

**Town of Hoosick  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday November 13, 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](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.

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

**J.A. Bradley and Sons-**The Town of Hoosick presented J.A. Bradley and Sons with a plaque for their continued business for 110 years in the Town of Hoosick. The town looks forward to continued business with J.A Bradley and Sons.

**Garrett Wright-**Wanted to mention that the renovations of the Falls Motel over by the school is near completion and will be renting out the units. Some have already been taken but he has more that are available. The board states how much it has improved the look and told him that he has done a great job with the renovations.

**Correspondence/Announcements**

- **The November 2023 Hoosick Township Historical Society letter** is available. There is a new 65” X 50’ Diane Ahrberg Handcrafted Quilt Fundraiser to benefit the Genealogy Preservation Project. [www.hoosickhistory.com](http://www.hoosickhistory.com)
- **Two Owls Holdings LLC-** We received a letter of intent that this company is applying for an Adult Use Recreational Marijuana Dispensary License through NYS.
- **Comp Alliance Safe Workplace Award for 2022 letter-** The enclosed \$1500 award check signifies the Town of Hoosick’s commitment to minimizing workplace accidents and keeping its employees healthy and safe.

**Town Clerk’s Report**

- **Monthly Report-**The Clerk’s report for the month of September is as follows: \$9,465.00 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$1,321.84.
  - **Facility Use-**There were no facility use requests for the month of November.
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### Assessor's Report

- **Report-**Tiffany reported that she is working with GAR and ORPTS for RE-VAL. Tiffany also attended the county assessor meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup>. They discussed Senior Citizens Exemption and adopting the county changes. Also discussed was the volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers' exemption. The Senior Citizens Exemption income limit is being raised and the county will be voting on this in November. This will eliminate the medical deductions and the sliding scale. New York State increased the income limit for Enhanced Star for 2024-2025 Roll Year. Renewal exemption forms have been mailed. Open permits were cross-referenced with the building inspector. Following up on 3<sup>rd</sup> ward permits and travel trailers. Ethics and assessor's class is the last class to take for certification. This is available in December. A voucher for class has been submitted to Rae.

### Superintendent of Highway's Report

- **Report-** 2023 road projects are completed. Paul states that they were not able to pave the 1,100 feet of Bayer Road as planned due to scheduling issues. The blacktop plant in Shaftsbury closed on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Snowplows and sanders are ready to go.
- **Road paving-** Wilson Hill and Fog Hill Road projects are finished.
- **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.
- **Playground Damage-** The wooden fence has been repaired.
- **Verizon proposed Utility Pole Hoosick Junction Road-** After discussion with Verizon, they agreed to go with overhead cable and a new pole. This will avoid issues when maintaining and ditching the road.

### Town Historian

- **Report-** Rick states that he has been working on Farms of Hoosick. He will be videotaping with his wife of the different area farmers and veterans to have at the museum. He also has been working with Kevin Miller on getting the banners for the veterans set for spring to be put on the poles throughout Hoosick. Rick also provided the update on the Immaculate Conception Church. The church should be ready for Christmas. There are a few cosmetic things that will need to be finished and hopefully everything is wrapped up by spring.

### Code Enforcement

- **Report-** Jared supplied his report to the board via email.

### Recreation

- **Ice Skating Program Manager & skating personnel Applications being accepted.**

#### MOTION

Houghton made the motion to approve Ayla Senecal for rink manager and Andrew Sparks as Assistant rink manager. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Turf-**the turf will have to come up soon and will have to be renumbered. It would be a good idea to have the same help that laid the turf roll it up and put it away for the winter.
- **Ice Manager & support staff-** Applications being accepted.

### Supervisor Surdam's Report

- Meeting prep and agenda.
- Eric & I attended an Investment Meeting with USB & NHFD.
- We held Public Hearing for the 2024 WHFD & NHFD at their respective firehouses.
- I virtually attended a Supervisors Round Table sponsored by the NYS AOT.
- The entire Board attended the CPWG Community Information Meeting held at the HFCS Auditorium.
- We held a TOH Comprehensive Plan Workshop in our meeting room.
- I attended two phone meetings to discuss the planned sub-division of the LaCroix property on Rte. 22 for the HF Village Water Project.
- Jackie, Eric and I attended (Eric organized) the Halloween Parade.
- We held a Public Hearing at the Armory for the 2024 Town of Hoosick Budget.

### Town Council Reports

#### **Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-**

- **Comprehensive Plan update**-At the workshop, there are changes that will need to be made to the current draft. Eric has discussed this with David Gilmore.
- **Military Banners**-the banners are moving along and were discussed earlier in the meeting.
- **Recording**-Eric has been working on getting something set up for the zoning and the planning boards to record their meetings so if there are any questions on what was said we have the recordings to refer to.

**Councilperson McAuliffe-** Nothing for Jerry this month.

**Councilperson Hanselman-** Nothing for Bill this month.

**Councilperson Houghton-** Jackie stated that there are a lot of streetlights out in North Hoosick. Jerry and Jackie will go through and mark down which ones are out to report to National Grid.

### New Business

- **2023 Inner Budget Transfers- Motion to approve.**  
**MOTION**  
Sheffer made the motion to approve the inner budget transfers. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Motion to approve the 2024 Town of Hoosick Budget**  
**MOTION**  
Houghton made a motion to approve the 2024 Town of Hoosick Budget. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Board Opening- We are looking for a volunteer to serve on the Hoosick Housing Authority Board of Directors.** Supervisor Surdam was able to speak with Christina Kovage before the meeting and she still would like to be on the board. Currently there are no openings. Supervisor Surdam asked for a motion to approve Christina Kovage for a 5-year term on the Hoosick Housing Authority.  
**MOTION**  
Sheffer made a motion to approve the 5-year term for Christina Kovage. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Comp Alliance Member Participation Agreement \$29,937 a little under a 1% decrease from 2023**, we are eligible for a 2–3-year term- The board agreed to do a 2-year term.

**MOTION**

Houghton made a motion to approve a 2-year term with Comp Alliance. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **North Hoosick Fire Department Length of Service Reward Program (LOSAP)**

- **Deputy Supervisor Sheffer & Supervisor Surdam** recently met with members of the NHFD and USB Senior Vice President Ralph Lemme to discuss the LOSAP portfolio. It was a very good review with some new account recommendations being made and accepted.
- **Penflex Award Program 2023-2024 Service Fee Agreement- Motion** authorizing Supervisor Surdam to sign the 2023-2024 Penflex Actuarial Services, LLC Agreement with a Base Fee of \$2,550.00.

**MOTION**

Sheffer made a motion to approve and authorize Supervisor Surdam to sign the 2023-2024 Penflex Actuarial Service Agreement. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Village of Hoosick Falls New Water Supply Project-** Supervisor Surdam with our Town Attorney’s (Schopf, Sommer, and Lyda) recently participated in a couple of phone conference calls with the Village Mayor, Attorney Engel, and Mark Millsbaugh from Sterling Environmental. The issue is the needed subdivision and easement to the new water supply wells and pump house on the Lacroix property on Rt. 22 south of the Village. At this point it has been determined that the Town Zoning Board will be able to process the needed variance and subdivision when the paperwork is ready to be submitted and the Town may be asked to approve an Open Development Area per 280-A of NYS Town Law if needed.
  - **Concern over increased use of Travel Trailers for long term housing-**the Town law states that travel trailers are to be used in a temporary situation. Guests are allowed to stay in a travel trailer while visiting. If sewer and water are piped into the trail trailer, then per the state law it will be assessed for tax purposes.
  - **Cleaning Rink Turf after event-**The Town is looking to purchase an industrial cleaner for the turf area after events. This will be part of the Rental agreement as an extra charge to the renter.
  - **Recent increase in Spam & Phishing emails of town emails- Motion** to approve adding spam filtering to our email system at a cost of \$3 per email address, per month, approx. \$45 per month total. The board agreed that we need extra protection for our email addresses.
- MOTION**
- Houghton made a motion to approve the filtering of spam to the current email addresses. McAuliffe seconded the motion to approve. All ayes carried.
- **NYMIR Facility Inspections-** This Wed 11/15 a representative from NYMIR will be completing a safety inspection.

**Old Business**

- **Zoning Law re-writes update-** Still waiting on the Comprehensive plan to be completed and approved before proceeding with the zoning law rewrites.
- **\$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- Update** the recent Nextiva sales tax issue has been addressed.

- **Livingston Charge Port \$2592.00** Invoice for maintenance and software updates. Verbal update Supervisor Surdam referenced recent Zoom meeting. No updates at this time.
- **Town of Hoosick Road Asset Management Plan- Update-** A recent phone meeting was held discussing preliminary results. Out of the meeting there were additional local budget related questions that came up. We are working on gathering the needed information.

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: [beei@health.ny.gov](mailto:beei@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, 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-Entered into executive session to discuss a legal issue and a personnel issue at 8:10 PM**

**MOTION**

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

**Executive session-Ended executive session at 8:51 PM**

**MOTION**

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

**Adjournment**

McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:51 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**Bills Paid Abstract #11 2023 Vouchers 560-598**

General A	\$	52,416.08
General B	\$	9,495.19
Highway DA	\$	8,535.33
Highway DB	\$	292,789.82
Capital Fund H	\$	1,090.40
Fire Protection	\$	2,550.00
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>2,361.96</u>
Total:	\$	369,238.78

Respectfully submitted,  
Holli Cross, Town Clerk