

Village of Hoosick Falls Board of Trustees

Minutes – October 11th, 2023 Regular Meeting

Location: New Highway Garage – 7 Waterworks Road

The meeting was called to order at 6:04PM 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 O'Malley, Trustee Alter, Trustee Sauer, Trustee Schuttig, and Trustee Decker. Also present: Building Inspector Mark Surdam, Village Attorney Alaina Finan.

PRESENTATION

Matt Curley, from **ERCSWMA**, presented in front of the board to discuss garbage pickup and the Transfer Station. Currently, the Village has largest volume, so he wanted to address where the Village is losing money. We are currently paying ERCSWMA \$20, 881.08, which for a village, is incredibly high. Some ideas to help fix this were; charging more for shingles because they are so heavy, as well as getting rid of “co-mingling” since residents already have that included in refuse. Another idea was to allow paint to be brought to the transfer station—this cost nothing to village or the residents, just requires some special training. Trustee Alter and Trustee Schuttig have accepted the task of looking at the revenue /finances and see what changes can be made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & COORESPONDANCES (*Italics come directly from the agenda*)

- *The **Walter A Wood Tractor and Agriculture Show** has been rescheduled to this Saturday, October 14th from 9am to 4PM. It will feature Antique Tractors, trucks, and farm equipment, engines, hay rides and pony rides, and a petting zoo for the kids. It includes vendors, crafts, food, and exhibitors. **The Burton H Luke Tractor Parade** begins at noon as it honors local farmer John McMahon of Hoosick Farm as the Grand Marshall.*
- *We would like to thank **Myron Filkins of Filkins Valley Farms**, who has donated time and all of the pumpkins for the fall decorations at the Gazebo, the Municipal Building, and even the Post Office.*
- *Request from the **Hoosick Falls Central School ADAPT Committee** to have a coin drop in the Village on the morning of the St. Patrick's Day Parade (3/16/24) between the hours of 9am and noon. Proceeds will go to providing a safe location and activities for students who attend the junior prom on the evening of June 1st, 2024. They would like to have volunteers collecting coins at the corners of River Street and Church Street (near Stewart's) as well as the corners of Main & John Street (near Iron Coffee/Walgreens).*
 - The board does not have the authority to give permission for the coin drop on a state highway, so perhaps they should make a recommendation that they change the location, as well as the date since that is a busy day in the village.
- *The **Hoosick Area Community Participation Workgroup** is hosting a **Community Information Session on October 24th 2023**. It will be held at **6PM at the Hoosick Falls***

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Central School Auditorium. *The session will include presentations and a Q&A, followed by a reception in the cafeteria. It will be an important chance to get caught up on:*

- *the New Village water source design and timeline*
- *the Town POETs*
- *site remediation activities, and next steps.*
 - This group oversees the PFOAs in the village and town. Companies and consultants will be present, so this will be a great time for anyone to ask questions and see where they are at with everything.

MAYOR UPDATES *(Italics come directly from agenda)*

1. **October 24th 2023 Informational Session at 6PM at HFCS** *(previously addressed)*
2. **HFCS Cross Country Dual Meet on October 10th**
 - a. This is a great use of the Greenway! The meet consisted of a mile— plus a loop, making is 3.2 miles.

PEOPLE TO BE HEARD:

Opened at 6:47PM.

1. Johnathan Dalner, of 114 Church Street, addressed the board because he has been having an issue with understanding the reports he has gotten from the village code inspector (Mark Surdam, who was also present at the meeting). This is a commercial property, but owner says that it is residential for apartments. There are issues with the electric an insulation that need to be addressed before moving forward with anything. Bottom line— a professional needs to address everything that needs to be done to prevent a liability issue and make sure everything is done in the right way.

REPORTS

Police Report

- *189 Traffic Stops with over 100 Uniform Traffic Tickets issued.*
- *Recent impressive and successful events include the September 9th Motorcycle Benefit and the October 7th Stephen Colvin Memorial 5K Road Race on October 7th*
- *On September 29th, an independent horror movie was filmed with scenes both inside and outside the police station with the Mayor's approval. Officers Davock, Waters, Fisher, and I assisted the production with traffic, interior and exterior filming. The director, cast and crew were very happy with the cooperation from the Village and Police Department and may shoot some additional footage in the Village in the near future.*
- *Re-established contact with associates from Unity House to provide additional services not only for Domestic Incidents but assisting with CPS cases, mental health services, and housing for people in need. We expect to complete meetings on zoom during working hours at least on a monthly basis.*
- *Participated at the Blood Drive at the Baptist Church on Main Street on October 3rd and*

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provided a pint.

- *4 Officers and members of the public received Narcan training on September 14th through the Rensselaer County Health Department. We were given 10 boxes of Narcan along with Fentanyl test strips and Xylazine test strips. County residents can text the word “NARCAN” to 21000 to arrange for Naloxone to be delivered to their doorstep.*
- *Several grants have been awarded in the past couple of months:*
 - *2023 Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership program - \$4,000 to cover partial payments of ballistic vests.*
 - *New York State FY 2019 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program—Replacement of the Livescan machine—\$22,916.00*
 - *Governor’s Traffic Safety Committee—\$2,500 for “Child Passenger Safety”*
 - *Looking into grants for License Plate Readers, In Car cameras, and Body Cameras*
- *All vehicles have been serviced.*
- *There is a Rensselaer County radar machine located on Ball Street that doesn’t work. Where did it come from? They Mayor is going to follow up regarding this.*

