

**Town of Hoosick
Regular Board Meeting
Monday August 14, 2023 7:00 pm**

Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

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

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.

- **Please join us for a moment of silence in honor of Dr. Marcus Martinez who meant so much too so many in our community.**
- **Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad-Jim Monahan-**Jim presented the board with an update on the Town of Hoosick Rescue Squad. He stated that he met with Mark and Eric regarding the situation with the Rescue Squad and the Cambridge Rescue Squad. Jim states that there is a need for EMS personnel. Daytime and nighttime. He foresees that in the future there will be a switch from volunteers to a paid status for providing EMS care. The Rescue Squad is trying to put together a future 3–5-year plan. This will help in trying to secure budget monies either by grants that they apply for or asking the Town to increase the amount that is given to the organization through budget monies. Jim encourages everyone who may have any questions to give him a call.

Correspondence/Announcements

- **Commemoration of the Battle of Bennington August 16th, at 7pm at the Bennington Battlefield.** This year marks the 246th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington.
- **The August 2023 Hoosick Township Historical Society letter** is available featuring articles in ref to the History of the Hoosick Falls Community Band Celebrating 150 Years, Liberty St After the Nancy Shoe Company both written by Carol Gaillard and more.
- We received an email from John Jennings of Harter Seacrest & Emery LLP re-announcing the planned takeover of operations of the Pan Am Southern railroad by the Berkshire & Eastern, a subsidiary of Genesee & Wyoming Railroad, Inc. The new target switchover date is Sept 1, 2023.

- We received an email from Jim Bonesteel representing the Rensselaer Plateau making sure we are aware that DEC has announced Round 2 of the Community Forest Conservation Grant Program and offering to assist us in anyway if there is any interest.

Town Clerk's Report

- **Monthly Report**-The Clerk's report for the month of June is as follows: \$14,941.00 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$14,014.84.

- **Facility Use Request-Hoosick Falls Youth Football & Cheer**
MOTION

Hanselman made the motion to approve the Hoosick Falls Fire Department request for July 3rd. pending the insurance proof. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Cintas**-Holli discussed with the board the AED that is being used at the Pool and Summer Camp. The Philips AED has a recall on its pads and it has been hard to get the replacement needed for the unit. Cintas has a unit that we can buy or we can make a service agreement with them to manage the unit or units. They have submitted a quote to us in the amount of \$250 per month for two units. They did not include a purchase price for the unit.
- **Granicus**-Jenn reached out to me to see if we would be interested in trying a product for making the monthly agenda and minutes. They have software that can produce this each month. Discussed with the board and Holli told them that she was not interested in the minute portion of the software. Supervisor Surdam stated that he would not be interested in the agenda portion of the software either.
- **Cleaning**-Annette has stated that she is unable to do the cleaning for the Town offices as of Friday August 4th. We received a letter of interest from Debora Hall and Cassie Kinney. The board reviewed. They stated that since Cassie is already working for the town and is available to do it, that she would be the better of the choices.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve Cassie as the new cleaner for the town offices. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Assessor's Report

- **Report**-Tiffany states that she is implementing welcome packets to new homeowners within the town. This is initiated by receiving the filed deed from the county. The packet will include information for exemptions and a sales verification sheet.
- **GAR**-Tiffany had a conference call with GAR to find out the next step for the Re-eval for 2024. GAR is reviewing residential model sales, updating parcel inventory, and running new numbers for review in September.
- **Exemptions**-Rensselaer County is raising the financial limit for senior exemptions, in return, eliminating the medical expense and sliding scale. The town will need to decide on the limit and the impact it will have. NY State requested a cleanup of the Enhanced Star IVP online system. Tiffany states that she has been trying to clean up many different reports that have been requested.
- **CS Energy Project**-The developer called and requested a list of parcels within 500 feet of the project parcel so they would be able to mail out letters for the public hearing. There has been

no date set that Tiffany is aware of for the hearing. Tiffany also called the county about Notice and she is waiting for a call back with that information.

- **Data Collection/Building Permits**-Tiffany has been working on data collection and following up on open building permits. She has been adding new inventory to the system and removing old inventory as needed.

