

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD DECEMBER 09, 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
Michael Muhlebeck – Town Planning Board Acting Chair & Town Resident
Less Hassan – Town Code Enforcement Officer
Charlene Ruszkowski – Town Sole Assessor
Steven Oarr, Town Employee & Resident
Benny Goldstein, Town Resident
Jay Summerson, Town Resident
Andrew Waite, Schenectady Gazette Reporter

Recognition of Citizens Present

The Board recognized Jay Summerson, who in turn wanted to recognize Mr. Young for taking the roll of Acting Town Supervisor and doing such an admirable job. Mr. Young also thanked Mr. Summerson for the information regarding the SAM Grant, which we anticipate will be granted to the Town in the amount of \$75,000.00 for the Town Garage.

The Board recognized Andrew Waite, Reporter for the Daily Gazette, who attended to observe.

The Board recognized Charlene Ruszkowski, Town Sole Assessor, who distributed the NYS Department of Tax and Finance Preliminary Report for 2022 - Pre-Decisional Collaboration, noting that mandated assessment increases from New York State will be made according to their guidelines, yet still keeping us within the buffer of staying at 100% assessment. Assessments are anticipated to increase 7% for residents and 2% for farms and vacant land. Commercial property will remain at 4%.

The Board recognized Steve Oarr, who came to observe.

The Board recognized Les Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer. Mr. Hassan wanted to make the Board and those in attendance aware that he has received a building permit application from a Town resident for a 50' x 80' structure that can house 25 cages, intended for a dog kennel. It was noted that New York State Agriculture and Markets has to approve an application for a kennel and the Town is waiting to see if approval is granted. Mike Muhlebeck stated that, if approved, the building will still have to meet our codes; however, the Town has no control over nor responsibility for a kennel within the Township, as that is managed by the State.

Accept the November 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

Town Supervisor

Recycling Collection

Mr. Young advised that Spohn's Disposal Service, Inc. will continue to handle the Town recycling at the current cost; however, the Town will begin paying landfill fees beginning January 2022.

Ayres Contract

The contract with Ayres has been received and approved for another year.

Forest Preserve Users Inc.

An agreement from the Forest Preserve Users to utilize a strip of land owned by National Grid, which runs through the Town of Canajoharie, for the purpose of a snowmobile trail, was approved for another year.

Town Attorney

Gregory T. Dunn, Esq. of Dunn & Dunn, PLLC has expressed an interest in becoming the Town Attorney. Mr. Young will meet with him prior to next month’s Organizational Meeting and present his findings to the other Board Members for a decision to be made in January.

Cannabis Opt-Out Local Laws

Regarding the December 31, 2021 deadline for opting out of retail dispensaries and/or on-site consumption sites, the Association of Towns was contacted for clarification. They noted that, in order to Opt-Out, a law has to be introduced and adopted (not filed) by the end of 2022 and can be reversed at the Town’s discretion at any time. Opting-In or doing nothing (which equates to opting-in) cannot be reversed. It is the Town’s decision to do nothing.

Town Bookkeeper

Ms. Kretser stated the Town is doing alright.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-12/9/21
CASH REPORT NOVEMBER 30, 2021

| CHECKING ACCOUNTS | | MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| General | \$ 10,529.78 | General | \$ 20,255.14 |
| Fire District | \$ 39.85 | Highway Town Wide | \$164,603.87 |
| Consolidated Health | \$ 35.28 | Highway Part Town | <u>\$142,347.30</u> |
| Highway Town Wide | \$ 176,225.48 | Total | \$327,206.31 |
| Highway Part Town | \$ 129,821.58 | | |
| Trust & Agency | <u>\$ 32,476.44*</u> | | |
| Total | \$ 349,128.41 | | |

*\$31,859.96 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

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #260 through #284, totaling \$53748.14

Highway fund vouchers #170 through #183, totaling \$19817.24

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

In closing, Mr. Young noted in the next two weeks he will meet with the Bank for the Town Garage Bond Resolution as well as talk to a representative of Lamont and ask them to start getting bids the first of the new year to provide to the bank.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk