

**Town of Hoosick
Regular Board Meeting
Monday December 11, 2023 7:00 pm**

Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jerry McAuliffe, Jackie Houghton, Eric Sheffer, and Supervisor Mark Surdam. William Hanselman was absent.

Previous Meeting(s) Minutes- have been reviewed by the board and are available from the Town Clerk or www.townofhoosick.org .

Reports- Monthly Operating Statement, Abstract of Vouchers, and Revenues have been issued to the Town Board, Clerk, Highway Superintendent, Assessor and Recreation Supervisor.

Welcome/Public Comments- Open time to share thoughts, concerns, and announcements with the Board that are Town related. Please limit remarks to 3 minutes.

- **Nancy Mills-** Nancy was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a letter that was read by Marianne Zwicklbauer. It asked that the town consider a pause on approvals of Solar projects especially with concern to agriculture land in the Town of Hoosick. There is a community member group that is being formed.
- **Mitch with CSN Energy-**Mitch asked the town to exempt the project that is currently in the works from the moratorium as there has been a lot of work already done on this project. Mitch also stated that this is a 20-megawatt project and that if it were to be held up the company could go through the state to have it approved to install. There would be no stopping the project then as state rules would apply.
- **Ken Lorenz-**Solar Law 2018 states that projects can proceed with State approval.
- **Marianne Zwicklbauer-**wants to make sure that Hoosick is protected and that everything that is approved is done correctly and honestly.
- **Dillion Diel-**He would like the town to consider the moratorium and the impact of this on the Town for small residential solar projects. It was discussed by the board and Planning Board Chairman Ken Lorenz, that this does not affect residential solar projects. Supervisor Surdam has informed all in attendance that this issue will be discussed in the meeting.
- **Adria Diel-**Adria would like to make sure that both the zoning and planning boards have a say.

Solar Moratorium-Supervisor Surdam decided to move this to the beginning of the meeting as many were in attendance for this reason. It has been discussed that a 12-month moratorium will be put in place with the ability to end the moratorium at any time by resolution and approval from the board. A public hearing is scheduled for January 3rd at 6:30PM. There will be a committee to work on solar.

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to approve the public hearing to consider a 12-month moratorium for large scale solar projects. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Correspondence/Announcements

- **Thank you Card from J.A. Bradley & Sons 110 years in Business public acknowledgement we held last month.**
- **Letter from Assemblyman Scott Bendett-** Will be hosting a Rural Equity Forum on Wednesday, Dec 13th from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building.
- **E-mail from Jay Wilson, Director of Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety-** passing on information in ref to The County not being able to meet the State and federal thresholds to obtain any reimbursements.
- **E-mail from Ann Shaughnessy, Rensselaer County EMC-** Announcing the 2024 Household Hazardous Waste events;
 - **5/18 Troy**
 - **7/27 Schodack**
 - **9/14 Brunswick**
 - **10/19 Bethlehem**

Town Clerk's Report

- **Monthly Report-**The Clerk's report for the month of November is as follows: \$12,306.50 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$2,533.21.
- **Facility Use-**There were no facility use requests for the month of December.
- **Letter of Resignation-** Annette Nealon has resigned from the positions of Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Records Management effective 11/17/23.

Assessor's Report

- **Report-**Tiffany reports that there will be a phone conference on 12/15/2023 regarding a status check. Rensselaer County Assessors met on 11/16/2023 to discuss local law for aged and disability exemptions that should be passed at the next legislative session in the county. They were waiting on the town budgets. The RP-467 worksheet is to be filled out by any resident that does not file yearly taxes. Assessor certification class schedule is updated and posted on the NYS ORPTS website. The next meeting is scheduled for 12/14/2023. Enhanced Star income verification forms have been mailed out to the residents who do not file taxes. This form does need to be filled out and returned or your exemption will be removed, and you will be put back into the Basic Star category. NYS increased the limit for enhanced star for 2024-2025 roll year. 2023-2024 roll was \$93,200 and 2024-2025 roll is \$98,700. Since mailing out the exemptions, there has been an increase in calls. Renewal forms are being returned daily. Classes that are coming up are Fundamentals of Mass Appraisal and Introduction to Farm Appraisal. Tiffany has completed Ethics and the Assessor Class on December 8th.

Superintendent of Highway's Report

- **Report-** Paul states that the highway has been trimming back brush on the roads. Ditching, trees, and brush have been taken care of on Cobble Hill. Wilson Hill has been worked on as well. The turf has been taken up at the rink and is ready for the winter season. The rolls have been numbered and placed on a rack. The oil tank has been changed in the utility room. A check for CHIPS reimbursement should be coming soon. All paperwork has been submitted. The town will have to replace the zero-turn mower for the upcoming season. Will be contacting JC Tractor regarding this. Street lights in North Hoosick has not been addressed by National Grid and will need to be addressed.

- **Cottrell Road Bridge Update-** Bridge remains open to single lane traffic and is posted at 15 tons. Engineer report has been forwarded to Joe Steller.

Town Historian

- **Report-** Rick was not available for the meeting.

Code Enforcement

- **Report-** Jared supplied his report to the board via email and is on file in the Town Clerk’s office.

Recreation

- **Rink Manager Ayla Senecal is requesting the following staff for the rink;**
Tyler Peabody, Mackenna Roberson, Jessica Haynes, Jordan Hill, Carson Glover, Rich Stifter, Sam Fauler, Lila Coon, Garrett Emerson, Aliviah Richard, Lacie Paterson, Owen Kelly, all at the 2024 minimum wage of \$15 per hour. Motion to approve
MOTION
 McAuliffe made the motion to approve the 2023-2024 rink staff. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Ice Maintenance- Motion to approve Tom Marciotta, William Sparks, and Owen Kelly for Ice Maintenance and Zamboni Operators at \$24.00 per hour.**
MOTION
 Sheffer made the motion to approve Tom Marciotta, William Sparks, and Owen Kelly for Ice Maintenance and Zamboni Operators at \$24.00 per hour. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Town of Hoosick Skating Rink Employee Handbook 2023-2024- Motion to approve**
MOTION
 Houghton made the motion to approve the Skating Rink Employee Handbook 2023-2024 with some minor changes made. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Town Of Hoosick Skating Rink Season Pass 2024-** Individual pass with skates \$75, Individual pass without skates \$45, Family Pass (includes 2 adults and 3 children) \$125- **Motion to approve.**
MOTION
 Sheffer made a motion to approve the skating rink season pass 2023-2024. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Town Of Hoosick Learn to Skate Program-** Sign ups Tuesday 12/26 5pm to 7pm and Sunday 1/7 9am to 12pm \$40 per person for Hoosick Resident, \$50 per person Non Hoosick Resident. **Motion to approve.**
MOTION
 Houghton made a motion to approve pricing for Learn to Skate program. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Pool Manager and Assistant Manager- The Town is accepting applications for these positions.**

Supervisor Surdam’s Report

Supervisor Surdam will include his monthly report at the next meeting.

Town Council Reports

Deputy Supervisor Sheffer- Comprehensive plan update-Eric will contact David Gilmore to set the next date to meet. Military Banners-The Legion is taking the lead for the banners. They have the support from both the town and the village with the banners. Eric submitted a letter of support to school for the Agricultural program and the community garden.

Councilperson McAuliffe- Jerry states that the military banners will be a great thing for the community. He thinks they may run out of poles to hang the banners on. There was a question on if the National Guard is qualified for the banners and the answer is yes, they are qualified.

Councilperson Hanselman- Thank you to Paul for the help with the turf. Bill would also like to make sure that we stay moving forward with the Cottrell Bridge replacement and make sure that the letter for the grant is submitted in time to be considered.

Councilperson Houghton- Street lights in North Hoosick are being worked on. Working with National Grid to try and get them out here to get the lights changed and working again.

New Business

- **2023 Inner Budget Transfers- Motion to approve**

MOTION

Sheffer made a motion to approve the 2023 inner budget transfers. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Proposed Town of Hoosick Local Law No. 1 of 2024.** A public hearing has been scheduled for January 3rd at 6:30 pm to put in place the Local Law establishing a temporary land use Moratorium prohibiting large/commercial scale solar installations within the Town of Hoosick.

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to approve the public hearing for January 3rd at 6:30pm to put in place the proposed Town of Hoosick Local Law #1 of 2024 a temporary land use Moratorium prohibiting large/commercial scale solar installations within the Town of Hoosick. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Assessment Review Board- Joyce Whalen's** term expired Sept 30, 2023, Joyce will not be returning to the Board. **Motion to approve Anthony Rice** to the Assessment Review Board for a 5-year term to expire Sept 30, 2028.

MOTION

McAuliffe made a motion to approve Anthony Rice to the Assessment Review Board for a 5-year term to expire September 30, 2028. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried. Supervisor Surdam states that Tony will be a great addition to the board.

- **Procedure to increase Town Clerk's and Town Highway Superintendents 2024 salary-**This will need to be done by a resolution followed by a public hearing which will be held in February.
- **Town & Village Assessor Agreement-** The agreement will need to be reviewed. Jackie suggested Tiffany should review this agreement and let the board know if any changes need to be made.

Old Business

- **Zoning Law re-writes update-** This is still in progress waiting for the comprehensive plan to be updated.
- **Troy & Banks, Inc. Utility rebate search- Update** the recent Nextiva sales tax issue has been addressed.

- **Town of Hoosick Road Asset Management Plan- Update-** Highway Superintendent has confirmed the information that was recently provided. We expect to hear back from Stantec soon.
- **Executive Session- Executive Session-Entered into executive session to discuss a legal issue and a personnel issue at 8:21 PM**

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to enter executive session. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Executive session-Ended executive session at 8:54 PM

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to exit the executive session. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried. No decisions were made.

For specific questions about the public water supply: Email: bpwsp@health.ny.gov, phone: 518-402-7650

For specific questions about private wells: Email: beei@health.ny.gov, phone: 518-402-7860

For specific questions about blood testing: Email: beoe@health.ny.gov, phone: 518-402-7950

New York State Water Quality Hotline, 800-801-8092, is available, Monday-Friday 9am-8pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

Scheduled Meetings-

Scheduled Meetings- Zoning Board meets the First Monday of the month; **Planning Board** meets the third Monday of the month. These meetings are held at 7pm in the Court Room of the HAYC3 Armory. **The Planning Board meeting and the Zoning Board meeting will be held via ZOOM just as the regular monthly meeting was held.** Meeting minutes are available online @ www.townofhoosick.org or from the Town Clerk.

Adjournment

McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:54 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Bills Paid Abstract #12 2023 Vouchers 599-668

General A	\$	19,243.68
General B	\$	11,966.27
Highway DA	\$	-----
Highway DB	\$	21,026.54
Capital Fund H	\$	8,675.97
Fire Protection	\$	-----
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	5,101.96
Total:	\$	66,014.42

Respectfully submitted,
Holli Cross, Town Clerk