



Mayor: Robert Allen
Deputy Mayor: Robert Ryan

Trustees: Deb Alter, Robert Decker, Kevin O'Malley,
Dan Schuttig, and Doug Sauer

August 11th, 2023

Dear County Executive Steven McLaughlin,

On Wednesday morning, August 9th 2023, it came to the Village's attention that the Rensselaer County officials decided to close the basement of the Murphy Building in Hoosick Falls, publicly asserting in Press Releases, in social media posts, and even on the DMV door that the Village of Hoosick Falls ordered the closure and is to blame for the situation.

No matter how many times you assert it, it will remain untrue. The record is clear on this, but you know this already, as you have the Fire and Safety Inspection document of the Murphy Building.

More concerning is how you decided to handle the news of the condition of the building and your decision to close the basement, with all steps seeming to provide the highest amount of anger and confusion and stir up animosity towards Village officials.

- While you could have responsibly reached out to the local municipality, explained the change in service, and partnered with them in getting the message out ahead of time, you chose to post the sign and close the services without contacting any Village officials, even before you put out the press release.
- While you could have simply acknowledged the situation and began taking the necessary steps to address the safety and health concerns, you decided to wait until the exact day the DMV services would be open to close off the section.
- While you could have simply accepted the fact that the responsibility for the County-owned, County-operated facility rests with the County, you have instead blamed Village officials for responding to reports and concerns from residents and community members, as though the egregious part of this entire situation is not the actual conditions of the neglected building that has been in use this whole time, but the fact that it was brought to your attention.

The County has the win here. The purchase of the new facility is moving forward as planned, the County has publicly committed to addressing concerns and reopening the Murphy Building ASAP, and County attention is now on mobilizing the forces to bring a beautiful and updated

facility to the former Dollar Tree location in the Town of Hoosick to serve the Northern Tier of Rensselaer County. Regardless of the last couple of weeks, this is all good news.

That being said, the Village of Hoosick Falls leadership is not content to sit idly by while you intentionally misrepresent the facts to stoke animosity and blame. As long as you continue to lie about the record, we will remain content to shine light on the facts. Unfortunately, for purposes of transparency and educating the Village residents on the truth of the matter, the full Board of Trustees has decided to release the Fire and Safety Inspection document for the Murphy Building to the public.

We look forward to this strange and unnecessary chapter finally being over so that we can put our attention back on serving our local and shared communities.



Robert J Allen, Mayor
Village of Hoosick Falls