

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD JANUARY 09, 2020 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

Present: Peter A. Vroman, Supervisor
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman
Rodney Young, Councilman
Absent: William Armitstead, Councilman
Recording Secretary: Christina Jewell, Town Clerk
Others Present: Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Tim Jones, Town Superintendent of Highways
Scott McDonald, Avangrid

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Vroman, Supervisor at 7:30 PM

Motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, to adopt the agenda. All in favor ayes, carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Young that the minutes of December 12, 2019, as submitted by the Town Clerk, are approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

7:33 PM - Enter Organizational Meeting

Resolution #1 - 2020

Organizational Appointments

Sponsor: Peter Vroman, Supervisor
Second: John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman

Whereas, the Town of Canajoharie must make various appointments for Town operation in the coming year,

Resolved, the following appointments are made effective immediately:

Town Attorney: Douglas Langdon, Esq.
Bookkeeper: Amy Kretser
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer: Les Hassan
Town Historian: Kathy Hanford
Animal Control Officer/Rabies Response Agent: Steven Fredenburg
Health Officer: Brian Hall, P.A.
Zoning Board of Appeals: Gary Barringer - Term to end December 31, 2020
Francis Avery - Term to end December 31, 2021
Michael Ehrenreich, Chair - Term to end December 31, 2022
David Shults - Term to end December 31, 2023
Daniel Hazzard - Term to end December 31, 2024

Planning Board Members: Ivan Easton – Term to end December 31, 2020
 Michael Muhlebeck – Term to end December 31, 2021
 Alternate (*Open*) – Term to end December 31, 2021
 John Toomey – Term to end December 31, 2022
 Raymond Kiefl – Term to end December 2023
 Dennis McEwan- Term to end December 31, 2024
 Wayne Conard – Term to end December 31, 2026

Planning Board Chairman: (*Open*)

Further resolved, the following miscellaneous assignments are made:

Official newspaper: The Amsterdam Recorder and the Courier–Standard-Enterprise

Official depository: NBT Bank

Mileage reimbursement rates: Per IRS rules, as altered through the year.

Utility bills, Insurance, postage, credit cards, and gas cards may be paid ahead of monthly council meeting when they are received.

Salaries of part-time employees set to the New York State minimum wage, as altered through the year.

Salaries for part-time Highway employees set to the New York State minimum wage, as altered through the year.

VOTING	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Peter A. Vroman, Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman			X
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman	X		
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		

Dated: January 9, 2020
 Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

Public Comment – No public in attendance

7:45 PM - Enter Regular Monthly meeting

Mr. Vroman discussed an email from Stephen B. Le Fevre, Senior Managing Hydrogeologist with Barton & Loguidice. Mohawk Solar has requested the towns of Canajoharie and Minden provide input regarding days of the week and corresponding hours that construction activities can occur. It was noted that typical hours of construction are, on weekdays, from 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM and on Saturdays, from 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM. It is recommended that there be no construction on Sundays or Holidays. The Councilpersons in attendance were in agreement that the proposed hours are acceptable. Mr. Vroman has reached out to the Supervisor of Minden to discuss mirroring the same hours of construction as has been proposed.

Public Comment – Following the discussion regarding construction hours, Scott McDonald entered the meeting to discuss the Mohawk Solar project. Mr. Young asked what the timeframe was for the Town receiving a check for the Building Permit fees. Mr. McDonald noted it was about 1 year off – just prior to groundbreaking.

Mr. McDonald then noted that the application process has been deemed complete, allowing the next phase of the project to begin. He stated that on January 15th there will be a public meeting at the Canajoharie Library, beginning at 5:00 PM, with Administrative Law Judges present. The first 45 minutes will be dedicated to presenting information and environmental studies. Then, following a 15 minute break, the meeting will be open to public comments. All town officials present were encouraged to attend as a show of support. Mr. Vroman asked what could be asked that hasn't already been addressed and Mr. McDonald noted that it is a chance to be heard on the record.

Mr. McDonald noted that, while the timeline has had some issues, the goal is still to be operational November of 2021. He stated, while the application process has been deemed complete, the approval process can take up to a year; however, with the amount of public support the project has, there is hope it will go faster. He noted there will be a meeting with interested parties on January 22nd to include the Department of Conservation and the consultant representing the town. The issue of the project taking nesting areas for birds was discussed, noting that they have to find other areas to move and will then treat those areas as 'special' – 'if we take from here, we give to there'.

