

**COUNCIL MEETING
TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY
DECEMBER 12, 2019**

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

Present: Supervisor Peter Vroman; Councilpersons: William Armitstead; John Peruzzi, Sr.; John Toomey, Jr. and Rodney Young; Highway Superintendent Timothy Jones; Bookkeeper Amy Kretser and Town Clerk Christina Jewell.

Call to Order & Salute the Flag

The meeting was opened by Supervisor Vroman at 7:30 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by presenting the meeting agenda.

Adopt Agenda

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

Accept November Meeting Minutes

On a **motion** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, the November regular meeting minutes were **unanimously approved**.

Public Comment

None

Executive Session

7:32 PM - Motion to Enter Executive Session to discuss Proposed Resolution #28 Amending the Town Budget by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Peruzzi, **all in favor, unanimous ayes**;
7:37 PM - Motion to Exit Executive Session by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Young, **all in favor, unanimous ayes**.

Town Supervisor

Supervisor Vroman updated the Council on the following:

- Supervisor Vroman met with the Montgomery County Executive to keep Canajoharie in the forefront.
- On November 18th Supervisor Vroman met with the Canajoharie Village government and a representative of Congressman Delgado's office to discuss funding of the town garage (re: rural grant application) and Broadband (they have a statewide plan).
- Regarding the next steps for the Mohawk Solar Project Application Phase, an attorney from Whiteman Osterman & Hanna LLP notified Supervisor Vroman and Town of Minden Supervisor Cheryl Reese that all 27 variances have been approved. Following that, the next step is public education, with a meeting scheduled in January at the Canajoharie library.
- There will be a meeting at the school on January 16th at 6:30 PM regarding the Exit 29 project.
- Supervisor Vroman received an invitation regarding the 2019 Regional Economic Development award from the New York State Governor.

- William Douglass submitted a letter of resignation, effective December 31, 2019, from his position as Chairman of the Town of Canajoharie Planning Board. Supervisor Vroman asked the Planning Board members to begin the search for a new Chairman. He noted that Ray Kiefel will be leaving his position on the Planning Board as well.
- Supervisor Vroman met with a representative of the Hearn Agency who advised him that the Town yearly insurance premium for buildings and vehicles has decreased by \$1500.00.
- Supervisor Vroman forwarded an email to Deputy Supervisor Young stating we will be receiving \$27,805.00 in Aid & Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) funding.
- Supervisor Vroman has contacted the Department of Public Works at Montgomery County to discuss speed reduction on Rout 163. They are currently looking in to it.
- Supervisor Vroman met with another solar company regarding a small (40-60 acres) community solar project, where local residents can join for a discounted rate. It will require an access road and some panels in Canajoharie; most of the project lies in the Town of Root. He referred them to Avangrid to get insight on the solar process.

Town Highway Superintendent

Highway Superintendent Jones stated the Happy Hollow Bridge has been converted from a one-lane to a two-lane bridge. Once the guardrails go in on December 15th, the project will be complete. He further noted that someone is plowing seasonal Lincoln Road (a part of which belongs to the snowmobile trail).

Town Clerk

Town Clerk Jewell reported she had replaced the broken doorbell on the back of the building. She further noted that she is working with Dan Colon, Montgomery County IT Director, regarding the purchase of a new computer and monitor through them, to take advantage of their discount.

Town Bookkeeper

Town Bookkeeper Kretser noted the following:

- No money had to be borrowed yet this month.
- AIM funding goes to the general fund.
- Money from the Solar Company can be used in the “A” fund, according to the State Comptroller’s office.
- Bookkeeper Kretser asked when we will get the building permit check; Supervisor Vroman will inquire via email.
- The Zoning Board has received approval of 27 necessary variances regarding the Solar project.
- The Stoltzfoos subdivision was discussed as they requested a permit to put a single-wide trailer on their property. They were informed a special permit would be necessary; however, the Stoltzfoos’ attorney, Charles Tallent, contacted the Town to say the special permit is not necessary. It was noted the Stoltzfoos’ have already put the trailer in place. The Planning Board has been advised and will meet soon to approve the subdivision.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-12/9/19
CASH REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2019

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 12,899.69**
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28
Highway Town Wide	\$ 64,595.43
Highway Part Town	\$ 97,086.21
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 8,677.67 *</u>
Total	\$183,334.14

*6,717.29 Avangrid -Solar Project

** General owes Highway Town Wide \$62,000.00

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 217.49
Highway Town Wide	\$ 44,484.11
Highway Part Town	<u>\$216,656.46</u>
Total	\$261,358.06

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,484.84
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,795.84
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$244,816.31
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,419.27</u>
Total	\$299,616.26

Respectfully submitted,
Amy S. Kretser
Canajoharie Town Bookkeeper

A discussion then ensued regarding what recourse the Town has if the application process is ignored. Councilman Young stated there should be a fine; if the fine goes unpaid, it should be added to the next tax bill. Supervisor Vroman will be discussing the matter with Town Attorney Doug Landon, Esq.

Supervisor Vroman noted we should be looking at adjusting permit fees next year (revenue goes into the "B" fund).

Councilman Armitstead noted that he, another party and a well driller went to the site of the future Town Garage to check for water. All three had a 'hit' in the same place, with the water flowing toward the creek. The place has been marked and it is suggested we put the building in front of it, which is well away from the power lines. It was further noted that we have not had a survey done of the property and the engineers have requested one. Councilman Young stated it is a good idea to have one completed and he will reach out to William J. Symolon, Jr., a surveyor in Canajoharie, to get a price.

Pay Bills

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

- General fund vouchers #270 through #301, totaling \$28,532.87
- Highway fund vouchers #195 through #215, totaling \$128,906.15

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

Adjourn

On a **motion** by Supervisor Vroman, **seconded** by Councilman Toomey, all in favor, ayes, the meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christina Jewell
Canajoharie Town Clerk