

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD JUNE 11, 2020 VIA TELECONFERENCE AT 7:30 PM**

Present: Peter A. Vroman, Supervisor
William Armitstead, Councilman
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman
Rodney Young, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tim Jones, Highway Superintendent
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Vroman, Supervisor, at 7:30 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance and after noting that some members and all of the public are still utilizing teleconferencing to attend the meetings, as the country is in a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 virus, and the Open Meeting Law has been relaxed during this time.

Accept the May 2020 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Young, that the minutes of the May 2020 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

Accept the June 11th Agenda

A motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Young, that the agenda be unanimously approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

Recognition of Citizens Present

None present

Town Supervisor - New Business

- **Teleconference with the Montgomery County Executive**

Mr. Vroman noted he spoke with the Montgomery County Executive regarding the census and that citizens will start seeing them around town.

Mr. Vroman stated that the Town has worked to meet the Phase II Opening Requirements, as outlined in New York State's "Reopening New York" guidelines. The Town Clerk's office has had a plexiglass window with an opening installed in the office door; the courtroom has new plexiglass shielding for the Judge and Court Clerk (to be paid for by the NYS Court System); social distance floor markers and signs have been posted around the building, masks have been made available for employees and residents who enter the building without one; and Hand Sanitizer dispensers are on order.

- **Distribution of Mortgage Tax for Montgomery County**

Mr. Vroman noted the Town of Canajoharie received \$8862.40 distribution of Mortgage Tax for Montgomery County by the Treasurer's office.

- **Canajoharie Central School Community Service Program**

Mr. Vroman informed the councilmen that Canajoharie Central School's Superintendent, Nick Fitzgerald, has asked the Town to partner with the district in regard to the new community service programs they will be offering students in September of the new school year. He noted the Town Clerk will be the contact person, tracking student hours using an online program.

- **Canajoharie – Ames Consolidated Health District**

Mr. Vroman discussed the Town's Health District, consolidated with the Village of Ames, stating he was not sure how it came about (no councilmen had any recollection either) but he would like it dissolved and will contact the Town Attorney and the Association of Towns to see how to proceed.

- **Town of Canajoharie Final State and/or Class Equalization Rates**

Mr. Vroman noted the Town received a Certificate of the Final State Equalization Roll for the 2020 Assessment Roll from the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, Office of Real Property Tax Services, that they established a final State equalization rate of 100% for the Town of Canajoharie.

- **Planning Board Members**

Regarding the Planning Board, Mr. Vroman noted that the last meeting, held in May, had three members in attendance as well as the Recording Secretary and the Zoning Board recently hosted a virtual meeting. He further noted that he has contacted Michael Muhlebeck, Planning Board Acting Chairman, to remind him of the yearly training requirement, that Elam Kaufman, a member of the Amish community, has been named the newest member of the Planning Board and all members, new and old, have received a book containing Planning and Zoning laws.

- **New Town Garage Property Survey**

Mr. Vroman stated the survey for the new Town Garage has been completed and all council members have received a copy as well as the Engineers, who can now proceed with the conceptual plan.

- **Mohawk Solar**

Mr. Vroman said the application and maps have been submitted to the Army Core of Engineers and that Mohawk Solar has set a starting timeframe of 2020 and anticipated completion in 2021, with the only pushback coming from the Department of Environmental Conservation and Agricultural Market. Mr. Vroman also noted that Mohawk Solar has a Cultural Resources Mitigation Plan, which provides \$25,000 in funds to the Town for historic upgrades. These funds will be used to fix the Town Hall roof, trim paint, shutters and, if funds allow, boiler.

- **Black Lives Matter Peaceful Protest**

Mr. Vroman informed everyone in attendance that he was contacted by the Canajoharie Village Mayor informing him of a Black Lives Matter peaceful protest planned for June 14th with the possibility of counter-protesters attending as well.

Town Supervisor - Old Business

- **New Truck**

Mr. Vroman stated the plan to trade in Town owned trucks every two years is a great one; however, with the current economic situation due to COVID and the possibility of losing AIM funding, he suggested this idea be tabled until 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Tooney, that this matter be tabled until next year. All in favor ayes, carried.

Highway Superintendent

Mr. Jones noted that his department is in the middle of paving and reminded the Councilmen and Supervisor that we will be losing 1, possibly 2 employees this winter.

Town Clerk

Mrs. Jewell noted the new phone system should be installed in the near future and that the office remains quiet, as most residents would rather do business by mail even though we are open to the public.

Town Bookkeeper

Mrs. Kretser stated we are doing ok, holding our own and all is good.

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-6/10/20
CASH REPORT MAY 31, 2020**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 32,813.26	General	\$ 75,221.72
Fire District	\$ 39.86	Highway Town Wide	\$ 84,511.52
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$347,128.63</u>
Highway Town Wide	\$ 15,671.35	Total	\$506,861.87
Highway Part Town	\$ 38,540.67		
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 10,239.56 *</u>		
Total	\$ 97,339.98		

*\$9587.19 Avangrid/Mohawk Solar Project

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,484.91
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,798.53
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$244,840.86
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,421.92</u>
Total	\$299,546.22

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser,
Bookkeeper

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #105 through #126, totaling \$4,155.32;

Highway fund vouchers #81 through #97, totaling \$30,950.77

Mr. Vroman noted that, due to COVID-19 and social distancing, he alone would be signing off on this month's vouchers for payment. Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper, noted that that councilmen need to sign last year's financial books.

In closing, Mr. Vroman noted that Elam Fisher contacted the Town to see why he wasn't approached regarding haying on the land purchased for the new Town Garage. It was noted that another farmer reached out to the Town first and we were operating on a first-come, first-served basis and there were no stipulations when the Town purchased the land that Mr. Fisher had been and should be able to continue to hay it.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell
Town Clerk