Superintendent of Highway's Report

- **Report**-Paul reports that on a seasonal road (John Henry Road) people have been dumping construction materials. He has looked through some of it and there are no names attached to it. He asked a few homeowners in the area if they had seen any kind of vehicles going in and out of there. He is waiting for more information.
- **Cottrell Bridge**-Paul received an email from DOT stating the Cottrell Bridge is now red flagged and that a plan will need to be sent to DOT by September 13th. Paul has three options. Hire an engineer to see what needs to be done to keep the bridge the way it currently is. Have the County Engineer determine if it can be used at a lower weight limit, maybe for passenger cars only, or close it completely. The decision was to contact the county engineer to see if the bridge can be used for passenger cars only.
- **Chip Sealing/Paving**-Paul states that the highway department is behind schedule with paving and chip sealing. The department cannot get the blacktop as quickly as intended. Paul has to call a couple of days ahead of schedule to order it and he may or may not be able to get it when he wants to use it due to the huge road projects going on in Vermont and New York. The stone has been received and the plan is to try and chip seal the week of the 24th and the second or third week of September to pave Wilson Hill.
- **Athletic Field**-The trees are down, and all cleaned up. Roots from the trees will have to be taken out before the courts are fixed.
- **Stantec**-The asset management plan for roads is underway. Stantec would like to review the plan that Paul created for the board at last month's meeting.

Town Historian

- **Report**- Rick was not available.

Code Enforcement

- **Report**- Jared emailed his report to the board for review.

Recreation

- **Ashley St Onge Summer Camp Manager Report**-Ashley reports that Amanda had come and inspected day camp. Ashley states that the pool was closed for that day due to rain. She had everything for Amanda to review. There were no violations. This is week 7 for camp and it is the last week. There will be different activities going on every day and the kids will be having a pancake breakfast on Friday. This year every week has been full. Ashley states on a side note that she assists with Field Hockey Camp and that the girls appreciate the turf being down in the rink for them to practice with.

- **Sydney Stowell Pool Manager Report**-Sydney submitted her report to the board. Admission numbers for this month were an average of 18 swimmers per day for morning swim. Open/Family swim was an average of 78 swimmer per day.
- **Swimming Lessons**-Session 2 had 35 participants and Session 3 that wraps up this Friday has 65 participants. The total number of participants this summer was 128 children.
- **DOH Inspection**-Amanda from Rensselaer County Health Department came and performed the inspection on July 27th. The pool passed and there were no major violations.
- **Final Days**-The last day the pool will be open is August 25th. During the last week the hours will be from 1-4. Morning swim will not be affected.

Supervisor Surdam's Report

- I attended a HFCS safety meeting with the School Superintendent, the new HF Police Chief, and the mayor.
- Eric & I met with Jim Monahan re Town of Hoosick Rescue 6–8-year plan, current discussions with CVRS, future funding, and a few other thoughts and ideas pertaining to the Town of Hoosick Rescue.
- I responded to a county survey in ref to animal shelters.
- Board meeting agenda & prep.
- Many of us have been aware for some time that the County had a goal to make a change for the seniors which would involve moving out of the Murphy Building. As Town Supervisor I was contacted by Rensselaer County on Monday July 24th as to their plans to purchase the Dollar Tree in order to create a new, “state of the art” Senior Center facility which will also be the new local satellite office for the NYS DMV and the County Mental Health services. I expressed during the phone call that I do support the idea of an improved facility but my immediate response to the County was to ask that they not leave an empty, worthless building in the downtown area of the Village. I was satisfied that there was no intent to hurt the Village, the new facility will be a tremendous upgrade for the seniors, DMV, and Mental Health and was assured we will discuss what is best for the Murphy Building based on its overall condition and what is best for the Village as a part of the overall project.

My fulltime job as the Village Code Enforcement Officer has resulted in me being very actively involved in inspecting and reporting to the Village Board and the County Officials my observations during the recent inspection of the Murphy Building. My inspection report is available on the Village website. Overall, I believe the building is structurally sound, but it needs a lot of work. My initial stated concern has not changed. It is my personal hope and expectation that we will be able to work with Rensselaer County to make the necessary repairs

and upgrades to the Murphy Building so that it will continue to be an active and viable part of the Village for years to come.

Town Council Reports

Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-

- **Comprehensive Plan update**-This still needs to be worked on. Only received a few pages of updates and not the entire plan as expected. Will keep trying to get this. Eric has left messages again for Nicole with no return call.
- **Military Banners**-Bob Decker and Eric are working on getting an application and figuring out how to collect money for the banners. More information to come.

Councilperson McAuliffe- Jerry just wanted to add in about the skating rink turf. Also how bad the courts actually look.

Councilperson Hanselman- The board opened and reviewed bids for the roof. Two bids were received. One from Barry LaPort that did not meet the specifications of the bid and the other bid was from Titan Roofing, Inc. Bids came in a lot higher than expected. The board has decided to table this matter for now.

Councilperson Houghton- Jackie has been working on getting the basketball/tennis courts paved. The board opened and reviewed bids for this project. There was only one bid received. David Browe Paving. This bid did not include the asphalt. The town was going to buy under the OGS pricing. Trucking was going to be provided by David Browe Paving. Paul stated he would get a price for the blacktop. This was also tabled for now.

