

Village of Hoosick Falls Board of Trustees

Minutes – September 13th, 2023 Regular Meeting

Location: New Highway Garage – 7 Waterworks Road

The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

Roll Call was conducted by Clarissa Mango. Present: Mayor Allen, Deputy Mayor Ryan, Trustee Alter, Trustee Sauer, Trustee Schuttig. Also present: Building Inspector Mark Surdam, Chief of Police Tim Colaneri and Village Attorney Alaina Finan. Absent: Trustee O'Malley.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Motion to open the **public hearing** was made by Trustee Decker and seconded by Trustee Sauer.

Motion to approve **Proposed Local Law #5**, a local law creating a loading and unloading zone in the Village of Hoosick Falls, offered by Trustee Alter and seconded by Trustee Schuttig. A **Roll Call Vote** was made. **Unanimously Approved.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COORESPONDANCES

Jenny Scarpulla of Juiper Jills Cannabis Company approached the board to speak about getting approval from the Village of Hoosick Falls for a proposed Cannabis Growers Showcase. She presented a letter that serves as final municipal approval and evidence that is needed regarding the Hoosick Falls CGS. This will be the second showcase, as the first one was very successful, and will be held at the Walter A. Wood Festival, October 7th, at the park. This is a great way to help farmers sell their product and 4% of the tax goes straight to the Village. Also, she requested the Village to allow her to partner with the farmers at he store, located at 14 John Street, for re-occurring events.

Motion to sign the letter was made by Trustee Decker and seconded by Trustee Alter. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion to approve repeating events at 14 John Street, subject to OCM approval and additionally for the Mayor to sign any necessary documents made by Trustee Decker, and was seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Unanimously approved.**

MAYOR UPDATES *(Italics come directly from agenda)*

1. September 7th Storm and Recovery – Tremendous thanks are owed to the many involved in the recovery from the September 7th storm and subsequent State of Emergency:

- Hoosick Falls Police Department, Chief Tim Colaneri, and specifically Officers Davock, Salgado, Fisher, Waters, and Hudson, who were scheduled and/or called*

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in for the night and following morning of the storm.

- *Hoosick Falls Fire Department, Chief Paul Davendonis*
- *North Hoosick Fire Department, Chief Al Bornt*
- *Hoosick Fire Department, Chief Richard Hunt*
- *Village of Hoosick Falls Department of Public Works, Superintendent Kenny Holbrook*
- *Village Water and Sewer Operators, Jim Hurlburt, Josh Magisano, Kenny Holbrook, and Keith Pierce*
- *Pat Bakaitis and his crew for the incredible help clearing trees*
- *Tri-State Federal Credit Union/Jim Martinez and Hoosick Provisions/Marianne Zwicklbauer for offering a free lunch to DPW and First Responders on Friday*

9/8.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

- Mark Surdam, the Town Supervisor, approached the board to discuss the Monolith Solar project. There are multiple zoning issues – for instance, there needs to be a surrounding fence with a gate.
 - He also brought up the issue- how can we manage a new/bigger project when we haven't managed the current solar project over the landfill. There needs to be more enforcement on maintaining the plant, such as a current tree growing up through the panels.
- Megan Albert, head of the Historic Preservation Commission, also presented in front of the board. They officially have all of the qualifying members. The board needs to do all the proper municipalities to get the HPC moving to consider for grant guidelines.
- Chris Rayner, who resides on 3rd Street, brought up an ongoing issue with his neighbors. They are up all night, have a trailer in the backyard, their pitbulls bark and get loose up and down the street, and this needs to be addressed. This is a public safety issue and there are plans in motion, due to the upcoming winter season.

Motion to close this portion of the meeting at 6:27PM, offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Trustee Decker. **Unanimously approved.**

REPORTS (see attached)

Police Report

- There will be a Narcan training class on September 14th at Wood Park open to the public.
- On the night/day after of the storm on September 7th, there were 22 calls in just-over a 3-hour window.
- The department will be changing to a new vendor to purchase new guns, which will save them \$29 each, and will need a new motion to do so.

Motion to approve the Police Report by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Decker. **Unanimously approved.**

Code Enforcement Report

- The unsafe structure at 18 John Street has new a new case regarding structural issues.

Motion to approve the Code Enforcement report by Trustee Alter, seconded by Trustee Decker.
Unanimously approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Motion to approve by Trustee Alter, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan.
Unanimously approved.

Village Clerk/Deputy Clerk Report – Motion to approve by Trustee Alter seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Unanimously approved.**

Highway Department Report:

- A very big thanks to Kenny Holbrook and his crew for the storm clean-up.

Motion to approve the Highway Department report by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Decker.
Unanimously approved.

Sewer Department report – Motion to approve by Trustee Alter, seconded by Trustee Decker.
Unanimously approved.

Water Department Report – Motion to approve by Trustee Alter, seconded by Trustee Decker.
Unanimously approved.

MINUTES

Motion to approve the minutes from the August 16th Regular Meeting by Deputy Mayor Ryan. Seconded by Trustee Decker. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion to approve the minutes from the special meeting held August 7th by Trustee Sauer. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Unanimously approved.**

Motion to approve the minutes from the emergency meeting held on September 11th by Deputy Mayor Ryan. Seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Unanimously approved.**

TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sauer

- There will be a public NY Forward Grant meeting September 20th. There will also be a special board meeting on September 27th.
- We will likely need a loan, upon approval, for the next year when the project can begin.
 - There are four profits that will result from this grant: affordable housing, Oak Mitsui property, connecting points downtown for the Greenway, and improved sidewalks and streetlighting.

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Trustee Decker – The veteran’s flags will be available in the spring, however, Trustee Decker will be leaving the board, so Deputy Mayor Ryan will be taking over.

Trustee Schuttig

- Working on handbook policies
 - Brought up the idea of employees becoming CPR/AED certified
 - He also reached out to the Employee Assistance program to inquire about first responder coverage and will get a quote.

Trustee Alter:

- Christmas decorations
 - Poles need to be electrified – bidding will be brought forth at the next meeting.
 - Hoosick Rising will be buying decorations

Trustee O’Malley – Absent

Deputy Mayor Ryan – Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was discussion/review of ARPA funds.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to authorize the Mayor to sign and send a letter to NYS Office of Cannabis Management in support of Loving Buds LLC, for a Cannabis Growers Showcase on October 7th, 2023 in Wood Park during the Walter A. Wood Tractor and Agriculture Show as per the Cannabis Growers Showcase Guidance policy. **Motion** to approve by Trustee Decker, and seconded by Trustee Alter. **Roll Call Vote; passed unanimously.** *(There was a lot of positive feedback from the community and no issues – a great event!)*

Motion to approve the three electrical quotes and one specialized service, which they went with the lowest bid, offered by Trustee Schuttig and was seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Roll Call Vote; passed unanimously.**

RESOLUTION approving collective bargaining agreement between the Village of Hoosick Falls and the Department of Public Utilities Unit (CSEA) offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Roll Call Vote; passed unanimously.**

MOTION to schedule a Special Meeting for Wednesday, September 27th at 6PM. **Motion** to approve by Trustee Alter, seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Roll Call Vote; passed unanimously.**

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Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel matters (with no business to be conducted at the conclusion of Executive Session) made by Trustee Alter, seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Passed unanimously.** Executive Session began at 7:47PM.

Motion to end executive session by Trustee Alter and was seconded by Trustee Decker. **Passed Unanimously.**

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Decker and was seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Passed Unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned by 9:19PM.

*Respectfully submitted by
Clarissa Mango
Village Clerk
9/25/2023*