

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD FEBRUARY 13, 2025 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

Present: Michael Muhlebeck, Town Supervisor
William Armitstead, Councilman
Rodney Young, Councilman
Mike Ehrenreich, Councilman

Recording Secretary: Erica Hayes, Town Clerk

Others Present: Steve Oare, Town Highway Superintendent
Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Keith Fergusson, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Kirsten Dunn, Town Attorney
Claude Pietrowicz, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member
Jennifer Stein, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member
Fey Mead, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member
Chip Readling, Cordelio Power
Catherine and Mario Scalisi, Residents
Jen and Dale Shults, Residents
Andrea Muhlebeck, Resident

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

Chip Readling of Cordelio Power updated the Board with the latest on the Flat Creek Solar application, which was resubmitted on February 7, 2025.

Catherine Scalisi, of Fisk Road, spoke on behalf of her and her husband, asking the Board to restore services to their road, which are no longer the Town's responsibility, as it was relinquished to a previous owner of the land. Town Supervisor Muhlebeck will reach out to the Town Attorney about the Town's legal standing on this, and follow up with the Scalisi family.

Accept the January 2025 Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Armitstead, seconded by Mr. Young, that the minutes of the January 2025 meeting, as submitted by the Town Clerk, be approved. All in favor ayes, carried.

Town Supervisor

Town Supervisor Muhlebeck updated the Board that the Town Attorney is looking to the Title Reports on 12 Mitchell Street to determine where the property lines are located, and if the rear stone wall is included in the search. He is also going to reach out for an estimate to fix the sidewalk in front of the Judges chambers.

Mr. Muhlebeck has been working on revisions to the Employee Handbook and will be giving it to Mrs. Dunn to review in the near future. He expects to have a first draft ready for the next Board meeting. The topic of an Ethical Committee was mentioned, and the Board will actively look for participants to join.

On a motion made by Mr. Young, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, the Board voted to approve Mr. Muhlebeck moving the April Board Meeting to April 8th at 7:30. All ayes carried.

The Following Passed

RESOLUTION #3 of 2025

Resolution for Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination and Corridor Management Plan Adoption

Sponsor: William Armitstead, Councilman

Second: Rodney Young, Councilman

Whereas, the historic qualities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, as described in the corridor management plan, and the surrounding areas have been appreciated and celebrated for over a century by the residents of New York State, as well as tourists, historians, artists, authors, and other visitors to the region; and it is this unique combination of the journeys of Harriet Tubman and those Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad that create the special sense of place that is vital in telling the New York story of the human desire for freedom and the historic sites they utilized during their journey to emancipation; and

Whereas, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, composed of representatives of 22 municipalities along the proposed scenic byway route, committed to working cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 544-mile Corridor throughout the state and agreed to pursue the nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway; and

Whereas, under the leadership of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee, each of the 22 counties contributed to the development of this corridor management plan by encouraging public participation, confirming the vision and goals, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

Whereas, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, consisting of relatives of Harriet Tubman, descendants of Freedom Seekers, Harriet Tubman and/or Underground Railroad historians, representatives from state and federal agencies, has strengthened the historic integrity, representation, and the principles of the corridor management plan; and

Whereas, in the process of developing this corridor management plan, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee has strengthened the bonds of inter-municipal cooperation, and the involved entities envision further benefit through scenic byway designation including sustained collaborative progress, increased funding opportunities for recommendations identified in the plan, enhanced partnerships with agencies responsible for the stewardship of resources along and adjacent to the byway route, and an improved visitor experience that interprets and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that, the Town of Canajoharie supports the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the historic scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

Be it further resolved that, the Town of Canajoharie confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route; and

Be it further resolved that, the Town of Canajoharie will work in partnership with the other municipalities along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway and local and regional stakeholders in order to support future Byway programs, economic development, marketing, and collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation to realize the Scenic Byway goals.

VOTING	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Michael Muhlebeck, Town Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		
Raymond Kiefl, Councilman			X
Michael Ehrenreich, Councilman	X		

Mr. Muhlebeck addressed everyone about Records Management and how each department needs to review their storage so we can get an on-site shredder to dispose of records that retention schedules have expired. He made mention that we are looking to apply for a digitizing grant for approval in April.

