

**Village of Hoosick Falls Regular Meeting
February 8th, 2022
In person and via Zoom**

6:00PM: Mayor Allen opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and a Moment of Silence.

Roll Call: Mayor Allen, Dep. Mayor Ryan, Tr. Alter, Tr. Decker, Tr. O'Malley, Tr. Pine and Tr. Walraed all present

Also present: Atty. Gilchrist

ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORESPONDANCES

Mayor Allen read a letter from Cheney Library on their Centennial Celebration and the installation of Little Cheney Libraries in 5 locations in the Village. The board requested that they come to the March meeting and speak on this.

A letter was read from the St. Patrick's Committee on the 31st Annual Parade, to be held on March 12th at 1PM. The committee requested funds from the Village to help with the costs of the parade.

Mayor Allen noted that we have budgeted \$1,000 of the "Celebrations" line of the budget for this parade.

Motion to send the St Patrick's Committee the \$1000 was made by Tr. Decker seconded by Dep. Mayor Ryan all in favor none opposed.

Upcoming Village Election Reminders: the Village Election will be held on March 15th from noon to 9PM at the Ann Bornt Municipal Building

PRESENTATION

Doug Sauer, chair of the Community Review Board, came to discuss the CRB's vision for the "Civilian Review and Reform Board". He told the board that they had been busy reviewing police policy and procedures and taking part in interviews with candidates for any open positions in the department. It was indicated that the board should consist of three to seven participants, it would require specific qualifications for membership and while it would have review powers, no authority over the board would be transferred to this review board. The board along with Atty. Gilchrist will be looking to introduce a local law to set this board in motion at the March meeting.

MAYOR UPDATES

The Mayor spoke about New York State Redistricting: In early February, a new congressional map was passed by the Senate and Assembly, and signed into law by Governor Hochul. Mayor Allen went over the following information: we will become part of District 21, which covers most of northern New York. Representative Antonio Delgado will no longer be our representative – the incumbent representative in District 21 is Representative Elise Stefanik. Our NYS Assembly representative will continue to be Assemblyman Jake Ashby. Our NYS State Senate district will remain 43, but will lose Senator Daphne Jordan as our representative.

Class Action PFOA settlement Finalized: Attorney Steve Schwarz reports that they expect things to go as planned, with checks being sent out to qualifying class members in the next two months, and the medical monitoring program will begin in roughly the same time frame.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD

Marion Stevens 63 Wilder Ave. asked about the snow removal laws and if anything new had been decided. The Mayor mentioned that the current laws that were in place were staying for now.

Barbara Ziel 26 Willow St. spoke about the loose and feral cats invading the neighborhoods and abandoned buildings around the Village but mostly in Second Ward. Asked about any laws on the books and if the Village had any ideas or suggestions how to alleviate the problem. The Board said they would take all the information under advisement, at this time there are no laws in the Village about cats.

REPORTS: All reports were approved and are attached.

MINUTES

The minutes available for review/approval were from the January 11th Regular Meeting, Motion to approve the January 11th Regular meeting minutes was made by Tr. Decker seconded by Dep. Mayor Ryan all in favor none opposed.

Tabled the approval of the Dec 16 and Dec 30th Special meeting minutes until the next meeting in March.

TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

Transfer Station

Motion to table the discussion regarding the price changes for household garbage and adding cost for recycling was made by Dep. Mayor Ryan seconded by Tr. Decker all in favor none opposed.

Dog Park – Rules & Regulations were discussed Highway Superintendent Niel Stowell has ordered the sign for the park and in the meantime the Board agreed to put up a temporary sign and get the park open.

NEW BUSINESS

Tr. Decker gave the board a list of ideas and organizations that are looking for ARPA funds. The board discussed ideas on how to disburse them and they want to keep reaching out to the community and talking before they spend the money.

Deputy Mayor Ryan spoke about the proposal regarding LED Street Light Conversion. The board discussed it and they are having the company attend the March board meeting to give a presentation.

Code Enforcement Officer Surdam along with Attorney Gilchrist spoke about the building at 71 Wilder Ave. The question came up as to whether or not it was a one family or a two family structure. It was a two family for many years and was grandfathered in when the codes changed prohibiting two family buildings in that area. It was later officially changed back to a one family; the current owners are rehabilitating the building, allegedly into a two family home again. Attorney Gilchrist believes at this point it should remain as a one family home.

Mayor Allen wanted to discuss a property that is for sale next to our Rogers Avenue water tank as an alternative sight for the water tank, the property is slightly lower in elevation than the current site and that may make it more palatable to the area residents since the tower would not be as visible.

MOTION made by Tr. Decker seconded by Tr. Alter all in favor to approve the adjustments to a water/sewer bill for 82 Elm Street due to the fact that there was no water/sewer hookup since May 2013. The Village was just made aware of this. The adjustment would take off the regular “no water/sewer line penalties,” totaling \$9,000.

MOTION to enter Executive Session was made at 8:30pm by Tr. Pine seconded by Tr. Decker all in favor none opposed to receive advice from counsel, and to discuss a personnel matter with no business to be conducted at the conclusion of Executive Session.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:59pm from Executive session made by Tr. Decker seconded by Tr. Pine all in favor none opposed.

MOTION to adjourn at 9:59pm made by Tr. Pine seconded by Tr. Decker all in favor none opposed.