



Mayor: Robert Allen
Deputy Mayor: Robert Ryan

Trustees: Deb Alter, Kevin O'Malley, Doug Sauer,
Dan Schuttig, and Megan Walraed

Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Village of Hoosick Falls Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Location: Highway Garage – 7 Waterworks Road

DRAFT AGENDA

6:00PM: Open the Meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Roll Call

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING** regarding Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024, “A Local Law Amending the Village of Hoosick Falls Zoning Map.”
- **DISCUSSION**
- **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

- **MOTION TO OPEN PUBLIC HEARING** regarding Proposed Local Law #2 of 2024, “A Local Law creating alternate member positions on the Village’s Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.”
- **DISCUSSION**
- **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORESPONDANCES

- **Village Election Information:**
 - **The Village Elections** will be on **March 19th 2024** from noon to 9PM at the Ann Bornt Municipal Building.
- **Jeff McGreevy**, Chief Fire Investigator from Rensselaer County’s Bureau of Public Safety, would like to speak about shared services for fire investigation.
- **Chuck Marshall** from **Stewart’s** will be present for the Public Hearing and to answer any questions.

MAYOR UPDATES

1. **New Water Source – Permits:** We received our Article 15 Water Withdrawal Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification through DEC for the 2 new wells, use of Well 7

as the backup well, and the construction of the new water main and pump facility along with a Modification Letter that clarifies continued usage of Wells 3 and 6 temporarily.

2. **New Water Source – Town of Hoosick Approval.** After having been reviewed and approved by the Town of Hoosick Planning Board, the Open Development Area request went in front of the Town of Hoosick Board and was approved on Monday, February 12th via Resolution. This, along with a SEQR Determination letter received from DEC in January, allows the project to continue as scheduled. Village Environmental Attorney David Engel and Honeywell Attorney Dale Desnoyers were present for the Board Meeting on the 12th. What will follow over the next two or three months will be the transaction by which the new parcel will be conveyed to the Village.
3. **Oak Mitsui/First Street site update:** Village Attorney Alaina Finan has made progress in discussing the easement/paper street in her discussions with DEC and Oak Mitsui/Honeywell’s attorney, getting DEC closer to being able to issue their final report.
4. **CRRB First Meeting:** I was grateful to give some opening comments at the first CRRB meeting held Monday evening, and I passed on our Board’s thanks to all of the members, Deputy Mayor Ryan, and OIC Sgt Hudson for taking on this important work.
5. **Service Updates:** We have implemented a new FOIL request form. It is available in the Village office, on the Village website, and also available in the HFPD. We’ve also worked the HFPD to create a new Incident Report Request Form. In terms of website updates, we’ve added links to all Code Enforcement, Building Inspection and Zoning-related Local Laws from the past 25 years to our Village website. They are available under the Code Enforcement page under the “Village Departments” heading.
6. **Compliance with Safe Drinking Water Act’s 2018 Amendment under America’s Water Infrastructure Act:** Despite our water source situation and State/Federal Superfund status, EPA Region 2 served us with an Administrative Order regarding a requirement under the federal law to have a Risk and Resilience Assessment submitted and approved by EPA. I had a great conversation with EPA Region 2 about this, and they have submitted an amended order that allows us until August 30, 2024 to submit our plan to achieve compliance. I’ve spoken with Robert Flores of Delaware Engineering about this, who has experience in this matter, and he and his firm will assist us with this. On the agenda is a proposal for Delaware Engineering to take this on for \$4,000.
7. **NY Forward Update:** I attended an introductory meeting on the NY Forward Grant with a member of the Department of State, joined by Trustee Sauer, Trish Bloomer, and Trustee Alter. The biggest updates:
 - a. Nothing in the vision we put forward is final, including projects and project details. This will be further reviewed and developed for final approval from the state.
 - b. The next big step is the formation of the Local Planning Committee, which is usually a 10 to 12 member group, co-chaired by the Mayor and a State Employee

who is somewhat local and connected to the REDC (Regional Economic Development Council).

