

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD DECEMBER 10, 2020 VIA TELECONFERENCE AT 7:30 PM**

Present: Rodney Young, Acting Town Supervisor
William Armitstead, Councilman
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman

Recording Secretary: Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

Others Present: Tim Jones, Highway Superintendent
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Milan Jackson, Lamont Engineers

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Young, Acting Town Supervisor, at 7:30 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance and after noting that some Town Council members and some members 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 (as per Executive Order 202.48 COVID 19 Disaster Emergency).

Accept the November 2020 Meeting Minutes

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

Recognition of Citizens Present

Mr. Jackson of Lamont Engineers provided the Town Council members with drawings and constructions costs for the new Town Garage, which is anticipated to be \$1.75 million; \$1.9 million with contractual costs. It was discussed to leave room on one end for a possible addition to house the Court and Town Clerk in the future. Mr. Jones noted that he agrees with the blueprint/floor plan; therefore, the next step is to secure funding. The Town Council members will review the drawings and discuss their findings with Mr. Jackson. Mr. Jackson noted that Phase I is considered complete and no major design renovations can be done at this point.

Mr. Armitstead questioned the ability to sub out part of the construction of the Town Building to local contractors. Mr. Jackson noted that there are usually only 4 main contracts since more than that slows down the building process, and all contractors - local or not, are welcome to bid. He further noted that all contractors must be bonded and insured.

Mr. Jackson noted the building will be built with steel as current wood prices are 'through the roof'. He further noted that, during the construction process, contractors work for the Town and Lamont works as our agent/clerk of the works and will be onsite for pouring of concrete anything being buried; otherwise, they will be onsite once or twice a week. In closing, Mr. Jackson stated following the environmental review, Phase II is ready to go.

Town Supervisor

Mr. Young stated he attended a virtual meeting on Solar Panels with Terresa Bakner, town attorney for the Mohawk Solar project. During the meeting it was noted that the sitting board has approved the plan and panels will be installed first, with foliage being planted the following year. It was discovered during the meeting that the State does not need to obtain permits. Ms. Bakner will investigate this as Mohawk Solar currently owes the Town for permits; the Town will not move forward on anything at this point until Ms. Bakner gets back to Mr. Young.

Forest Preserve Users, Inc.

As they have done in the past, the Forest Preserve User, Inc. asked for the Town's permission to utilize a strip of land owned by Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation, which runs through the Town of Canajoharie, for the purpose of a snowmobile trail. A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Toomey, that we grant permission. All in favor ayes, carried.

Sons of the American Revolution – Patriot Marker

The Town was contacted by the Sons of the American Revolution regarding putting a patriot marker on Mapletown Road outside a cemetery that has a Revolutionary War Patriot buried on the grounds. It was determined the road belongs to the County, not the Town; therefore, they will be given the correct contact information.

Highway Superintendent

Mr. Jones asked about a decision on purchasing a Gradall this year with payments delayed for a year. Mr. Young stated he will send the agreement to the town attorney to obtain his opinion.

Mr. Jones then presented a Quote Worksheet from Mangino Chevrolet for the purchase of a 2021 Chevrolet Silverado 2500, four-wheel drive, crew cab work truck. The price, with discount and after trading in the 2018 Dodge Ram with Boss plow, will be \$17,345.00. If ordered now, the truck will be available in February. A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, to approve the purchase. All in favor ayes, carried.

Mr. Jones noted that one employee of the town highway department retired as of last Friday with another having a few weeks to go and that the new employees replacing them have been hired and are currently working.

Mr. Jones asked about the status of the well drilling at the new Town Garage site. Mr. Armitstead noted they are drilling approximately 20 feet per day, are currently at 80 feet and that putting a holding tank in the garage may be necessary.

Town Clerk

Ms. Jewell noted that hours for paying Town & County taxes in person will be reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Hours will be the same January-March as they are year-round, Monday – Thursday from 9:00 AM – 2:00 AM.

Town Bookkeeper

Ms. Kretser stated the General Fund is limping along, noting that \$11,000 was moved out of the Garage Reserve fund into the General Fund for garage expenses. She will continue to look for appropriate transfers before the end-of-year.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-12/10/20 CASH REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2020

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 5,157.88	General	\$ 5,234.94
Fire District	\$ 39.86	Highway Town Wide	\$ 84,532.82
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$122,230.38</u>
Highway Town Wide	\$ 100,069.51	Total	\$211,998.14
Highway Part Town	\$ 199,853.00		
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 13,115.89*</u>		
Total	\$ 318,271.42		

*\$12,849.48 Avangrid/Mohawk Solar Project Escrow

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,485.12
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,801.22
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$233,056.41**
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,424.57</u>
Total	\$287,767.32

**Transferred \$11809.00 to General Fund to offset some of the costs for the new garage.

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser,
Bookkeeper

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #260 through #287, totaling \$52,504.40

Highway fund vouchers #195 through #210, totaling \$27,457.80

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, the bill vouchers were unanimously approved for payment.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell
Town Clerk