

**Town of Hoosick  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday March 8, 2021 7:00 pm**

***Our Town Board meeting is open to the public with limited seating available. The meeting can be seen live via the internet at [Zoom.com](https://zoom.us) or the Hoosick New York Facebook Page, note there is a Facebook link through the Town of Hoosick Web- Site [www.townofhoosick.org](http://www.townofhoosick.org).***

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** William Hanselman, Jerry McAuliffe, Eric Sheffer, Supervisor Mark Surdam (Zoom) and Jackie Houghton (Zoom)

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

**Statement from the Town Board-** The media reporting of a portion of the re-drafting of the proposed Town Zoning Law regarding the use of dirt-bikes and ATVs was not accurate. The Town Board is not taking any action with regard to passing legislation at tonight's meeting. At last month's meeting a draft zoning law that had been prepared by the Town Attorney was discussed. The zoning law updates as well as the use of dirt-bikes and ATVs in the Town has been discussed at numerous meetings and has been a work in progress over the last year. The Town Board is reviewing this draft and soon will schedule public workshop sessions as well as seeking input from the Planning and Zoning Boards to reach a final draft version of the law. After this final draft version of the law is prepared a public hearing will be held and comments considered and, if appropriate, acted upon prior to the final vote on the implementation of the law. As with the existing law, a portion of this law deals with the regulation of dirt bikes, ATVs and other off-road vehicles within the Town. The intent of the law, as with all zoning laws, is to provide a balance between the competing interests of property owners. The Town is seeking to ensure that the requirements of the zoning code are complied with, while still allowing the reasonable use of private property for dirt-bike and ATV riding. The Town Board is in no way seeking to prohibit the reasonable use of private property for normal and customary family dirt-bike and ATV riding. This summer, the Town Zoning Board of Appeals issued an interpretation of the Town Zoning code regarding "personal" and "commercial" use of dirt-bikes and ATVs. The proposed zoning law takes this interpretation into consideration and is the reason that the portion of the law dealing with these uses has been redrafted and is being re-considered.

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

- **We answered public questions throughout the meeting as they come in.**
  - **Wendy Larson-**A letter was handed in to the Town Board regarding the revisions to the Land Use Law for the use of dirt bikes and ATV's on private properties. She states that as a realtor
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it is going to be hard to sell land to people and explain to them that if they decide to ride dirt bikes and ATV's that they cannot do so because of this new change in the law. As an owner of property and a son that is looking to ride professionally, there may be a time that he will want to practice on the land that is personally owned. This is not fair if this goes into effect based on one particular property that is causing the problem. The changes affect all land owners, not just one in particular.

### **Correspondence/Announcements**

- St Patrick's Day Parade Committee Letter
- Census 2020 Thank You.

### **COVID-19 Review, effects and discussion**

- NYS Coronavirus hotline: 888-364-3065
- NYS Coronavirus emotional support hotline: 844-863-9314
- NYS Coronavirus website: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov>

### **Basic Precautions**

- Practice Social Distancing.... Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Staying home when you are sick.
- Covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe.
- Constantly practicing good hand hygiene.

### **Town Clerk's Report**

- **Monthly Report**-The Clerk's report for the month of February is as follows: \$ 1,427.00 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$795.31.
- **Facilities Use Request**-Facility use request was received by both the Girl Scout Troop and Southern Vermont Storm. There was also a request in January for the Hoosick Falls Central School to use the rink for practice and when the turf is able to be laid, they would like to schedule time to use that for other sports.

#### **MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to approve Vermont Storm to use the fields when available. Dates will have to be scheduled with Holli to make sure availability is there for use. Jerry seconded. All ayes carried.

#### **MOTION**

McAuliffe made the motion to approve the Girl Scout Troop to use the rink April 24, 2021. Sheffer seconded. All ayes carried.

