

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE  
HELD SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

**Present:** Pete Vroman, Town Supervisor  
John Peruzzi, Sr., Councilman  
Michael Muhlebeck, Councilman  
William Armitstead, Councilman  
Rodney Young, Councilman

**Recording Secretary:** Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper

**Others Present:** Steven Oare, Highway Superintendent  
Les Hassan, Town Code Officer  
Charlene Ruskowski, Sole Assessor  
Kylie Ferguson, Legal Assistant/Dunn & Dunn  
Sue Mallery, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member  
Claude Porter, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member

**Call to Order**

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

**Accept the August 2024 Meeting Minutes**

A motion was made by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Young, that the minutes of the August 2024 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

**Recognition of Citizens Present**

The public present were asked if they wanted to make any comments. Claude Pietrowicz noted that the Bike Bath route was not on the Flat Creek Solar Project Inventory of Aesthetic Resources. He also commented on the fact that there are several dilapidated houses with overgrown brush, trees etc., in the Town. He was wondering if the Code Enforcement officer was aware of them and if he was citing the owners.

Another member, Susan Mallery, of the public commented on the solar project plans. She was concerned that some information was incorrect on the application, especially around her property. She was advised to contact her own attorney first and then possibly contact the Town Attorney to advise them of the situation. Michael Muhlebeck also noted that she could talk with him about the issue.

**Deputy Town Supervisor**

Mike Muhlebeck noted that Cordelio (Flat Creek Solar) had filed the application with the state. Copies were also sent to the Town of Root, Town of Canajoharie, Canajoharie Library as well as on their website. Cordelio will also have another public information meeting at the Canajoharie Fire Department Meeting room on October 15<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm. The application will be reviewed by all the municipalities involved and the Canajoharie Planning Board will also review. Any questions or comments can be sent to the Planning Board.

**Councilman Young**

Councilman Young gave the board an update on the Garage Project. It is essentially completed, with a few items to be completed yet (water softener installation). They will still purchase drinking water. He suggested that the board hold an open house for the public to inspect the new facility.

### **Code Officer**

Code Enforcement Officer Les Hassan reported that the Amish medical facility is almost completed. The camper on Route 10 is still illegally occupied. The owner was supposed to replace it with a regular trailer but was unsuccessful in her efforts. Les will officially notify her that she is in non-compliance with building regulations.

### **Sole Assessor**

Charlene Ruszkowski, Town Assessor advised the board that New York State is recommending that the Town have another re-valuation, if the Town doesn't comply with the request, 100% valuation cannot be sustained. The Town could do the re-val itself by having Char review all the properties or hire individuals to do it. The board nixed that idea, they didn't want to put anyone in danger by allowing them to enter onto private property, Char noted that the state uses market value to assess property. It was noted that the State would share 50% of the cost of a reval (\$250,000.00). Rodney asked how long the values determined by an official re-val would be good for, the answer was about 5 years. County Treasurer Shawn Bowerman noted that if the value remains at 100% the tax rate may remain more stable, if it goes down the tax rate may double. Char and Councilman Muhlebeck will meet with the state to discuss how Char is working to keep the value at 100%, Rodney asked Shawn how the sales tax is distributed. Shawn replied that the portions of Sales Tax distributions are based on assessed value. Shawn will present a tabulation of Sales Tax distributions compared to assessed values.

### **Highway Superintendent**

Stephen Oare, Town Superintendent of Highway requested that he be allowed to apply the \$40,000, received for Nestle Road repairs be used to help pay for a new tractor. CHIPS can also be used towards the purchase of a tractor. There is enough CHIPS funding to cover paving and the tractor purchase. The new pickup is having the plow assembly put on and will soon be in use. Councilman Muhlebeck questioned Steve about the two sandpiles, one left over from last season and the new one recently erected. Steve noted that both sand piles will be used this winter. Having sand piles in two locations may make it easier to load sand when in that section of town. If not all of the sand is used this year, it can be stockpiled for next year, he will be sure that oldest pile will be finished this season.

