

**Village of Hoosick Falls Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting – Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

*Location: Highway Garage – 7 Waterworks Road*

The meeting was called to order at **6:02PM** 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 O’Malley, Trustee Sauer, and Trustee Schuttig. Also present: Village Attorney Alaina Finan, Sergeant Hudson, and Building/Code Inspector Mark Surdam. Absent: Trustee Walraed.

**Appointment of Officer in Charge**

With former Hoosick Falls Police Chief Tim Colaneri’s resignation and retirement effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024, HFPD Sergeant John Hudson was appointed **Officer-In-Charge** of the Hoosick Falls Police Department by Mayor Allen, effective January 1st, 2024.

**Session 7 Police Academy**

Stephen Surdam went through the interview process, Academy training. He also had recommendations from Trustee Sauer, Deputy Mayor Ryan, Sergeant Hudson, and former chief Colaneri.

**RESOLUTION** hiring a part-time Police Officer for the Hoosick Falls Police Department offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Roll call vote. Unanimously approved.**

Stephen Surdam Jr. was sworn in by Sergeant Hudson. We then took a brief pause for pictures.

Resumed meeting at 6:16PM.

**PRESENTATIONS**

**Charles “Chuck” Marshall** from Stewart’s Shop presented to the board a possible Stewart’s Shop move/expansion in the Village and requested to the Village Board to modify the existing Zoning to extend the Commercial-Industrial zone. The board approved moving forward with the proposed Local Law 1 of 2024 amending the Village of Hoosick Falls Zoning map. They also made a motion to set a public hearing for the February 14<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting. Once approved, Mr. Marshall will send out letters to the surround properties informing them of the plans for Stewart’s.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS & CORESPONDANCES** *(italics come directly from agenda)*

- **Village Election Information:**
  - *The Village Elections will be on **March 19<sup>th</sup> 2024** from noon to 9PM at the Ann Bornt Municipal Building.*
    - *4 Trustee Seats are on the ballot, all for 2-year terms (Alter, Walraed, O'Malley, Schuttig)*
    - *Individuals may now sign independent nomination petitions and must be filed by February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*
- **Jackie Houghton** requested a discussion about consistent power outages in the Rogers Avenue area of the Village, and what could be done about it.

## **MAYOR UPDATES**

1. *A changeout of the carbon for the **GAC system** has been scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.*
2. *The Village is in the process of incorporating Board Meeting documents, such as minutes, agendas, reports, and slideshows, to our **Village website**. We have made progress on the past few years of documents and will be continuing to add more documents there.*
3. *Thanks to all who were involved in the **NY Forward** Applications. It was an honor to represent all the incredible application team members and our entire community at Governor Hochul's announcement/ceremony in Lake George NY on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. This community should be proud of the award, the vision for our growth and economic development, and especially and most importantly, proud of the amazing team that worked on both rounds of the application.*

## **PEOPLE TO BE HEARD**

1. Sammy Restino, resident of Bennington, VT, approached the board to give compliment to how the board meetings are held and how they present the information.

## **REPORTS**

### **Police:**

- New parking tickets have been ordered—they will now have the fine amount on the ticket.
- They are also working on purchasing new uniforms, as well as Stetsons, and a new patch. (Thank you to the Historical Society for the pictures on the patch design.)
- The Police Department's website is up and running ([www.hoosickfallspolice.org](http://www.hoosickfallspolice.org))
- Sergeant Hudson is working on many improvements to better communication within the department.

**MOTION** to approve the Police Report offered by Trustee Alter, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Passed unanimously.**

**Code Enforcement Report—MOTION** to approve the Code Enforcement Report offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

**Treasurer’s Report—MOTION** to approve the Treasurer’s Report offered by Trustee Sauer, seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Passed unanimously.**

**Clerk/Deputy Clerk Report—MOTION** to approve the Village Clerk/Deputy Clerk’s Report offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

**Highway Department Report—MOTION** to approve the Highway Department Report offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

**Sewer Department Report—MOTION** to approve the Sewer Department Report offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

**Water Department Report:**

- Trustee Walraed wanted to bring attention to the Rogers Ave storage tank.
  - *Rogers Ave. storage tank should be taken offline. We are losing a substantial amount of water somewhere in the distribution system, and our best guess is the numerous leaks we know of in the aforementioned storage tank.*
  - *There are two sanitary pumps behind the WTP. One of them was replaced within the past year, at around \$15k, while the other one is the original pump. It recently failed, and Eamonn’s will be able to repair it and make it operable again, ideally in the next week.*
    - *We cannot do the GAC change out until our sanitary pump is repaired and re installed. One pump is not sufficient to handle the scheduled backwashing and forward rinsing at the recommended flows provided from Calgon. This change out is currently scheduled for January 16<sup>th</sup>.*
    - *Eamonn’s knows the schedule and is working to make the repairs in time. — In the meantime, we should consider purchasing a replacement pump in the next couple of months to have on hand in case the repaired one fails again.*

**MOTION** to approve the Water Department Report offered by Trustee Sauer, seconded by Trustee O’Malley. **Passed unanimously.**

**MOTION** to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes from the December 13<sup>th</sup> Village Board meeting offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Passed unanimously.**

**TRUSTEE/COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Trustee Alter:**

- Trustee Alter worked with Sergeant Hudson on designing the new parking tickets.

- They are still continuing to work on the playground with the Highway Department.

**Trustee Sauer:**

- The Village of Hoosick Falls' application for the NY Forward Grant was officially approved, and the Village was presented with \$4.5 million dollars.
- Trustee Sauer informed the Board of the next steps that will be. There will be 5-6 meetings over the next 4-5 months, along with public hearings, to set up committees and project proposals for the NY Forward Grant. There will be a different contract for each organization, as well as a profile assessment of the downtown area.

**Deputy Mayor Ryan**—LED Lighting contract has been signed and they are moving forward.

**Trustee O'Malley:**

- Curb cuts need to be updated, along with sidewalk specifications.
- The Daniel's property has been appraised. Alaina will email out the next steps to take.

**Trustee Schuttig:**

- Employee assistance program agreement has been signed.
- Still working on the Village Policy handbook.

**Trustee Walraed**—Absent.

**OLD BUSINESS**—NONE.

**NEW BUSINESS**

*PFOA-related business, including Water Supply Development/ROD*

- Attorney Dave Engel gave an update on PFOA-related matters. They are still going through the regulatory process with the DEC for permits for new water systems. Construction on the new pump house will begin soon.

**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 offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Roll call vote.**

**Unanimously approved.**

**RESOLUTION** authorizing the Mayor to execute a retainer agreement for legal services related to settlement claims as it relates to Dupont and 3M Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF) offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Trustee Alter. **Roll call vote. Unanimously approved.**

**RESOLUTION** authorizing settlement of litigation offered by Trustee O'Malley and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Roll call vote. Unanimously approved.**

*Village Labor Counsel*

**MOTION** authorizing the Mayor to execute the three-year Retainer Renewal Agreement between the Village of Hoosick Falls and Roemer Wallens Gold & Mineaux LLP for the term of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026, retroactive to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Unanimously approved.**

*New Proposed Local Law*

**MOTION** to introduce proposed Local Law amending the Village's Zoning offered by Trustee Sauer, seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Passed unanimously.**

**MOTION** to set a public hearing to amend the Village's Zoning at the Village Board Meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 6pm offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Passed unanimously.**

*"Junk Car" and Vacant Property Registry Laws*

The board discussed ways to enforce the removal of "junk cars." Perhaps sending out warning letters before removing the junk car.

*Historic Preservation Commission*

**RESOLUTION** appointing members to the Historic Preservation Commission and designating a chair offered by Trustee Schuttig and seconded by Trustee Sauer. **Roll call vote. Unanimously approved.**

*Town Assessor*

**RESOLUTION** approving intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Hoosick concerning assessor duties offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan and seconded by Trustee O'Malley. **Roll call vote. Unanimously approved.**

*Hoosick Falls Police Department*

**MOTION** to approve budget modifications to transfer \$36,000.00 from the ARPA Funds to the General Allowance Fund offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan, seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

*ERCSWMA (Eastern Rensselaer County Solid Waste Management Authority)*

**MOTION** to authorize the Mayor to execute a 1 year extension contract for trash and recycling, retroactive to September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023, offered by Deputy Mayor Ryan and seconded by Trustee Alter. **Passed unanimously.**

**MOTION** to authorize the Mayor to execute agreement with Dan's Hauling (already bid out and approved by the Board) offered by Trustee Sauer and seconded by Deputy Mayor Ryan. **Passed unanimously.**

**MOTION** to adjourn without executive session made by Deputy Mayor Ryan and seconded by Trustee Schuttig. **Passed unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.

*Respectfully submitted by:  
Clarissa Mango, Village Clerk  
1/19/2024*