports to the Board that he was contacted by both the intervenor engineers and attorneys for the Mohawk Solar project and they informed the Town that they are owed approximately \$1,000.00 and \$5,000.00 respectively, and ask that they split the costs with the Town of Minden

-Councilman Young will ask to see if they can be paid out of next round of intervenor funding; He opines that each intervenor should have been keeping track of the funding allocated by the Siting Board, they went over the \$31,000.00, the Towns did not ask them to do anything above and beyond

-Councilman Young states his position again that the Town should not have to pay a penny out of Town funds to cover costs relating to this solar project

**Highway Superintendent-** Superintendent Jones not present, however, he met this afternoon with Supervisor Vroman to present the following points:

- the highway department is not hiring John Klock to do summer mowing due to unforeseen medical reasons
- the Superintendent has a list of CHIPS roads
- the Superintendent acquired the following quotes for raising the roof of the Town garage [one of the bays] to fit the new truck: McCarthy electric \$4,615 estimate for electrical work; Don Mead \$12,000.00 for the construction work; Discussion among Board members as to build up or dig down to fit the truck, no decision made
- 1998 Volvo Truck auction on Auctions International has concluded with a bid of \$5,900.00, the Superintendent thinks it is a good offer

**-Motion to accept the bid for \$5,900.00 on Auctions International for the Volvo Truck by Councilman Armitstead, seconded by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, carried**

-there's a bill in the approximate amount of \$6,000.00 for MW Roosevelts in regards to 3 repairs: air conditioning for the loader, a repair on the back of one of the trucks, and for repair of the 2002 International truck

**Town Clerk-** received from Mohawk Solar company copy of their Application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need they filed with New York State Board on Electric Generation Siting and the Environment; It consists of 4 huge binders and is located in the Clerk's office for the Board's perusal

**Bookkeeper-** there was no May Planning Board meeting; Town accounts are doing okay

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-6/12/19  
CASH REPORT MAY 31, 2019

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 44,570.86
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28
Highway Town Wide	\$237,142.14
Highway Part Town	\$125,134.36
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 62.07</u>
Total	\$366,864.57

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 4,213.93
Highway Town Wide	\$ 44,428.09
Highway Part Town	<u>\$315,958.59</u>
Total	\$364,600.61

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,484.70
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 16,792.42
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$244,791.86
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,416.62</u>
Total	\$289,485.60

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy S. Kretser  
Town Bookkeeper

**BILLS**

The clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #136 through #160, totaling \$19,031.28;

Highway fund vouchers #84 through #106, totaling \$68,740.37

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 9:02PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie M. Vroman, Town Clerk