- **Key Bank Fee's Issue-** The board discussed the issue that was happening with the fees being charged to the account. I told the board that Key Bank would not reverse the fee. The board stated that this maybe all part of doing business. I was told by the bank it is because of the balances that are left in the accounts at the end of the year.
- **Virtual Town Clerk Classes-**Classes are going to be held virtually this year for the Town Clerk Conference. This will be held April 24, 26-28. A lot of good classes are being provided.

### **Assessor's Report**

- **Assessment Review Board-** Still in need of one for the Board of Assessment review. Tony has been working on exemptions and processing the agriculture exemptions along with the not for profit exemptions. The deadline was March 1<sup>st</sup> so all of the changes are now being input into the system.

### **Superintendent of Highway's Report**

- **Cottrell Road Bridge- Motion to advertise RFP for the project with submittals**  
**MOTION**  
Sheffer made the motion to approve advertisement for RFP for the project with submittals. Hanselman seconded. All ayes carried.
- **Plan for Road Repair-** Paula was looking for a road plan. Going by the Cornell road report, the town will need to know how much is needed to repair roads each year. Bill will need to get the 384 agreement in place and to see how much CHIPS money will be coming in. Bill would like to finish Wilson Hill this year.

### **Town Historian**

- Phil explained what happened to him this past week and his car. He thanked Mark for helping. Joyce has written a grant with the library for the museum to have all of the microfilms digitized. This will take up to 7 months. It will cost about \$1,800 for the Old cemetery books (Maple Grove) to be put into better shape. Phil invites everyone to come to the museum, it is full of history. He has volunteered with the museum for 22 years and will be 95 in May.

### **Recreation**

- **Rink- The schedule and the phone are available under Recreation at our web site [www.townofhoosick.org](http://www.townofhoosick.org) . The phone number is 518-686-4833. COVID-19 protocols are in effect, please be prepared to provide contract tracing information upon entry.**
- **Ice Skating March Report- Rink is now closed.** Thank you to all of the workers. Nick and Tom for taking care of the ice. Ayla states that the rink made out well this year.
- **Recreation SAM Grant-** This is on hold for now. Nothing is moving at the state level.
- **Rink Lighting Project-** New Exterior Lights have been installed. We will try to coordinate interior light installation prior to installing the turf.
- **Rink Sound System –** Tom fixed the sound system, \$150 for a speaker and it seems to be working fine.

- **Summer Camp-** It's time to start thinking about and planning for the 2021 pool season.  
**Motion** to appoint Ashley St. Onge as Camp Director and Jillian Maser as Assistant Camp Director.  
**Motion**  
Houghton made the motion to appoint Ashley as Camp Director and Jillian Maser as the Assistant for the 2021 Camp. Sheffer seconded. All ayes carried.
- **Pool** – Kim Brownell had some ideas that she would like to throw out to everyone. She states that her thoughts on Morning swim would be 7:30-9:30 and maybe add an evening lap swim time from 5-6. Swimming lessons she was thinking of doing evening times or maybe even a weekend day so that parents are able to bring their own children. She would also like to add maybe a family time or tween activities to the pool.

### **Supervisor Surdam's Report**

- COVID-19 infection- I did contract the COVID-19 virus so I spent some time at home in isolation then at home in quarantine. I became sick on 2/9, tested positive on 2/10 and was home through 2/21. Although I did have symptoms to deal with I am thankful the symptoms were not severe and did not involve any respiratory issues.
- I met with Pool Manager Kim Brownell to start the conversation on the 2021 pool season.
- I attended a virtual meeting with Jeffrey Baxter from USource Energy in ref to Community Solar options.
- We held a virtual emergency Town Board meeting to discuss some Armory issues that needed to be addressed and then we went into Executive Session to consult with our Town Attorney in ref to the ongoing motocross track legal issue at the Desrosier Property on Eagle Bridge Rd. in West Hoosick. When we exited the Executive Session a motion was passed authorizing our Town Attorney to prepare the legal papers necessary in anticipation of taking appropriate legal action if needed should the motocross track in West Hoosick reopen in violation of the Town's local existing zoning law.
- I have received many e-mails from West Hoosick property owners who continue to voice their concerns with the anticipated operation of the motocross track again this spring and the negative impacts of their properties. Some are concerned with the social media posts which are negative, some personal and some can be perceived as threatening towards neighbors in the area.

I have spoken with and received a letter from Peter Stockus who is Government Relations Manager, Off-Highway of the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA) expressing concerns with zoning efforts that seek to restrict the operation of recreational off-highway motorcycle riding on one's private property. I did explain to him that the issues with this particular track have to do with existing zoning law, commercial vs personal use, and the rights of all property owners in the area. In his letter he did state that "The AMA is particularly worried about the blurred definition between a commercial and recreational motocross track and encourages

the board to support the property rights of local residents”. “In conclusion, the AMA asks that you support the property rights of residents and search search for compromise”.

- I attended a quick virtual meeting with Josh & Nicole from LaBerge as we begin to move forward with our Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update.
- I attended a Virtual Round Table meeting with NY-19 community leaders and Congressman Delgado in ref to state and local funding provisions in the latest House-passed COVID rescue package.
- I was recently asked to participate on the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) Policy Board representing Rensselaer County as a Town elected official for 2 years. The first year is as an alternate then the second year as a voting member. I expect to attend my first meeting June 3<sup>rd</sup> this year.

### **Town Council Reports**

**Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-** Eric stated that in a week or so the packet for insurance should be arriving for the renewal. He states that this should be easy as the appraisals for everything was completed last year. Eric also mentioned that a letter from the town and village should be done and sent to Price Chopper in respect to the merger just announced Monday. Tops Market is a very vital part of this community and this will need to be addressed with them so they know that this store is important to the community members. Armory Board would like to have written protocols between the Armory and the Town stating who is responsible for what for the winter months. Also moving forward once everything is able to start opening back up, who will be responsible for the scheduling of events in the Armory.

**Councilperson McAuliffe-** Jerry stated that he came over with the sanitizing machine from Immaculate Conception Church and sanitized all of the offices. He would like to just thank Father Tom for letting the town use this for this purpose. The Railroad along with Bruce, Jeff, Daphne Jordon, Jake Ashby, and others will meet at 5pm on Thursday to discuss the piece of railway that is still unstable. It sounds like Pan Am sold the railway from Mechanicville to Boston to CSX and this is why everything is taking a long time to resolve.

**Councilperson Hanselman-** Bill said that the turf will need to be put down after the interior lighting goes in. The turf will also have to warm up a bit before laying it out so that it will not get ruined when laying it out.

**Councilperson Houghton-** Nothing for this month.

### **New Business**

- **2020 Inner Budget Transfer as requested- Motion** to approve as requested.

#### **MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to approve 2020 Inner Budget Transfers. Houghton seconded. All ayes carried.

- **Budget Modification(s) If needed.** No modifications are required this month.

- **Local COVID-19-** Updates & Discussion: Things seem to opening back up and going in the right direction.
- Supervisor Surdam was nominated and approved to become a member of the Capital District Transportation Committee (CDTC) Policy Board.
- **Renewal of Inter-municipal Agreement-** Renewal of Inter-municipal agreement with the Village of Hoosick Falls in regards to the duties performed by the Town Assessor for assessment duties that relate to parcels within the Village. Motion to approve **Resolution #51** of 2021 to renew the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Village of Hoosick Falls in regards to the duties performed by the Town Assessor for assessment duties that relate to parcels within the Village.

**MOTION**

Hanselman made the motion to approve **Resolution #51** of 2021 to renew the Inter-municipal Agreement with the Village of Hoosick Falls in regards to the duties performed by the Town Assessor for assessment duties that relate to parcels within the Village. McAuliffe seconded. All ayes carried.

**Old Business**

- **On-Line General Town Code- Nothing new on this.**
- **Naturae, LLC ongoing odor issue- No update this month.**
- **Noise/Track issue- This was discussed in the meeting earlier.** Supervisor Surdam has posted the Track Statement on the Town Facebook Page and on Mark's personal page as well. Should anyone have concerns, please send an email to mark at hoosicksupervisor@gmail.com
- **Spectrum Northeast, LLC Franchise Renewal Agreement- Motion** to approve **Resolution #52** of 2021 and to accept the 10 year Spectrum franchise renewal agreement. Also authorized Supervisor Surdam to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town.

**MOTION**

- McAuliffe made the motion to approve **Resolution #52** of 2021 and to accept the 10 year Spectrum franchise renewal agreement. Also authorized Supervisor Surdam to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town. Sheffer seconded. All ayes carried.
- **Woods Brook project update.** This project will go from Johnson Hill Road down to the Village line.
- **Armory Phone System upgrade project update.** There are a few issues that are being worked out with the new phones now in.
- **Public Employer Emergency Planning Requirement-** A new law signed by Governor Cuomo on 9/7/20 requires public employers to create plans to protect employees and contractors in the event of another public health emergency declaration in NYS- **Motion to approve Resolution #53** of 2021 to accept the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for the Town of Hoosick.

**MOTION**

- Sheffer made the motion to approve **Resolution #53** of 2021 to accept the Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for the Town of Hoosick. McAuliffe seconded. All ayes carried.
- **Zoning Law Update-** This was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

- **Town of Hoosick Comprehensive Plan Update-** Kick Off Meeting was held Monday Feb 1<sup>st</sup>. Next Meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Please make sure to get the surveys into Mark by the deadline.
- **IT Discussion on new Code Enforcement Software proposal from Edmunds.** Supervisor Surdam is waiting on a quote for the Code Enforcement Software from Edmunds. The Village uses this software and it works nicely.
- **Code Enforcement Position- Motion to appoint Lloyd Moses** as the new Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer for the Town of Hoosick with the understanding that he has 18 months to complete the required NYS training. This was tabled to review other applications that had been received. Mark to call or interview them and a special meeting will be announced to appoint one of them.
- **Armory Lease-** Court issues were addressed with the Armory lease. The doors are going to be an issue with defendants coming in and out of the Armory. They cannot strictly use just the front door as the metal detector is very sensitive and will go out of calibration if it is moved. The board discussed and will speak with the building committee regarding the concerns of the court.
- **Planning Board Attorney- Note-** We had tabled this appointment during the Organizational Meeting. **Resolution # 17** of 2021 base on the Planning Board Recommendation appointing **Brian Lyda Sr.** as the Planning Board Attorney for 2021.

**Motion**

Sheffer made the motion to approve **Resolution #17** of 2021 approving Brian Lyda, Sr. as the Planning Board Attorney for 2021. Houghton seconded. All ayes carried.

*For specific questions about the public water supply: Email: [bpwsp@health.ny.gov](mailto:bpwsp@health.ny.gov), phone: 518-402-7650*

*For specific questions about private wells: Email: [bee@health.ny.gov](mailto:bee@health.ny.gov), phone: 518-402-7860*

*For specific questions about blood testing: Email: [beoe@health.ny.gov](mailto: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](http://www.townofhoosick.org) or from the Town Clerk.

- **Executive Session-None needed.**

**Adjournment**

McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:41 pm pending the signing of vouchers, Hanselman seconded, all ayes carried.

**Bills Paid Abstract #3 2021 Vouchers 106-152**

General A	\$	24,476.59
General B	\$	13,988.22
Highway DA	\$	-----
Highway DB	\$	45,318.32
Capital Fund H	\$	800.00
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>6,250.79</u>
Total:	\$	90,833.92

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross  
Town Clerk