

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD APRIL 08, 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: Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Les Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Ronald Dievendorf, Town Resident
Benny Goldstein, Town Resident

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).

Mr. Young reinforced the regulation about wearing masks in public.

Accept the March 2021 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, that the minutes of the March 2021 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

Recognition of Citizens Present

The Board recognized Les Hassan, Town of Canajoharie Code Enforcement Officer, who made the Council aware that, since Governor Cuomo signed a bill legalizing recreational marijuana, the Town and Planning Board need to discuss how Canajoharie will be affected.

The Board recognized Ronald Dievendorf, running for the open seat of Town Supervisor, who came to observe.

The Board recognized Benny Goldstein, who introduced himself, noting that he is running for the Town Supervisor position.

The Board recognized Scott McDonald, Avangrid, who updated the Council on the Town Solar project. A notice has gone out to landowners and Montgomery County that work is anticipated to begin, clearing trees from November until January 2022 with civil work to start in 2022 and last through May 2023.

Mr. Young asked when permit applications will be submitted and it was noted it is laid out in the Road Use Agreement, which states as soon as the agreement is executed or the notice to proceed is issued, whichever is first. Mr. Young questioned if there are restrictions on the use of the money and Mr. McDonald assured there are not. Lastly, it was noted that \$25000 to be used to hire a compliance officer to oversee the project will be split 80/20 between the Town of Canajoharie and the Town of Minden.

Town Supervisor

RESOLUTION #8 of 2021
**Approval of Host Community Benefit Agreement
and Authorizing the Town Supervisor to Sign**

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

Whereas, the Mohawk Solar Project received a certificate of environmental compatibility and public need pursuant to Article 10 of the Public Service Law; and

Whereas, the Town of Canajoharie Town Board has reviewed and carefully considered the attached Host Community Benefit Agreement between the Town of Minden and Mohawk Solar, as well as the Town of Canajoharie; and

Whereas, the review of this project and related actions such as the approval of the HCA is a Type II action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA);

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that: the Town Board of the Town of Canajoharie approves the attached Host Community Benefit Agreement and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the agreement.

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: April 08, 2021

Court Bailiff

The Honorable Judge Gizzi, Canajoharie Town Justice, asked the Council to consider hiring someone qualified and with the proper credentials, outside of the Sheriff's Department, to act as Bailiff on Town Court nights. The cost would be \$50/month with an additional \$20.00/hour if needed more than 2 hours, as opposed to \$45.00/hour for the Sheriff's Department employees we currently hire, which also takes an officer off the road. All in favor ayes, carried.

Judge Gizzi also wanted the Council Members to be apprised that he is looking into an updated security system, which may require Town funds to pay for a portion, yet to be determined. The system would include tying into the Fire and Police Department in the case of an issue afterhours. Mr. Goldstein stated he is good with installing cameras and is happy to help if there is a need.

Resolution #9 of 2021

Montgomery County DPW Agreement for Control of Grass and Brush on County Highways

Sponsor: Rodney Young, Supervisor
Second: John Toomey, Jr., Councilman

Whereas, the Town of Canajoharie includes 41.60 miles of County Highway (40.97 +0.63 in the Village of Ames;

Whereas, the County of Montgomery Department of Public Works has proposed an agreement for control of grass and brush on County Highways with the Town of Canajoharie beginning June 1, 2021 and ending May 31, 2022; the amount/mile \$400.00, and total 2021/2022 Brush and Grass Control in the amount of \$16,640.00;

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that: that the Town of Canajoharie accepts the proposed 2020/2021 Grass and Brush Control Contract in the total amount of \$16,640.00 and agrees to the terms as set forth in said proposed Agreement, beginning June 1, 2021 and ending May 31, 2022.

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

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk
Dated: April 08, 2021

Well Drilling

American Well Drilling has submitted a proposal of \$8822.29 to dig a second well for the new Town Garage. If they can reuse the casing from the first well dug, they will give the Town a credit for the amount that can be used. It is agreed that the water situation needs to be settled before placement of the building can be agreed upon.

Mr. Young noted, with regard to the new Town Garage, the next step in the process would be a Bond resolution and he has been talking to NBT Bank and Town Attorney, Doug Landon, in preparation. NBT Bank suggests the Town hire a financial advisor; who would be able to ascertain how much the cost of the project will increase Town taxes; Mr. Young will look into this further with the hope of having more information at the next Town Council meeting. It was suggested that Mr. Young reach out to Montgomery County Executive Matthew Ossenfort to see if there might be any financial assistance available. It was also noted that putting information about the new Town Barn on the Town website will help residents get the information they need.

Town Clerk

The Year-to-Date Building Permit report for First Quarter 2021 was submitted to the Council members, showing a total of 3 at a total cost of \$200.00.

Town Bookkeeper

Ms. Kretser noted that the Town Financial Books for 2020 have been filed with the State and no issues have been noted. Hard copies were distributed for the Council members to sign. Mr. Dievendorf asked how it was submitted and Ms. Kretser stated manually, not electronically. He also inquired and was told office and highway employees are paid bi-weekly; everyone else, monthly. In closing, Ms. Kretser noted the Planning Board approved a subdivision for Elmer Stoltzfoos.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-4/7/21
CASH REPORT MARCH 31, 2021

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 53,020.66
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28
Highway Town Wide	\$ 182,976.86
Highway Part Town	\$ 201,777.97
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 15,407.24*</u>
Total	\$ 453,257.87

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 85,235.80
Highway Town Wide	\$164,545.46
Highway Part Town	<u>\$222,270.27</u>
Total	\$472,051.53

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

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,485.19
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,802.57
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$261,885.03
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 14,616.60</u>
Total	\$304,789.39

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser,
Bookkeeper

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #78 through #104, totaling \$60727.65

Highway fund vouchers #43 through #57, totaling \$15774.43

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. Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk