

**MINUTES OF THE SOLAR PUBLIC HEARING & REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD JULY 13, 2023 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 6:30 PM**

Present: Benny Goldstein, Town Supervisor
William Armitstead, Councilman
Rodney Young, Councilman
Michael Muhlebeck, Councilman
John Peruzzi, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Erica Hayes, Town Clerk

Others Present: Charlene Ruszkowski, Sole Assessor
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Michael Cole, Planning Board Chair
Kirsten Dunn, Town Attorney
Kylie Ferguson, Legal Assistant
Milan Jackson, Lamont Engineers
Mary Catherine Caron, Town Resident
Steve and Sandy Stortecky, Town Resident
Chad Bowerman, Town Resident
Ron Nilsen, Town Resident
Ann Norman, Town Resident
Ray & Teddi Kiefl, Town Resident

Call to Order

The Solar Public Hearing was called to order by Mr. Goldstein, at 6:30 PM, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Recognition of Citizens Present

The Board recognized Steve Stortecky, Ray Kiefl, Chad Bowerman, Mary Caron, Ron Nilsen and Ann Norman, as they had active concerns about the upcoming Solar Law that they'd like to be addressed before the final law is drafted. Their concerns range from health and wellness testing for both humans and animals, visual assessments, setbacks, property depreciation, cost effectiveness, decommissioning and the impact on well water. The residents' concerns were addressed by Kirsten Dunn during the Public Hearing. Taking all concerns into consideration, the Dunn & Dunn team will make some adjustments to the upcoming law to try to accommodate the issues addressed.

On a motion by Mr. Muhlebeck, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the Board will host another Solar Public Hearing to be held prior to our next Town Board Meeting, scheduled for August 10th, at 7:15 at the Town Hall Building, to discuss the final version of the Town's Solar Law.

Solar Public Hearing Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Muhlebeck, the Solar Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:26 PM. All in favor, ayes carried.

Call to Order

On a motion made by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the regular monthly meeting was called to order by Mr. Goldstein, at 7:33 PM.

Old Business

The Town is in search of a company that provides both Bonding and Bans. Amy Kretser will obtain information on both, and present proposals for each at a special meeting, that has yet to be determined, in order to proceed with the Town Garage Project.

The Board officially adopted the following resolution in regard to the Mohawk Solar Project PILOT Program:

RESOLUTION #8 of 2023
Resolution to Approve Mohawk Solar Project PILOT Program

Sponsor: John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman
Second: Benny Goldstein, Councilman

WHEREAS, Mohawk Solar LLC has requested that the Town of Canajoharie consent to the amendment of the existing PILOT Agreement with Montgomery County and other taxing jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, Mohawk Solar LLC has been awarded an Article 10 Certificate by the NYS Siting Board for a solar project located predominately in the Town of Canajoharie;

WHEREAS, Mohawk Solar LLC has not commenced construction of the solar project and is seeking to amend the existing PILOT Agreement mentioned above;

WHEREAS, Mohawk Solar LLC and the Town Board have reviewed the Term Sheet for PILOT Amendment dated May 31, 2023 and incorporated herein by reference.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town Board of the Town of Canajoharie approves the Term Sheet for PILOT Amendment dated May 31, 2023 and authorizes the Town Supervisor to sign the Term Sheet.

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

The Board also opted to get proposals for a payroll company to facilitate payroll for the remainder of the year until the Town has budgeted for a payroll system at the end of the fiscal year.

Sole Assessor

Ms. Ruszkowski brought it to the attention of the Board that there are multiple barns in the Town that include living quarters. Their permits do not include said living quarters and has asked that the Code Officer look into the issue farther.

A camera and drop box have also been requested by the Assessor to ensure that we have proper tracking of packages that are being dropped off at the office. Attorney Dunn mentioned suggested that all correspondence for the Assessor should be directly handed to either the Assessor herself, the Town Clerk or postmarked and put in the drop box located at the entryway to the Assessors office.

Town Clerk

Mrs. Hayes reported that the Town issued 11 Building Permits this quarter, bringing in \$500.00 in revenue.

Town Bookkeeper

**TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-8/14/22
CASH REPORT JULY 31, 2022**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 177,676.36
Fire District	\$ 39.85
Consolidated Health	\$ 0.00
Wide	\$ 396,015.90
Trust & Agency	\$ 32,013.34 *
Total	\$ 915,962.09

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 5,257.60
Highway Town Wide	\$164,658.44
Highway Part Town	<u>\$142,394.50</u>
Highway Part Town	\$ 310,216.64
Total	\$312,310.54

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

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 36,811.70
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$247,203.35
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 14,620.98</u>
Total	\$298,636.03

BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Increase Revenue	Increase Expenditure	Amount
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A1420.100 Atty Pers	\$ 274.00
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A1355.100 Assesor Pers	\$ 197.00
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A1220.100 Supervisor Pers	\$ 256.00
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A5010.100 Hgwy Supt	\$ 740.00
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A1620.100 Building Pers	\$ 219.00
A4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	A9030.800 Emp Ben-SS/MCR	\$ 128.98
DB4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	DB5110.100 Gen Repairs Pers	\$1411.00
DB4089 Federal Aid(ARPA)	DB9030.800 Emp Ben SS/MCR	\$ 107.93

This amends the budget to show use of ARPA funds to pay employees Covid Bonus and employee benefits for same.

Sincerely,
Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #207 through #241, totaling \$34,120.79.

Highway fund vouchers #66 through #76, totaling \$185,588.21.

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

All in favor, ayes carried.

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Goldstein, seconded by Mr. Peruzzi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:37 PM. All in favor, ayes carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Erica Hayes, Town Clerk