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

Code Enforcement Report

- *59 Church Street—Mark has been asked to get a couple of quotes and send to bid, regarding a broken window. The estimated cost is between \$1,700 - \$2,000.*
- *18 John Street—The demo bids have gone out and we will get them back November 8th.*
- *15 Spring Street—Kids have been trespassing and there are broken windows. This needs to be addressed—perhaps us the vacant building registration and paint/board it up. It was mentioned for Mark to contact Ed Granger to handle this.*
-

MOTIN to approve the Code Enforcement report by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Decker. **Unanimously approved.**

Treasurer’s Report – MOTION to approve by Trustee O’Malley, seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Unanimously approved.**

Village Clerk/Deputy Clerk Report – MOTION to approve by Trustee Sauer, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Unanimously approved.**

Highway Department Report:

- *Great job to Kenny Holbrook and his team for preparing for the track meet!*
- *Wood Park looks great!*
- *Wilson Hill has been paved— River Road is next.*

Leaf pickup will start on Monday, 10/16/2023, and run through Wednesday, November 22dn, 2023. No bags.

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MOTION to approve the Highway Department report by Trustee Decker, seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Unanimously approved.**

Sewer Department report – MOTION to approve by Deputy Mayor Ryan, 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 September 13th regular meeting by Trustee Alter. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Unanimously approved.**

MOTION to approve the minutes from the September 27th special meeting by Deputy Mayor Ryan. Seconded by Trustee Decker. **Unanimously approved.**

TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Trustee Sauer

- The proposal for the NY Forward grant was submitted on time!
- There will be a site visit October 18th at 2PM and a prep meeting on Monday, October 16th, at 5PM for municipal designs.

Trustee Decker

- **Two Owls Holding LLC**—requesting for adult use recreational marijuana dispensary license in the village. They need a letter of approval with the application from the board that so that they can get a license and building to start the business. Alaina will look more into this.
 - **The Village will make 4% off of every sale**

This is Trustee Decker's last meeting/month on the board. We are very sad to see him go. We thank him for his service that he has given us these last 3 years.

Trustee Schuttig

- Working on CSEA negotiations—brought up the idea of possibly joining with the town to get a cheaper price.

Trustee Alter:

- 4th Ward Playground is being worked on.
- Loading zone—Deputy Ryan Decker is going to follow up with Kenny

Trustee O'Malley

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- Hoosick Rising is going to be funding the new trees in Wood Park, to replace the ones damaged from the storm in September. They will be Sycamore and Oak and 55ft tall from Elhannon and are \$5,000 each. They have set up a goFund me and also taking checks at Hoosick Provisions. Since the Village cannot be involved in a goFund me, it was suggested that the board state that they appreciate the efforts by Hoosick Rising, to replace the damaged trees in Wood Park.
- Jim Gorman donated money for the trees in memory of his parents.
- What is happening with the Verizon bills? Are we still paying them?

Deputy Mayor Ryan

- Wanted to address street lights—will be discussed more at the next meeting.
- Will meet on the 18th to discuss IGA needs and what needs to be finalized.

OLD BUSINESS

- There was discussion/review of ARPA funds.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION to authorize the Mayor and Trustees to sign a letter in support of Jonah Thiem and I3 Imaging Co. LLC for his application to the National Grid Main Street Program made by Deputy Mayor Ryan. Seconded by Trustee Decker. **Roll Call Vote. Unanimously Approved.**

MOTION to adjust a water/sewer bill for 72 Main Street (the Water usage portion of \$35.40 was already paid at the closing, changing the overall bill from \$360.60 to \$325.20) made by Trustee Decker. Seconded by Trustee Alter. **Roll Call Vote. Unanimously Approved.**

MOTION to authorize the Mayor to execute such application forms as required by NYSDEC, NYSDOH and the ACE for the new water supply and associated infrastructure made by Trustee Decker. Seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Roll Call Vote. Unanimously Approved.**

MOTION to approve spending \$3,000 for finding specialized services/PI to track down the owner for the four parcels: 27.15-2-13, 27.15-2-14, 27.15-2-15, and 27.15-2-16 made by Trustee Sauer. Seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Roll Call Vote. Unanimously Approved.**

Discussion establishing short-term priorities and goals for the next few weeks/months included:

- Historic Preservation Commission—there are five people interested, what does the board need to do in order to approve commission? Also, what powers do they have?
 - Need a very detailed Local Law or Resolution.
- ERCSWMA
- Eminent Domain—sidewalk/Spring Street regarding Johnathan Daniel’s property.
- Whistle blower policies—state mandated. We can adopt policies and put them in the handbook at the next meeting.
- Organizational meeting—procurement policy
- HFCC water bill—usage/delivered/paid?
- Template/letter for Local Laws passed. Need to get these sent out.
- Comprehensive plan—La Berge is what the town uses.

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- Still waiting for parking studies—NY Forward Grant
 - Projections of growth
 - Oak Mitsui property—complicated issue, looking to come to an agreement with the village acquiring the property.

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 Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Passed unanimously.** Executive Session began at 8:29PM.

MOTION to end Executive Session by Trustee Alter, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **All in favor.** Executive Session ended at 10:03PM.

MOTION to adjourn by Trustee Alter, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **All in favor.** Executive Session ended by 10:03PM.

Meeting adjourned by 9:19PM.

*Respectfully submitted by
Clarissa Mango
Village Clerk
10/23/2023*