

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET  
AND THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF  
CANAJOHARIE HELD NOVEMBER 11, 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  
Michael Muhlebeck – Town Planning Board Acting Chair & Town Resident  
Less Hassan – Town Code Enforcement Officer  
Charlene Ruskowski – Town Sole Assessor  
Steven Oarr, Town Employee & Resident  
Benny Goldstein, Town Resident  
Andrew Waite, Schenectady Gazette Reporter

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Young, Acting Town Supervisor, at 7:30 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Hearing on the 2022 Preliminary Budget**

**Resolution #18 of 2021**  
**Adopt the Preliminary Budget as the 2022 Final Budget Approval**

**Sponsor:** Rodney Young  
**Second:** William Armitstead

**Whereas,** a public hearing was held on November 11, 2021 at 7:30 PM for members of the public to speak for and/or against the 2022 preliminary budget prepared by the Canajoharie Town Board,

**Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that:** the Canajoharie Town Board adopts the Preliminary Budget as the 2022 Final Budget.

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

Dated: November 11, 2021

**Accept the October 2021 Meeting Minutes**

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

**Recognition of Citizens Present**

The Board recognized Steven Oarr, who won the election for the open position of Town Highway Superintendent and wanted to thank everyone for their support.

The Board recognized Charlene Ruszkowski, Town Sole Assessor, who wanted to discuss the Montgomery County FVM 2022 Trend, regarding Town taxes. She stated in order to remain at 100% assessment, taxes will have to increase 12% for residents. This isn't happening just in Canajoharie; it is affecting all Montgomery County towns with increases from 8-18%. The Trends for Commercial and Farms will be determined in the near future.

**Town Supervisor  
Recycling Collection**

Mr. Young noted Spohn's Disposal Service, Inc. is asking for a \$100/month increase and for the Town to pick up the monthly landfill fees, which average \$300/month. Mr. Young would like to negotiate the Town paying for the landfill fees monthly but no increase of \$100/month. All in favor ayes, carried.

**Robwil Drive**

Following correspondence regarding residents on Robwil Drive with the Town Attorney, Doug Landon, Mr. Landon stated "Deed restrictions included in the deeds within a development such as these are not enforced by the municipality. It is a private matter among the property owners within the development; the other owners could take legal action against the offending property owner to compel him/her to comply." "The town does not have standing to compel enforcement of those restrictions." Therefore, Mr. Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer, will reach out to the Town residents who have voiced their concern.

**Resolution #19 of 2021**  
**Control of Snow and Ice on County Highways Agreement Approval**

**Sponsor: Rodney Young**  
**Second: William Armitstead**

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

WHEREAS, the County of Montgomery Department of Public Works has proposed an agreement for control of snow and ice on County Highways with the Town of Canajoharie for the 2022-2023 Winters in the amount/mile as follows: \$6049 per centerline mile for January 1 – December 31, 2022 (Total \$251,638.40) and \$6170 per centerline mile for January 1 – December 31, 2023 (Total \$256,672.00),

RESOLVED, that the Town of Canajoharie accepts the proposed 2022-2023 Snow/Ice Removal Contracts in the total amount of \$251,638.40 for 2022 and \$256,672.00 for 2023,

RESOLVED, that the Town of Canajoharie agrees to the terms as set forth in said proposed Agreement for Control of Snow and Ice on County Highways, beginning January 1, 2022 and ending December 31, 2023 .

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

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk  
Dated: November 11, 2021

### **Alarm System**

The Honorable Judge Gizzi discussed concerns over the Town Hall alarm system with Mr. Young. Mr. Young, after working with Russ Vance, determined that there are three working panic buttons that, when pressed, results in the Village Police arriving at the Town Hall immediately. It was also determined that the alarm for fire now rings directly to 911. The next and last step is to determine who sold and installed the original system to the Town and reach out to them for help with the deactivation code.

### **Highway Superintendent**

#### **Open Position**

Mr. Jones noted that, upon Steve Oarr's successful election to the position of Town Highway Superintendent, there is an opening at the Town Garage. An applicant has been chosen and can start December 1<sup>st</sup>, when Mr. Oarr takes over his new position. Mr. Jones further stated the plows are ready to go for winter.

### **Town Clerk**

#### **Accounting System**

After researching different cloud-based Accounting Systems to be used by the Town Bookkeeper, with the ability for others to view the system, it was determined that Edmunds GovTech's local government software is the best, most comprehensive system, that ties into the Edmunds GovTech software currently used by the Town Clerk for Tax Collecting and other Town Clerk matters. The initial cost is \$12,000, \$5000 yearly maintenance and 5-6 months to implement. It was determined that the Town Bookkeeper will assess the software and, if agreed this is the best system, it will be budgeted for in the year 2023. It was mentioned that Arkell Hall, if asked, may consider granting the Town funds for this matter.

### **Confinement Fee**

It was agreed that, in order to charge a resident a \$50 confinement, it should be outlined in the letter initially given to them by the Dog Control Officer, in order to collect.

### **Town Bookkeeper**

Ms. Kretser stated the regulations for spending COVID money is very strict and she would like to hire a company that can assist. It was determined that she should reach out to the County and other neighboring towns first. Town resident Benny Goldstein, in attendance at the meeting, offered to assist as he has relevant experience.

## TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-11/9/21 CASH REPORT OCTOBER 31, 2021

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 11,735.49	General	\$ 20,253.81
Fire District	\$ 39.85	Highway Town Wide	\$142,340.79
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$164,596.88</u>
Highway Town Wide	\$ 177,595.02	Total	\$327,191.48
Highway Part Town	\$ 40,166.39		
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 33,694.71*</u>		
Total	\$ 263,266.74		

\*\$32,446.46 Avangrid/Mohawk Solar Project Escrow

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,485.40
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 26,806.58
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$261,923.24
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 14,618.79</u>
Total	\$304,834.01

Sincerely,  
Amy S. Kretser,  
Bookkeeper

**Cannabis Opt-Out Local Laws**

Mr. Young noted, per the newly formed Office of Cannabis Management (OCM), if the town has already adopted or will adopt a local law before 12.31.21 opting out of retail dispensaries and/or on-site consumption sites, the town must notify the OCM by filling out the Office of Cannabis Management Opt-Out Form and filing with the Department of State is not sufficient. It was determined that the Board will vote on this issue in December's meeting.

**Solar Moratorium**

Mr. Young noted the Solar Moratorium expires next month and it will be voted on in December to extend it for another 6 months, giving the Town the opportunity to closely review the current law.

**Authorization of Vouchers**

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #237 through #259, totaling \$14785.16

Highway fund vouchers #155 through #169, totaling \$31983.03

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

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Toomey, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk