

**Town of Hoosick
Regular Board Meeting
Monday September 11, 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.

- **Joyce Brewer-Cemetery Association-** Joyce stated that the Cemetery Association is broke. The previous board was not properly handling the money and he has since resigned. Mowing the cemeteries is a lot of money which requires the most money. With people being cremated and not full burials, this has put a strain on the funds that the association receives during the year. The new Maple Grove Cemetery is 29 acres and the old one is 18 acres. Currently it is \$28,000 to mow for one year. Since the budget process is near, the association was hoping to be able to get a bit of help from the Town in the amount of \$10,000 so that they can continue the upkeep of the cemeteries. Otherwise, they may need to be turned over to the town.
- **Garry Susman regarding Solar Projects-**Gary is concerned about the upcoming solar project that may go in on Wilson Hill. He is concerned that the arrays are going in places that will take away the beauty of areas such as Wilson Hill. He states that most of the residents that are in the surrounding area do not want the solar arrays put in. Gary feels that there are places throughout Hoosick where these solar arrays can be placed, and he is hoping that the town will limit the areas in which they are to be located. He also expressed concern about the Monolith solar array that is on the old dump site. As part of the zoning board, he has concerns that this company did not follow through with the demands of the Zoning Board and nothing has been done to correct this. He feels that this site really needs to have the corrections completed prior to any more solar arrays going in. He asked the board to do a moratorium to cease the solar arrays going in for right now until the one has corrected all the issues.
- **Maryann Zwicklbauer-**Maryann also commented on the solar farms/arrays. She states that East Greenbush and Coxsackie both have moratoriums in place to prevent solar farms/arrays from coming into their towns. Maryann says that there are two terms in the law that state “will

not change the character” and “adversely affect the area”. She states that both of these terms will change the character and appearance of the town and Maryann would like to see this as part of the comprehensive plan.

Correspondence/Announcements

- **The September 2023 Hoosick Township Historical Society letter** is available featuring articles in ref to “Some of our Neighbors who Helped Hoosick Falls Grow”, “Thea Kovage Hambright the New Kid on the Museum Board”, “Hoosick Falls Doctors in the 1800’s and Early 1900’s”, and more.... www.hoosickhistory.com

Town Clerk’s Report

- **Monthly Report**-The Clerk’s report for the month of August is as follows: \$13,158.00 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$3,631.82.
- **Facility Use Request: Girls Modified Lacroix Clinic @ Rink**
MOTION
Sheffer made the motion to approve the Girls JV Lacroix Clinic to use the skating rink for October 1st and November 5th. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Assessor’s Report

- **Report**-Tiffany’s was not available for the meeting but did forward her report to the board. Tiffany reports that new computers will be installed in the assessor’s office. Tiffany has been sending out welcome packets to new residents once she has received the deed from the county. The sales verification sheet is being returned by the new owners. Tiffany reviewed the next step for the 2024 Re-eval with ORTPS. A meeting has been scheduled for later this month with ORTPS and GAR. School tax bills have raised questions on Senior exemptions and enhanced star. Tiffany has been doing data collection and following up on open permits. CS Energy Project was mailed the notice requiring them to apply for the PILOT program when they first approached the county-per Bill Film. The 2024 budget request for the assessor’s office has been submitted to Rae.

Superintendent of Highway’s Report

- **Report**-Paul reports that the storm this past week required quite a bit of tree cleanup from the roads. Thursday the highway department double chip sealed Fog Hill and chip sealed Beck Road. Lower Pine Valley and Cottrell Road will be next. Wilson Hill will be within a couple of weeks to finish paving. The highway department will be helping the Village with paving of River Road to Mechanic Street.
- **Wilson Hill & Fog Hill Road**-Wilson Hill will be paved within the next couple of weeks and Fog Hill was double chip sealed this past week.
- **Cottrell Road Bridge has been Red Flagged by NYSDOT**- The county engineer was out on Thursday to review the status of the bridge. His report will be released by the 13th of September. Paul is hoping to keep the bridge open, but it will depend on the report from the engineer.

- **Pool**-the cover is at the pool and will be put on by the end of the week. Water has been drained and the pumps have been shut off.
- **CS Energy Road Remediation submittal-**

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 camp was successful this year. Every week was full this year with a waiting list for each week. Amanda has all the final paperwork for the camp. The themes this year seemed to be great for each week and the camp ended the last week with a pancake breakfast. Donations to the camp were appreciated and Ashley just wanted to say thank you to all who donated. Ashley also asked about counselors in training for next year. She would like to see this start again. The board will discuss this in the coming year. Ashley also wanted to make sure that the last stall in the girl's bathroom was repaired. Paul stated that it had been fixed.
- **Sydney Stowell Pool Manager Report-**Sydney reported to the board that for the year there was an average of 71 swimmers for open/family swim. There were 19 adult swimmers for morning swim and 112 swimmers for swimming lessons. Sydney also has informed the board that she will not be returning next year as the manager for the pool. We will have to look for someone for the coming pool season.

Supervisor Surdam's Report

- I attended the 246th anniversary of the Battle of Bennington.
- Attended the Senior picnic at the Polish Hall.
- Virtual meeting with Livingston Energy ref invoice for the EV charging stations.
- Paul and I met ref the local road planning project plan with Stantec.
- Virtually attended a Budget Round Table sponsored by the NYS Association of Towns.
- Bill, Paul and I met with the Rensselaer County Engineer at Cottrell Rd. Bridge.
- Held a quick end of year meeting with Ashley & Sydney as we close out the Summer Camp and Pool Season.
- Meeting prep and agenda.

Town Council Reports

Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-

- **Comprehensive Plan update**-Eric was out of town and was not able to follow up with Nicole on the comprehensive plan. Mark called and wanted to incorporate the Solar arrays/farms in the comprehensive plan so that this can all be a part of the review by the different boards. Eric also states that we were able to get the extension on the \$10,000 grant for the comprehensive plan.
- **Military Banners**-Eric is trying to gather the information to get the banners set to put up on the poles. There are many people interested in getting a banner and the issue is having enough volunteers to get this accomplished. Trying to get more together for this task.
- **Island**-the island is in need of clean up again before winter hits. Eric will be looking for volunteers to help with this task.

Councilperson McAuliffe- Jerry attended the zoning public hearing for the solar projects. He also wanted to mention that the Town and the Village both did a great job getting everything cleaned up from the storm.

Councilperson Hanselman- Bill stated that he now has the specs written for the roof at the rink. The board agreed to hold off until springtime to start the bidding process since it will take a few months to go through the process. There is not enough time before winter to get the bids done and the roof completed.

Councilperson Houghton- Jackie stated that the paving crew will be at the courts September 13th and 14th. They will mill and pave the courts. Coating for the courts will happen in the springtime.

New Business

- **2023 Inner Budget Transfers**-There were a few inner budget transfers needed for the month.
MOTION
Sheffer made the motion to approve the inner budget transfers. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **New Solar Project**- Nexamp submitted a new Solar Project to the Zoning Board last Monday which is called Wilson Hill Solar. There has been a lot of talk among the residents about the many large solar projects coming into town. There are also a lot of questions that remain unanswered by the residents regarding the large project by the dump that was installed by Monolithe.
- **Nexamp Solar Project the Town's** estimated legal fees & Engineering letters- NexAmp is sending into the Town of Hoosick a check to cover the cost of the legal fees and engineering cost. This should be received soon. The amounts will have to be tracked so that if more money is required we would be able to request this from the company.
- **Edmunds Gov Tech 2024 IT Budget**- Budget amount received from Edmunds to be included into the budget for 2024 was received and noted.

- **Rte. 22 Paving-** Supervisor Surdam reached out to NYS DOT to find out what the delay is with the paving of Route 22. The issue is the company hired to do the paving project has been fired by New York State DOT and they have no current vendor to finish the paving project at this time. They are hoping to have someone and finish the project before winter hits.

Old Business

- **Zoning Law re-writes update-**Waiting on the Comprehensive plan.
- **\$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.
- **Troy & Banks, Inc. Utility rebate search-** Rae has submitted all the requested bills to Troy and Banks for review.
- **LL #1 of 2023 Moratorium on Applications for Cannabis Retail Dispensaries-** The board has discussed this and will hold a public hearing on October 10th at 6:55pm to end the moratorium.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve **Resolution #54** and to move forward with the public hearing to repeal the moratorium on applications for cannabis retail dispensaries. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Hawthorne Solar Array Project-** This was discussed earlier in the meeting. The board has decided to table this and think about a moratorium for next month.
- **Livingston Charge Port \$2592.00 Invoice for maintenance and software updates.** Verbal update Supervisor Surdam referenced recent Zoom meeting.

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.

- **Executive Session-**The board called an executive session to discuss an environmental attorney’s request to review and respond to possible conflict of interest. Also, the board will be discussing a personnel issue. No decisions are expected.

MOTION 8:41pm

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

Executive Session ended at 9:21pm with no decisions.

MOTION

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

Adjournment

Sheffer made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:22pm pending the signing of vouchers, McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Bills Paid Abstract #9 2023 Vouchers 477-521

General A	\$	9,869.08
General B	\$	8,415.03
Highway DA	\$	748.33
Highway DB	\$	47,051.03
Capital Fund H	\$	2,297.16
Fire Protection	\$	-----
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>2,046.96</u>
Total:	\$	70,427.59

Respectfully submitted,
Holli Cross
Town Clerk