Mr. Young asked Mr. McDonald why the Town has to wait until groundbreaking to receive their money when landowners have already started receiving payment. Mr. McDonald stated the money to landowners was given to secure the land. While a check has been issued for oversight of the project, Mr. Young noted that all funds have gone to pay bills incurred due to the project and that the Town has not yet made any money.

Regarding the Intervenor Fund, Ms. Kretser noted that it is almost depleted. Mr. McDonald stated it should not go below \$4000.00; therefore, he is requesting another check be issued as the last of the outstanding bills for 2019 will take the total below the \$4000.00 threshold.

Lastly, Mr. McDonald thanked the Zoning Board of Appeals, noting the information was a lot to consider and it is very much appreciated.

At 8:00 PM, Mr. McDonald left the meeting.

Mr. Vroman discussed the Budget and the necessity to move \$500 from one area to another in order to cover a salary increase.

RESOLUTION #2 OF 2020
Budget 2020 Amendment

Sponsor: Peter Vroman, Supervisor
Second: John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman

Whereas, the following amendment to transfer money is required to adjust for a salary increase for Judge Gizzi

From	To	Amount
A1420.4 Attorney Contractual	A1110.100 Justice Personal	\$500.00

Resolved, the Town Council authorizes the transfer of money from one account to another.

	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Peter A. Vroman, Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman			X
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman	X		
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		

Dated: January 9, 2020,
Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

Peter Vroman, Supervisor noted the following:

- There will be a meeting at the Canajoharie High School on January 16th regarding The Exit 29 Redevelopment Project that he will attend to see what the plans are. Bookkeeper Amy Kretser noted the Village Officials are going to see a hemp plant, as that is one of the possibilities for the project.
- Regarding the enforcement of the Town's Land Use Laws, Mr. Vroman stated we have the authority to issue violation notices and impose fines, not to exceed \$350.00, if they are broken. He will attend the next Planning Board meeting to discuss the matter of enforcement. He further noted that the position of Planning Board Chairperson, a paid position, is open and nobody has stepped forward to fill it; therefore, as Town Supervisor, he may have to name someone. This matter will also be addressed at the next meeting.
- An email from Chris Yacobucci suggested that we have the surveyor complete a Topographical study at the same time as the Boundary work is being done in an effort to save money. Mr. Vroman will get an outline map to Councilperson Young, who will then talk to the surveyor.

Tim Jones, Highway Superintendent stated everything is business as usual in his department. Mr. Young asked what the Mohawk Solar Project construction will do to Town roads, as they have deemed some as substandard.

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk stated that, as of close of business January 9th, the Town had collected \$242,447.89 in Taxes.

Amy Kretser, Bookkeeper said money is coming in slowly and that, as of the end of the year, the general fund was only short \$132.00 plus what is owed to the Highway Department.

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-1/6/20
CASH REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2019**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 17,582.24**	General	\$ 217.58
Fire District	\$ 39.86	Highway Town Wide	\$ 44,502.70
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$216,837.54</u>
Highway Town Wide	\$ 16,078.03	Total	\$261,557.82
Highway Part Town	\$ 97,086.21		
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 6,267.29 *</u>		
Total	\$137,088.91		

*\$5,611.35 Avangrid/Mohawk Solar Project

** General owes Highway Town Wide \$57,000.00

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,484.91
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,797.19
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$244,828.65
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,420.60</u>
Total	\$299,531.35

2020 BUDGET AMENDMENT

From	To	Amount
A1420.4 Attorney Contractual	A1110.100 Justice Personal	\$500.00

To increase the proposed salary for Judge Gizzi, as discussed at the Budget Hearing

Respectfully submitted,
Amy S. Kretser
Town Bookkeeper

Lastly, Mr. Vroman noted he ran into Mark Brody, who wants to have a discussion about the new Town Barn and solar power as a cost saving measure. He will pursue this further.

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:
General fund vouchers #1 through #14, totaling \$27,267.86;
Highway fund vouchers #1 through #20, totaling \$31,048.68

A Motion to pay bills was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, all in favor ayes, carried.

Adjournment

On a **motion** by Mr. Vroman, **seconded** by Mr. Toomey, **the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell
Town Clerk