

**MINUTES OF THE ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MONTLY MEETING  
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
HELD FEBRUARY 9, 2023 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

**Present:** Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor  
Michael Muhlebeck, Deputy Town Supervisor & Councilman  
William Armitstead, Councilman  
Rodney Young, Councilman  
John Peruzzi Sr., Councilman

**Recording Secretary:** Erica Hayes, Town Clerk

**Others Present:** Steve Oare, Town Highway Superintendent  
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper  
Les Hassan, Town Code Enforcement Officer  
Charlene Ruskowski, Town Sole Assessor  
Shawn Bowerman, Ames Fire Chief  
Frank Nestle, Village of Canajoharie Fire Chief  
Harry Barse, Village of Canajoharie Fire Liaison  
Michael Smith, Minden Fire Chief  
Ralph Friers, Minden Fire Department Representative  
Mike Cole, Solar Committee Chair  
Adam Yagelski, Delaware Engineering  
Kirsten Dunn, Town Attorney  
Kylie Ferguson, Legal Assistant  
Eytan Goldstein, Resident

**Call to Order**

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

**Accept the January 2023 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Muhlebeck, that the minutes of the January 2023 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

**Recognition of Citizens Present**

The Board recognized three local Fire Chiefs and their representatives; Shawn Bowerman, Frank Nestle, Harry Barse, Michael Smith and Ralph Friers. Each came to dispute their fire contracts with the Town Board. Historically contracts are 3-year terms with a 2% increase in monetary support each year, however, this year the board voted for a 2% increase for the first year with no increase for the second and third years. Each Chief agreed to sign a contract for the first year only at a 2% increase from 2022. The Board will determine the 2024 fire contracts monetary value again during budget evaluation in November.

Mike Cole addressed the Board in regard to Solar Laws, he brought with him Adam Yagelski, Kirsten Dunn and Kylie Ferguson to discuss the Draft Solar Bi-Laws being written based on their meeting in December, timelines and schedules, and the orchestration of an informational meeting for feedback with the Board, Planning Board and Town Residents. Tentative date is March 29, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Peruzzi Sr, and was seconded by Mr. Muhlebeck. All in favor, ayes carried.

**Resolution #2 - 2023**

**A Resolution to Refer Certain Changes to the Town's Zoning Law Pertaining to Utility-Scale Solar Collector Systems to the Town Planning Board, in Accordance with Article XIV of the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie**

**Sponsor:** Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor  
**Second:** Michael Muhlebeck, Councilman

**Whereas,** a moratorium on the placement of solar projects, not to include rooftop mounted solar panels, in the Town of Canajoharie is currently in place, as enacted by local law #1 of 2022; and

**Whereas,** solar projects, included utility-scale solar collector systems, are regulated under the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie; and

**Whereas,** the Town Board of the Town of Canajoharie desired to update the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie with respect to the requirements for construction of utility-scale solar collector systems in the Town and has caused a draft Zoning Law text amendment relating thereto to be prepared (the “Proposed Action”); and

**Whereas,** in accordance with Article XIV of the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie, any change, amendment, or supplement to the Zoning Law must be referred to the Town Planning Board no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the required public hearing for report and recommendations, to be considered by the Town Board prior to its public hearing; and

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved** by the Board of the Town of Canajoharie hereby refers the aforementioned Zoning Law text amendments, which are annexed hereto and made a part hereof, to the Town Planning Board for their report and recommendations, in accordance with Article XIV of the Zoning Law of the Town of Canajoharie.

VOTING	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman	X		
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman	X		
Michael Muhlebeck, Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		

Dated: February 9, 2023  
Erica Hayes, Town Clerk

The Board recognized Eytan Goldstein, and Les Hassan, who came to observe.

**Town Bookkeeper**

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-2/9/23

CASH REPORT January 31, 2023

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 465,010.66	General	\$ 5,263.42
Fire District	\$ 39.85	Highway Town Wide	\$164,890.40
Highway Town Wide	\$ 248,976.42	Highway Part Town	<u>\$142,595.10</u>
Highway Part Town	\$ 377,811.51	Total	\$312,748.92
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 31,985.31*</u>		
Total	\$ 692,796.37		

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

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 46,815.47
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$240,308.38
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 14,622.46</u>
Total	\$301,746.31

Budget Transfers for FY 2022

From	To	Amount
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A1410.4 Clerk Contractual	\$ 806.97
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A1450.4 Elections Contractual	\$2192.88
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A1220.4 Supervisor Contractual	\$ 96.64
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A1330.4 Tax Collection Contractual	\$ 185.02
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A1355.4 Assessor Contractual	\$ 88.69
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A5010.4 Supt of Hgwy Contractual	\$ 108.68
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A9030.8 Emp Ben-Soc Sec/Mcr	\$ 289.25
A1110.4 Justice Contractual	A9010.8 Emp Ben-Retirement	\$4340.93
A1420.1 Attorney Personal	A9010.8 Emp Ben-Retirement	\$4717.07
B3620.4 Safety Inspect Contr	B8160.4 Refuse & Garbage Cont	\$ 927.46
B8020.1 Planning Personal	B8989.8 Consultants Contr	\$ 736.98
B8020.4 Planning Contractual	B8989.8 Consultants Contr	\$ 47.16
B9030.7 Emp Ben-Soc Sec/Mcr	B8989.8 Consultants Contr	\$ 30.83
DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual	DA5140.1 Misc Brush/Weeds Pers	\$6678.97
DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual	DA5140.4 Misc Brush/Weeds Cont	\$3042.44
DA5130.4 Machinery Contractual	DA9030.8 Emp Ben-Soc Sec.Mcr	\$1388.00
DB5110.4 General Repairs Contr	DB General Repairs Pers	\$4637.00
DB5110.4 General Repairs Contr	DB9030.8 Emp Ben Soc Sec/Mcr	\$1007.45
	BUDGET AMENDMENTS FY 2022	
Increase Revenue	Increase Expenditure	Amount
A1603 Registrar Fees	A4020.4 Registrar Exp	\$ 810.00
B1120 Non Prop Tax	B8989.4 Consultants	\$ 317.74
DB3501 CHIPS	DB5110.2 CHIPS	\$27001.33
DB1120 Non Property Tax	DB5110.2 CHIPS	\$78648.45

Sincerely,  
Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

A motion was made by Mr. Armitstead, and was seconded by Mr. Peruzzi Sr. that the Budget Transfers for Fiscal Year 2022 be approved. All in favor, ayes carried.

#### **Authorization of Vouchers**

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #43 through #75, totaling \$56,339.66

Highway fund vouchers #13 through #23, totaling \$23,222.50

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

#### **Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi Sr., the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Hayes  
Town Clerk