New Business

- **2023 Inner Budget Transfers**-There was an inner budget transfer for this month for Recreation in the amount of \$1,000 and Attorney in the amount of \$5,000.
MOTION
Sheffer made the motion to approve the inner budget transfers. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **2023 Budget Modification to pay for the approved BB/Tennis Court Rehabilitation Project**- This is tabled for now.
- **2023 Budget Modification to pay for the approved Reynolds/Gilchrist Rink Roof Repair Project**. This is tabled for now.
- **Mass Gathering Permit Application** from State Line Riders Motorcycle Club for Labor Day Weekend on Cipperly Property at 143 Cipperly Road. After a brief discussion, the board approved the Mass Gathering with the stipulation that a current insurance policy be sent to the town.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve the mass gathering permit for State Line Riders pending the submission of a current insurance policy. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Support Letter Request for National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program Grant.**

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve the support letter for National Park Service American Battlefield Protection Program Grant. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Rensselaer County to move Senior Center to Dollar Tree.** Rensselaer County has approved the move of the Senior Center from the Murphy Building located in the Village of Hoosick Falls to the old Dollar Tree Store on Route 22 in the Town.
- **LL #1 of 2023 Moratorium on Applications for Cannabis Retail Dispensaries-**the board discussed the possibility of removing the Moratorium since more information has been obtain on this. The board decided to table until next month for further discussion and review.
- **Troy & Banks, Inc. Renewal Request-** Supervisor Surdam discussed this with the board members and explained that Troy and Banks had done something similar to this a few years ago. This does not cost the town any money for them to review.

MOTION

Houghton made the motion to approve the renewal request with Troy & Banks. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Tennis Court Wall Repair revised quote-** the board reviewed the revised quote for the stone wall near the tennis courts. The board decided to hold off on this for now until a decision has been made about the courts.
- **Town Offices Cleaning Position-** As previously mentioned, Annette has verbally resigned from doing the cleaning for the Town offices. Casandra Kinney, who currently works for the town, has offered to pick up the cleaning position. We also did receive a letter of interest from Debra Hall. The board has decided to let Casandra do the cleaning since she is already an employee of the town.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve Casandra Kinney as the new cleaner for the town. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Former Monolith Solar facility located in the Town at the previous site of the Village Landfill.** The Zoning Board has discussed this and
- **Hawthorne Solar Array Project-** This was discussed in the Assessor report with Tiffany.
- **Livingston Charge Port \$2592.00 Invoice for maintenance and software updates.** Supervisor Surdam does not remember seeing anything in the contract with the charging stations that would require us to be billed for any maintenance or software updates. The board stated that they did not think this should be a cost to the town. Attorney Schopf will look into the National Grid requirements that were not initially received by the town when the project initially was completed.
- **AED-**As previously mentioned, Holli was told that the Philips AED has a recall on the pads, and this is why replacement pads are so hard to get for this unit. She is being told that they may not be able to provide them. The unit probably should be replaced. The only AED unit this affects is

the unit used at the rink and the pool. This unit needs to have both adult and child size pads. ZOLL provides a unit that uses one set of pads and a button on the unit that will provide a different jolt for a child. Pricing is needed on this unit. As previously said, Cintas is willing to oversee the units if the Town desires to move in this direction.

- **Reynolds/Gilchrist Rink unauthorized use-** The board discussed the use of the rink and decided that an adult needs to be present with any children using the rink. Supervisor Surdam will discuss this with the individuals using the rink.

Old Business

- **Zoning Law re-writes update-** Still waiting on the full comprehensive plan from LaBerge. In the previous email received, the changes that the town is looking for were not included.
- **\$925,000 Recreation SAM Grant-** Everything is complete on our end. Recent Update- we have heard from the DASNY in response to Supervisor Surdam's email and we have been told we are still waiting for final approval. **Sadly**, there is nothing new to report.

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](tel: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.

- **Executive Session-**The board called an executive session to discuss a personal matter.

MOTION 8:48pm

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

Executive Session ended 9:03pm

MOTION

Houghton made the motion to end the executive session with no decision. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Adjournment

Houghton made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:03pm pending the signing of vouchers, Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Bills Paid Abstract #8 2023 Vouchers 414-476

General A	\$	29,481.16
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General B	\$	22,753.55
Highway DA	\$	236.94
Highway DB	\$	43,969.60
Capital Fund H	\$	7,278.58
Fire Protection	\$	-----
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>1,767.96</u>
Total:	\$	105,487.79

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross
Town Clerk