

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE
HELD JULY 10, 2025 AT THE TOWN HALL COMMENCING AT 7:30 PM**

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

Recording Secretary: Erica Hayes, Town Clerk

Others Present: Amy Kretser, Town Bookkeeper
Keith Fergusson, Town Code Enforcement Officer
Charlene Ruskowski, Town Sole Assessor
Kirsten Dunn, Town Attorney
Fey Mead, Residents for the Preservation of the MV Committee Member
Chip Readling, Cordelio Power
Amanda Buley & Son, Resident(s)

Call to Order

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

Accept the June 2025 Meeting Minutes

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

Public Comment

Mr. Readling reminded the Board about the upcoming Public Hearing run by ORES at the Canajoharie Fire Hall on August 20th @ 6PM. Residents are encouraged to attend

Town Supervisor

Employee handbooks will be ready for review this month, as they are drawing to a close on the CSEA contract negotiations.

Mr. Muhlebeck also spoke to the Board about 209 Erie Blvd, the future Town Hall Building, and discussed potentially closing mid-August and immediately starting construction, and moving in in September.

The following resolution was also passed:

**RESOLUTION #13 of 2025
RESOLUTION CALLING ON GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL TO VETO S.8012/A.8332
RELATING TO THE ASSESSMENT OF SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY SYSTEMS**

Motion: Michael Muhlebeck, Town Supervisor
Second: Raymond Kiefl, Councilman

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 8012 (Harckham)/Assembly Bill 8332 (Lasher) would amend the Real Property Tax Law to modify the method for assessing solar and wind energy systems by requiring the use of a discounted cash flow approach; and

WHEREAS, the legislation further requires host community benefit payments to be included as expenses, stipulates that federal tax credits be deemed intangible assets and not included in revenue streams, and imposes a standardized formula for determining the assessed value of solar and wind projects; and

WHEREAS, this methodology would result in a significant reduction in the assessed value of large-scale solar and wind installations, thereby diminishing the tax revenue that can be collected by counties and municipalities; and

WHEREAS, often solar and wind energy systems encompass thousands of acres of land, which means municipalities lose a significant portion of tax income due to these projects; and

WHEREAS, the last formula adopted by the State for assessing solar and wind energy systems only taxed the systems at a quarter of their worth which shifts the fiscal burden to residents and small businesses; and

WHEREAS, as a result, corporations are benefiting at a cost to taxpayers in New York State; and

WHEREAS, the cumulative effect of this policy would be to erode the long-term fiscal stability of local governments and unfairly prioritize corporate tax relief over equitable taxation and funding for local services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this governing body strongly urges Governor Kathy Hochul to veto S.8012/A.8332 in order to preserve the ability of local governments to generate fair and adequate tax revenues from commercial energy developments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Smullen, Senator Fahy, and the New York State Association of Counties.

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

Highway Superintendent

Paving has been completed on Stabenow and Nestle Road

The Current Highway Superintendent, Steve Oare, submitted his resignation, his last day will be August 6th.

The Town Superintendent is looking to install facial recognition timeclocks in the Town Barn as a new time system.

Code Officer

Issued Permits: 1

Town Bookkeeper

TOWN OF CANAJOHARIE-7/10/25

CASH REPORT

June 30, 2025

CHECKING ACCOUNTS

General	\$ 407,398.40
Fire District	\$ 39.86
Highway Town Wide	\$ 273,028.01
Highway Part Town	\$ 52,342.81
Capital Project	\$ 4,111.25
Trust & Agency	<u>\$ 118,378.00</u>
Total	\$ 855,298.33

MONEY MARKET ACCOUNTS

General	\$11,595.27
Highway Town Wide	\$211,242.23
Highway Part Town	<u>\$315,707.54</u>
Total	\$538,545.04

*\$116,155.54 Avangrid/Mohawk Host Community

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Highway Cap Reserve	\$ 10,006.38
Gen-Cap Reserve-Garage	\$296,067.10
Gen-Cap Reserve-Land	<u>\$ 15,630.20</u>
Total	\$331,703.68

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Keifl, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, the executive session was entered at 9:10PM.

On a motion made by Mr. Armitstead, seconded by Mr. Kiefl, executive session was closed at 10:08PM, ayes carried.

Authorization of Vouchers

The Town Clerk presented the following bill vouchers for approval:

Vouchers #25-00324 through #25-00378, totaling \$217,279.98

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

Adjournment

On a motion by Mr. Muhlebeck, seconded by Mr. Armitstead, the meeting was adjourned at 10:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Erica Hayes

Town Clerk