

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MONTLY MEETING  
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
HELD JANUARY 14, 2021 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING 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

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Young, Acting Town Supervisor, at 7:33 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 December 2020 Meeting Minutes**

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

**Recognition of Citizens Present**

None present

**7:33 PM - Enter Organizational Meeting**

**Resolution #1 - 2021**  
**Organizational Appointments**

**Sponsor:** Rodney Young, Acting Town Supervisor

**Second:** John Toomey, 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: 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  
Gary Barringer - Term to end December 31, 2025

Planning Board Members: 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  
 Elam Kaufman – Term to end December 31, 2027  
 Ivan Easton – Term to end December 31, 2027

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; however, due to COVID, retirees that are willing to come in will work for \$18.00/hour.

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

Dated: January 14, 2021

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

### 7:36 PM - Enter Regular Meeting

#### Town Supervisor

Mr. Young noted that resident Jay Summerson approached him regarding funding for the town, stating “there is money out there we could get.” Mr. Young will research opportunities for the Town.

Mr. Young stated an informal analysis results are in for the well drilled for the new Town Garage, showing it is very salty. The informal analysis results will be sent to Montgomery County Public Health for a determination and the water will be retested. Mr. Armitstead, who witched for the well, has discovered you can witch for good/bad water; therefore, he went back and tried again and now believes he found a good water source. Once the test results are back, the option of drilling another well on the property will be explored, using the casing from the well recently drilled, to save money. Mr. Jones suggested the possibility of building a pond and using it for a fire resource as well.

Mr. Young has spoken with Terresa Bakner, Town Attorney for the Mohawk Solar project, who stated they are ready to begin the tree clearing process. Mr. Young has a meeting scheduled with Scott McDonald to discuss the Town fees for the project, and a positive outcome looks encouraging. The Town may have to pay a small portion from the fees for a specialized code enforcer.

**RESOLUTION #2 of 2021**

**Assessing Units to Renew 2021 467 & 459-c Exemptions without Renewal Applications**

**Sponsor:** Rodney Young, Acting Supervisor  
**Second:** John Peruzzi, Councilman

**Whereas,** the Governor of New York State has proclaimed a state of emergency in response to the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and taken measures necessary to contain the spread of COVID-19, and

**Whereas,** COVID-19 presents a historic threat to public health and, as such, it is necessary to temporarily allow people impacted by COVID-19 to remain in their homes.

**Whereas,** a limited, temporary stay is necessary to protect the public health, safety and morals of the people the legislature represents from the dangers of the COVID -19 emergency pandemic,

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that:** an act establishing the “COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act of 2020” gives authorization to every governing body of an assessing unit and local assessors to extend to the 2021 assessment roll, the renewal of the exemptions received on the 2020 assessment roll; and to provide for the expiration of such provisions upon the expiration thereof.

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

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk  
Dated: January 14, 2021

**RESOLUTION #3 of 2021**

**Authorization for the Town Supervisor/Acting Town Supervisor to Cancel Regularly Scheduled and Special Town Board Meetings**

**Sponsor:** Rodney Young, Acting Supervisor  
**Second:** John Toomey, Councilman

**Whereas,** the Town Board of the Town of Canajoharie set their Regular Town Board Meetings on the second Thursday of each month and Special Meetings as necessary, and

**Whereas,** COVID-19 presents a historic threat to public health and, as such, it is necessary to temporarily allow people impacted by COVID-19 to remain in their homes, and

**Whereas,** due to COVID-19, it may be necessary to cancel a regularly scheduled or special meeting when the Town Board Members are unable to convene to do so,

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that:** the Town Supervisor/Acting Town Supervisor has the authority to cancel a regular or special meeting scheduled by the town board. In the event a meeting is cancelled, the Town Supervisor/Acting Town Supervisor will contact the board members, Highway Superintendent, Town Bookkeeper and Town Clerk as soon as feasible, and a notification will be posted at the Town Hall.

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

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk  
Dated: January 14, 2021

### **Highway Superintendent**

Mr. Jones, after attending an Emergency Management meeting, stated it was suggested Towns reach out to retirees to work part time in the event COVID-19 creates staffing issues. The Board agrees paying experienced retirees \$18.00/hour is a viable option.

Mr. Jones noted the transmission went out on the pick-up truck used for plowing, days before the warranty expired and it will be weeks before we can get the necessary part.

Regarding the in-stock Gradall, Mr. Young will call Doug Landon, Town Attorney, for clarification on the proposed lease where we take possession immediately and begin payments 1 year later, and Ann Jackson, a finance representative. In the meantime, the County Gradall can be used.

Mr. Jones stated he has accepted the floor plan for the garage. He suggested we contact Montgomery County for assistance with grant writing for funding. Mr. Young has a meeting with NBT Bank regarding funding, who will loan up to 3 million dollars.

A discussion ensued regarding putting the new Town Garage project on pause due to COVID-19 and from the prospective of the Town taxpayers. It was noted that it will take up to a year before the majority of the project begins and we will assess how COVID-19 is affecting the Town's income and Taxpayers as we move forward.

### **Town Clerk**

Mrs. Jewell noted the Town's profit for selling hunting licenses for the past season was \$135.43 (5% of the total sold). She further stated she will be able to write a check in the upcoming week to the Town for its total share of Town and County taxes collected.

### **Town Bookkeeper**

Ms. Kretser stated the General Fund is hanging in there. The Highway fund is in good condition; therefore, she has had to borrow from it. She closed by noting the Planning Board had approved the Hohenshelt subdivision. The question of a Board Chairperson was discussed, and that Michael Muhlebeck has been assuming the duties until one is named.

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

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 21,433.23 **
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28
Highway Town Wide	\$ 25,652.99
Highway Part Town	\$ 167,474.18
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 13,501.19*</u>
Total	\$ 228,136.73

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 5,235.16
Highway Town Wide	\$ 84,536.29
Highway Part Town	<u>\$122,240.13</u>
Total	\$212,011.58

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

\*\* Owes Highway Town Wide \$15,000.00

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,485.12
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,801.22
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$230,063.71##
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 26,424.57</u>
Total	\$284,774.62

##transferred \$2992.70 to General Fund to offset some of the costs for the new garage.

Sincerely,  
Amy S. Kretser  
Town Bookkeeper

**Authorization of Vouchers**

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #1 through #30, totaling \$71,806.43

Highway fund vouchers #1 through #16, totaling \$19,155.03

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

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell  
Town Clerk