

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD JANUARY 13, 2022 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

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

Recording Secretary: Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

Others Present: Steve Oare, Town Highway Superintendent
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Les Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Ryan Post, Town Highway Employee
Charlene Ruskowski, Town Sole Assessor
Robert Teixeira, Town Resident
Ethan Goldstein, Town Resident
Gregory T. Dunn, Esq.
Kirsten Dunn, Esq.
Ed Parker, Eden Renewables Solar
Gillian Black, Eden Renewables Solar
Andrew Waite, Reporter

Call to Order

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

Accept the December 2021 Meeting Minutes

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

Recognition of Citizens Present

The Board recognized Les Hassan, Ryan Post and Charlene Ruskowski, employees of the Town who came to observe.

7:32 PM - Enter Organizational Meeting

Resolution #1 - 2022
Organizational Appointments

Sponsor: Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor

Second: Rodney Young, 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:

Deputy Town Supervisor:	Robert Teixeira
Town Attorney:	Dunn and Dunn, PLLC
Bookkeeper:	Amy Kretser
Code Enforcement/Zoning Officer:	Les Hassan
Town Historian:	Vacant
Animal Control Officer/Rabies Response Agent:	Steven Fredenburg
Health Officer:	Brian Hall, P.A.

Zoning Board of Appeals: 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
 Francis Avery - Term to end December 31, 2026

Planning Board Members: 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
 Michael Muhlebeck – Term to end December 31, 2028
 Alternate (*Open*) – Term to end December 31, 2028

Planning Board Chairman: (*Open*)

Further resolved, the following miscellaneous assignments are made:

Official newspaper: The Amsterdam Recorder

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
Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman	X		
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman	X		
John Toomey, Jr., Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		

Dated: January 13, 2022

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk

The organizational meeting ended with both Kirsten Dunn and Gregory Dunn introducing themselves and giving a brief presentation of their firm and how they anticipate they can assist as attorneys for the town.

7:45 PM - Enter Regular Meeting

Town Supervisor

Mr. Goldstein introduced Robert Teixeira, newly appointed Deputy Town Supervisor, who gave a brief of his history to those in attendance.

Mr. Goldstein, along with Ethan Goldstein, presented a newly developed website and logo for the Town. Mr. Goldstein also noted he has placed security cameras in the public areas of the Town Hall building, stating anyone working at 12 Mitchell Street can have access to view them.

Mr. Goldstein presented ideas for a park on the land that houses the Town water pump, to include a pavilion and dog park. Mr. Goldstein is currently researching grants for this endeavor.

Mr. Goldstein requested the town consider moving the Monthly Board Meeting start time from 7:30 PM to 6:00 PM; however, the Board did not agree and the meeting time will remain at 7:30 PM.

In meetings at Montgomery County, Mr. Goldstein noted he has acquired a free laptop for the Town Sole Assessor. He also arranged for either 2 free desktop computers or, if they are outdated, purchasing 2 through the county at their reduced cost.

Mr. Gillian Black and Mr. Ed Parker of Eden Renewables Solar presented information about their company and the parcel of land they are looking to put solar panels on. As the town has a Solar moratorium in effect, they are asking for a variance or waiver.

Highway Superintendent

Steve Oare presented the Board with an invoice for an excavator that will meet the Town's needs, at a cost of \$212795.78. Mr. Young noted the town needs this equipment and it should be considered a 20-year investment. Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper, will confirm money is in the budget to allow the Town to take out a loan for the purchase. It was stated that, if the money is in the budget, the Board is behind the purchase. Mr. Oare will also research using CHIPS money to pay for the purchase.

Town Clerk

Mrs. Jewell noted the Town issued 37 Building Permits and 1 Building Permit Renewal, for a total of \$2110.00 for 2021.

Town Bookkeeper

Ms. Kretser stated the year-end reports look good for 2021 with not much having to be transferred.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-1/12/22
CASH REPORT DECEMBER 31, 2021

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 40,152.63	General	\$ 5,256.30
Fire District	\$ 39.85	Highway Town Wide	\$164,617.62
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28	Highway Part Town	<u>\$142,359.19</u>
Highway Town Wide	\$ 98,639.24	Total	\$312,233.11
Highway Part Town	\$ 303,772.42		
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 32,520.28*</u>		
Total	\$ 475,159.70		

*\$31,859.96 Avangrid/Mohawk Solar Project Escrow

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Consolidated Health	\$ 1,485.47
Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 36,808.04
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$247,178.83
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 14,619.53</u>
Total	\$300,091.87

Budget Transfers for FY 12/31/21

From Account	To Account	Amount
A1990.4 Contingency	A5010.4 Hgwy Supt Cont	\$ 200.00
A1990.4 Contingency	A9010.8 State Retirement	\$6994.00

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser,
Bookkeeper

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #1 through #26, totaling \$74881.44

Highway fund vouchers #1 through #17, totaling \$33603.31

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

Mr. Goldstein voted to enter Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Toomey, at 9:03 PM

Mr. Goldstein voted to exit Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, at 9:40 PM

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell
Town Clerk