### **Town Clerk**

Town Clerk was absent from the meeting. But she wanted to remind everyone of the Budget meeting on September 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. The Town has been holding the water bill payment while researching the cause of the water leak that went on for a spell, generating a large water and sewer bill. The Village provided a chart showing meter use during the most recent 90-day cycle. There was a span of time when the water use was spiking continuously and then abruptly stopped. It is suspected that the third-floor toilet may have been running. It has now been shut off. The board determined that the check should be released to the Village. It was noted that the bill was due September 5<sup>th</sup> and probably has interest assessed. The Town should request the Village to forgive the penalties, due to the investigation of the high bill.

### **Town Bookkeeper**

The town bookkeeper reported that the Town is in good shape. Reports were passed on to the board.

### **TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-9/12/24 CASH REPORT August 31, 2024**

CHECKING ACCOUNTS		MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS	
General	\$ 110,478.26	General	\$213,748.42
Fire District	\$ 39.86	Highway Town Wide	\$206,434.71
Highway Town Wide	\$ 321,740.91	Highway PartTown	<u>\$405,916.14</u>
Highway Part Town	\$ 129,521.82	Total	\$826,099.27

Capital Project	\$ 248,573.41
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 74,694.18*</u>
Total	\$ 883,433.22

\*\$73,078.96 Avangrid/Mohawk Host Community

#### SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 10,004.39
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$314,904.89
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 15,627.07</u>
Total	\$340,536.35

Month/Year	Checking	Money Market	Savings Reserves	Total
1/31/23	\$692,796.37	\$312,748.92	\$301,746.31	\$1,307,291.60
1/31/24	\$2,041,351.09	\$582,639.02	\$387,323.83	\$3,011,313.94
2/28/23	\$1,297,510.24	\$313,080.94	\$301,746.31	\$1,912,337.49
2/29/24	\$2,427,594.06	\$585,489.82	\$387,323.83	\$3,400,407.71
3/31/23	\$1,214,483.90	\$313,381.15	\$301,746.31	\$1,829,611.36
3/31/24	\$1,857,897.12	\$937,122.88	\$387,343.22	\$3,182,363.22
4/30/23	\$334,259.89	\$963,918.50	\$298,095.90	\$1,596,274.29
4/30/24	\$1,686,534.88	\$819,344.82	\$330,519.22	\$2,836,398.92
5/31/23	\$418,218.93	\$965,018.49	\$297,683.59	\$1,680,921.01
5/31/24	\$1,604,275.40	\$819,344.82	\$330,519.22	\$2,754,139.44
6/30/23	\$379,412.42	\$941,601.89	\$299,003.59	\$1,620,017.90
6/30/24	\$1,382,369.50	\$821,302.47	\$330,519.22	\$2,534,191.19
7/31/23	\$240,899.35	\$844,844.36	\$299,018.45	\$1,384,762.16
7/31/24	\$980,203.78	\$823,457.92	\$340,536.35	\$2,144,198.05
8/31/23	\$350,582.69	\$799,241.71	\$299,018.45	\$1,448,842.85
8/31/24	\$883,433.22	\$826,099.27	\$340,536.35	\$2,050,068.84

Sincerely, Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

Supervisor Vroman made the motion to adjourn the meeting and enter an executive meeting to discuss the pending legal matters, seconded by Councilman Muhlebeck. All in favor, motion carried.

Two matters regarding personnel items and a recently served legal notice were discussed. It was determined to send both matters to Attorney Dunn for review. Motion by Supervisor Vroman to adjourn the executive meeting and return to the regular meeting, seconded by Councilman Muhlebeck. All in favor, motion carried.

#### Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

General fund vouchers #312 through #345, totaling \$24,585.09.

Highway fund vouchers #88 through #101, totaling \$122,000.00.

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

**Adjournment**

On a motion by Mr. Vroman, seconded by Mr. Muhlebeck, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy S. Kretser

Town Bookkeeper