Town Supervisor Muhlebeck also made mention that he will be meeting with the Montgomery County EDA to discuss potential for the Beech-Nut site.

Mr. Muhlebeck also attended a meeting regarding the National Grid Substation and 115Kva Line Upgrades which would be located in Marshville off Route 10, on 5.5 acres.

Town Superintendent

Mr. Muhlebeck made mention of the shortage on road salt this season, and gave Mr. Oare the go-ahead to purchase any he can if the opportunity arises.

Code Officer

Mr. Fergusson noted that two of the three municipalities he works for, pitched in to pay for iCloud Permitting software that will streamline his work, and allow other departments to access records as well, and would like to know if the Town would make the same commitment. On a motion made by Mr. Armitstead, seconded by Mr. Young, the Board voted to approve paying 1/3 of the cost of the permitting software. All ayes carried.

Sole Assessor

Resolution #4 of 2025 **APPOINTMENT OF JASON HEISER TO THE** **BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW (B.A.R.)**

Sponsor: William Armitstead, Councilman
Second: Michael Muhlebeck, Councilman

Whereas, Jason Heiser filled all the requirements of the position and has expressed interest in becoming a member of the B.A.R.,

Now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that: Jason Heiser is appointed to the Alternate Position of the Board of Assessment Review, term to expire October 2029.

VOTING	AYES	NAYS	ABSENT
Michael Muhlebeck, Town Supervisor	X		
William Armitstead, Councilman	X		
Rodney Young, Councilman	X		

Raymond Kiefl, Councilman

X

Michael Ehrenreich, Councilman

X

Town Bookkeeper

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-2/08/25

CASH REPORT

January 31, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 24,283.13
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Highway Town Wide	\$ 144,031.11
Highway Part Town	\$ 191,932.74
Capital Project	\$ 4,959.37
Trust & Agency	\$ 66,644.94*
Total	\$ 431,891.15

*\$65,848.96Avangrid/Mohawk Host Community

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 11,431.01
Highway Town Wide	\$208,642.24
Highway PartTown	<u>\$311,821.78</u>
Total	\$531,895.03

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 10,005.39
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$296,037.46
Gen-Cap Reserve-land	<u>\$ 15,628.65</u>
Total	\$321,671.50

Amend Budget

Increase Revenue	Increase Expenditures	Amount
A4910 Federal Aid (ARPA)	A1640.2 New Garage	\$22,826.93
A878 Decrease Garage Reser Bal	Increase Exp Budget A1640.2	\$18,899.20

Budget transfers Fiscal Year 2024

Transfer From	Transfer To	Amount
A1460.4 Record's Mngmnt	A4020.4 Registrar	\$ 600.00
A1620.4 Building Contr	A1330.4 Tax Coll Contr	\$2937.49
A1620.4 Building Contr	A1420.4 Attorney Contr	\$2969.25
A1620.4 Building Contr	A1670.4 Printing/ mailing	\$1110.20
A1620.4 Building Contr	A5010.4 Hgwy Supt Contr	\$ 17.58
A1990.4 Contingemcy	A4020.4 Registrar	\$ 350.78
A1990.4 Contingency	A5010.4 Hgwy Supt Contr	\$ 26.84
A1990.4 Contingency	A1450.4 Elections Contr	\$ 42.25
A9060.8 Emp Ben HI	A1450.4 Elections Contr	\$ 431.04
A9060.8 Emp Ben HI	A1680.4 Data Process Contr	\$ 939.99
A6510.4 Veteran's Serv	A1680.4 Data Process Contr	\$ 360.00
DA5140.1 Misc Bru Pers	DA5140.4 Misc Bru Contr	\$ 1601.77
DA9030.8 Emp Ben SS	DA9060.8 EmpBen HI	\$4972.67
DB5110.4 Gen Rep Contr	Db9060.8 Emp Ben HI	\$1821.94

Sincerely,

Amy S. Kretser, Bookkeeper

Executive Session (8:08PM – 9:05PM)

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

Vouchers #49 through #112, totaling \$40,271.93.

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

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Muhlebeck, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, the meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Hayes

Town Clerk