- c. The timeline of events is different than initially explained. Feb-March will be the formation of the LPC, and April to October of 2024 will be putting together the “Strategic Investment Plan”. The finalized SIP won’t be announced until early 2025, meaning physical work on projects won’t begin until that point.
 - d. With projects being announced in early 2025, we anticipate that reimbursement money from the state would begin moving in the 4th quarter of 2025.
- 8. Streetlight Update:** Joined Deputy Mayor Ryan on a web meeting regarding some details about the smart controllers for the new StreetLights. In one location, primarily along Main Street by Wood Park, Bobby and I will have to decide on choosing the 274L style (Lantern) vs the Acorn Style (HFTL), with their recommendation being the Lantern for better light distribution. The Lantern is what already exists in this location.
- 9. Landfill Leachate:** Received a proposal from LaBella to finish the remaining piece of the landfill leachate plan – troubleshooting and repairs to the force main at the Hoosick Falls Leachate Pump Station.
- 10. Water Infrastructure Improvements, including the Rogers Avenue Tank:** The Village and Delaware Engineering received updates from NYSDOH on our WIIA Grant Application which did not get funded. Good news to report: the application was considered complete by the agency, but not enough funds were available to reach the project. Two things to modify for the next round: getting letters of support from local, regional, and state elected officials, and moving forward with design, bidding, and construction, as that makes the application score higher (but also would set us up for Bonds with the hopes of getting grant money later).
- 11. Unsafe Structure:** The structure ruled unsafe at 18 John Street by the Village Board was successfully demolished on Tuesday, February 13th. Thanks to the Building Inspector Mark Surdam for all the prep work and onsite work, to the DPW for their assistance over many days, and the HFPD for being present multiple days to maintain a safe situation.
- 12. Greenway Grant – Northern Trailhead:** Thanks to Trustee O’Malley’s work bringing an old issue back to light, the Greenway Committee is working to finalize the plans for a Kiosk that received Board approval but hasn’t been ordered yet.
- 13. Compliance with Recent Code Enforcement Laws:** We have created a draft form to use to address abandoned/vacant buildings with are in violation of Local Law #4 of 2023, and are working on a similar form that will be used to enforce “Junk Vehicles” as per Local Law #2 of 2023. CEO Mark Surdam will speak more to these in his report.
- 14. WWTP – UV Filtration Installation:** Delaware Engineering/Robert Flores has laid out a general tentative schedule for this project. Assuming the work goes out to bid in mid-April with a 6-week window, we would be reviewing bids in late May and ideally awarding the bids at the June meeting. After a couple of months of preparation, ground

would break in the fall and construction would likely go through the winter, wrapping up the project in Spring of 2025, with the goal of operating the new disinfectant system from May to October annually, as required by DEC. In the meantime, the Village will work on getting short term financing with EFC, and once the project is finished, will then reimbursement throughout grants (WQIP grant for \$1M in 2020 and a WIIA Grant for \$132,750 in 2022), with the remaining cost being converted to a long term 0% loan through EFC.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

REPORTS

- Police
- Code Enforcement
- Treasurer
- Clerk/Deputy Clerk
- Highway/DPW
- Sewer
- Water

MINUTES

Minutes are available for the January 10th Regular Meeting, January 22nd Special Meeting, and February 5th Special Meeting.

TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Trustee Alter
- Trustee O'Malley
- Deputy Mayor Ryan
- Trustee Sauer
- Trustee Schuttig
- Trustee Walraed

OLD BUSINESS

New Proposed Local Law No. 1

- **UPDATE** from the Mayor regarding the process of seeking a county referral for the possible Zone Change.
- **DISCUSSION**

New Proposed Local Law No. 2

- **DISCUSSION.**

HFPD eScheduling Software

- **Motion** to approve the use of ARPA funds in the amount of \$3,025 above the amount approved in January 2024 for e-scheduling software.

NEW BUSINESS

Water Supply Development/ROD

- **RESOLUTION** authorizing the Payment of Invoices through a Third-Party Funded Escrow Account Pertaining to the Development of New Water Supply Wells and Associated Infrastructure for the Village (*note: This is the 6th Resolution of this type*)

Unsafe Structure – 18 John Street

- **BOND RESOLUTION** authorizing the demolition of a building...for a total maximum estimated cost of \$100,000 and authorizing the issuance of \$100,000 Bonds of said Village to pay the costs thereof.
- **MOTION** authorizing the Mayor to execute a Change Order with Dan’s Hauling for Removal of Fuel Oil Tank, pumping and disposal of oil for \$940.

SDWA/AWIA Compliance

- **MOTION** authorizing the Mayor to sign the proposal with Robert Flores and Delaware Engineering for \$4,000 to bring the Village into compliance with AWIA.

Landfill Leachate

- **MOTION** authorizing the Mayor to sign the proposal with Mark Millspaugh of Sterling Environmental and LaBella to troubleshoot and repair the force main at the Hoosick Falls Pump Station for an estimated \$3,836.

Shared PR/Website Resource with HFCS and Town of Hoosick

- **DISCUSSION** regarding the possibility of a shared PR/Website hire between Hoosick Falls Central School, the Town of Hoosick, and the Village of Hoosick Falls, as brought to the Mayor by HFCS Superintendent Patrick Dailey.

DISCUSSION regarding implementation of some of the parking study ideas, including the possibility of removing overnight parking signs from the Village parking lot.

RESOLUTION approving Village of Hoosick Falls Justice Court Audit.

MOTION to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters (with no business to be conducted at the end of Executive Session).

MOTION to adjourn.