

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING A SOLAR MORATORIUM
& REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD FEBRUARY 10, 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
Erica Hayes, Deputy Town Clerk

Others Present: Robert Teixeira, Deputy Town Supervisor
Steve Oare, Town Highway Superintendent
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Les Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Charlene Ruszkowski, Town Sole Assessor
Tolga Morowski, Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank
Alyssa Dupont, Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank

Call to Order

The Public Hearing was called to order by Mr. Goldstein, Town Supervisor, at 7:32 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing – Solar Moratorium

Resolution #2 of 2022

Public Hearing to discuss Local Law #1 of 2022 entitled “A Local Law enacting a temporary moratorium on Solar Energy Systems Authorized under Local Law #2 of 2017”

Sponsor: Benny Goldstein, Supervisor
Second: Rodney Young, Councilman

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that: a public hearing will be held on February 10, 2022 at 7:30 PM, located at 12 Mitchell Street, Canajoharie, regarding proposed Local Law #1 of 2022, enacting a temporary 9-month moratorium on Solar Energy Systems authorized under Local Law #2 of 2017, entitled Town-Wide Solar Energy Systems Rules and Regulations for Permitting and Installation of Utility-Scale Solar Collector Systems as well as Rooftop, Flush Mounted, Ground Mounted Racks and Freestanding Solar Collectors. At such time and place, all persons interested in the subject matter will be heard concerning the same.

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

Christina Jewell, Town Clerk
Dated: February 10, 2022

7:39 PM - Enter Regular Meeting

Accept the January 2022 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Toomey, that the minutes of the January 2022 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

Recognition of Citizens Present

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

Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank

The Board further recognized Tolga Morowski and Alyssa Dupont of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank, who distributed handouts and made a presentation regarding land bank updates and potential projects. Mr. Morowski also provided the Board with 2 resolutions to consider for the future; one endorsing the land bank and agreeing to enter into conversations to discover mutually beneficial elements of collaboration and one stating that 50% of the real property taxes on properties within the Town purchased by the land bank be remitted to the land bank.

Town Supervisor

COVID Economic Relief

Mr. Goldstein did extensive research on ways the COVID Economic Relief money can be correctly used by the town and presented options to the Board. It was resoundingly felt the money should be spent on the Town Gradall.

Sunmark Solar

Mr. Goldstein stated that Sunmark Solar is looking to put a large solar farm in the Town of Root, extending into the Town of Canajoharie. The Solar Moratorium put in place for the next 9 months will give the Town time to get the solar law updated or to decide to opt out altogether.

Ethics Committee Formation

Mr. Goldstein asked Mr. Young to speak regarding the need for an Ethics Committee. Mr. Young stated there should be a course of action if there are complaints about a Town employee so they can be held accountable. The Board will look into appointing approximately 3 residents to make up the Committee.

In closing, Mr. Goldstein stated the Town had been awarded a \$171,000 grant for the Salt Shed to be built on the site of the new Town Garage and noted that Mike Muhlebeck, Acting Planning Board Chairman is resigning as of March 2022.

Highway Superintendent

Old Business – Gradall Purchase

Money was confirmed in the budget for the purchase of a Gradall and the order was placed.

Town Bookkeeper

Ms. Kretser stated she is closing the fiscal year and it looks better than last year. She noted sales tax money came in and that she has amended the way she does the Town budget.

Regarding closing the bank account for the Consolidated Health District, Mr. Goldstein noted that, upon the advice of our attorneys, Ms. Kretser should transfer the entire \$1500 to another Town account and close out the Consolidated Health District account.

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-2/7/22
CASH REPORT JANUARY 31, 2022

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 244,438.83
Fire District	\$ 39.85
Consolidated Health	\$ 35.28
Highway Town Wide	\$ 253,382.10
Highway Part Town	\$ 278,463.79
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 45,411.44*</u>
Total	\$ 821,771.29

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 5,256.30
Highway Town Wide	\$164,617.62
Highway Part Town	<u>\$142,359.19</u>
Total	\$312,233.11

*\$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	\$ 10.28
A1990.4 Contingency	A1410.4 Town Clerk Cont	\$ 98.07
A1990.4 Contingency	A4020.4 Registrar Cont	\$ 330.00
A1990.4 Contingency	A5132.4 Garage Cont	\$3267.95
B8020.4 Planning Contr	B8020.1 Planning Pers	\$ 3.75
B8020.4 Planning Contr	B9030.8 Emp Ben-Soc Sec	\$.78
DA5140.1 Misc Brsh-Pers	DA5140.4 Misc Brsh Cont	\$ 575.35
DA5140.1 Misc Brsh-Pers	DA9055.8 Emp Ben-Disabi	\$ 5.92
DB9060.8 Emp Ben-Health	DB9010.8 Emp Bem St Ret	\$ 676.52
DA5140.1 Misc Brsh-Pers	DB9055.8 Emp Bem-Disabi	\$ 5.92

BUDGET AMENDMENT FY 2021

Increase Revenue	Increase Expense	Amount
DB3501 State Aid-CHIPS	Improvements CHIPS DB51102.2	\$69595.53

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser,
Bookkeeper

Sole Assessor

Ms. Ruzzkowski stated that she needs a new computer and will be purchasing a hard drive, as this is an immediate need.

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #27 through #55, totaling \$17736.76

Highway fund vouchers #18 through #32, totaling \$16987.84

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

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Young, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Jewell
Town Clerk