

**Town of Hoosick  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday March 11, 2024 7:00 pm**

**Called to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:** Jerry McAuliffe, Jackie Houghton, Eric Sheffer, and Supervisor Mark Surdam. William Hanselman not present.

**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.

- **Joyce Brewer:** Joyce states that the Lion Club will be celebrating the 64<sup>th</sup> Easter Egg hunt in the park on March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 1 pm.

**Correspondence/Announcements**

- **Hoosick Township Historical Society** March 2024 Newsletter is out, website is [hoosickhistory.com](http://hoosickhistory.com). 2024 St Patrick's Parade Grand Marshal Jack Fitzsimmons is presented with a short Bio, Long distance interview with William Murphy by Carol Gaillard, Remembering "Toonerville" some of the March Newsletter.
- **Electronics Recycling Event-** Saturday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, 9:30am-1pm Rensselaer County East Greenbush Office Building 99 Troy Rd 518-874-1001 for additional information. **Paul has agreed to set up a truck for the residents for the recycling of electronics on Friday at the Town Garage. The town will bring what is collected in the Town to East Greenbush for recycling.**

**Town Clerk's Report**

- **Monthly Report-**The Clerk's report for the month of February is as follows: \$1053.04 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$840.83.
- **Facility Use- Hoosick Falls Central School Lacrosse.** Use of the rink starting March 11<sup>th</sup> for practices with Tamarac Central School.

**MOTION**

Sheffer approved the Hoosick Falls Central School to use the skating rink for lacrosse practice. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**Superintendent of Highway's Report**

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- **Report**-Paul reports that the weather has been good, so the highway department continues to patch holes and cut brush. The mini excavator has been in use.
- **Cottrell Road Bridge Update**- The project has been recommended for funding by the Capital Region Transportation Council, waiting to hear back from the 2023 Bridge NY Program.
- **Town of Hoosick Road Asset Management Plan**- Final report to be reviewed.
- **Culvert Projects- Farmers Inn Rd & Eddy Rd.** (near Markers Rd.)- Paul states there is nothing new to report on this. Wayne Bonesteel will contact Supervisor Surdam regarding the engineering on these projects.
- **NYMIR request form reference Heavy Truck Disconnects**- Information was updated and returned to NYMIR as requested.
- **Streetlights**- The lights that were given to National Grid are still not fixed. Supervisor Surdam will look into seeing if there is a supervisor or another higher up to address the light issue.
- **New Equipment added to Insurance**- 2024 Caterpillar 304 Mini Excavator and a 2024 Flail Mower.
- **Recent Playground Damage**- Paul states that a new camera system is needed for the playground to catch the destruction that is happening.
- **Winter Sand Bids- Open and review.** One winter sand bid was received by Peckham for 2,500 tons of Winter Sand from the Shaftsbury Quarry. Price was \$11.75 FOB or \$18.25 Delivered. Paul states that this only went up a \$1 per ton.

#### **MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to accept the Peckham bid for the 2024-2025 season. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

#### **Assessor's Report**

- **Report**-Tiffany has been busy with the residents regarding the letters that were received with property value increases. She states that more information and a video have been added to the town website for review. This explains how the increases work. The next Re-Val is scheduled for 2029 pending economic development. Assessor meeting will be held on 3/21/2024. Grievance day will be held on May 28<sup>th</sup> depending on how many will be scheduled there may be more than just the one day. Tiffany also states that she will be at class from March 12-14<sup>th</sup> and Tony will be in the office for those days. Final class will be in April.
- **GAR/TOH Property Revaluation Project Update**- Additional information is available on the Town website [www.townofhoosick.org](http://www.townofhoosick.org)
- **Solar Payment in Lew of Taxes (PILOT) notifications**- Tiffany states that she is never notified of this. It is all through the county.
- **NYS Department of Taxation and Finance 2024 Tentative Special Franchise Full Value Notice**- This has been received from the state.
- **NYS Department of Taxation and Finance 2024 Tentative Telecommunications Ceilings Notice**- This has been received from the state.

#### **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

- **Pool and Summer Camp**-The board discussed the upcoming pool and summer camp pricing. The board also discussed staffing for all open positions. Supervisor Surdam asked to place an ad in the Eastwick for a couple of weeks for the pool staff positions. Councilperson Hanselman asked for figures from last year's camp and pool. This will be provided and decisions will be made at the April meeting. Ashley will continue to manage the Summer Camp.
- **The Town is accepting applications for these positions.**
  - **Pool Manager**
  - **Pool Assistant Manager**
  - **Lifeguards**

### Supervisor Surdam's Report

- Researched, collected, and submitted to Holli my communications related to the Hawthorne Solar Project per recent FOIL request.
- I submitted the 2023 Town Court Audit to NYS Justice Court.
- Attended and recorded ZBA meeting.
- Attended Community Participation Work Group (CPWG) meeting held in the Armory.
- We held a well-attended Solar Workshop.
- Assisted with responding to issues related to the recent Revaluation Project letters that were mailed out.
- Monthly meeting prep and agenda.

### Town Council Reports

**Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-** Eric stated that the draft Comprehensive plan has been received. There are still issues with the plan and Eric asked if a digital copy could be sent so that we would be able to make the changes that need to be made. Military Banners have taken off nicely. There will be a huge number of banners to be hung throughout Hoosick. Eric also met with the Solar Committee on changes to our town law and what we need to do to strengthen it. This coming month Eric will meet with Matt to go over our insurance needs.

**Councilperson McAuliffe-** Jerry states that the military banners were a great success to the American Legion. There were a lot more applications filed than expected. Jerry states that a resident stated that we could attach cameras on to the building near the pool if needed. Jerry also attended the zoning board meeting and says that it seems to be going better.

**Councilperson Hanselman-** Bill states that the roof replacement will need to be put out to bid. The specs have been put together and the ad will go in the paper. Bids will need to be in by 3pm the day of the April board meeting. The turf is down and will need to be adjusted as the weather changes.

**Councilperson Houghton-** Jackie states that she met with the company who is doing the lining/sealing of the courts. They state that there can only be 3 pickleball courts, 1 tennis court, and 1 basketball court. There is not enough room for what was discussed in the February meeting regarding more pickleball courts. Jackie will meet again on Wednesday at 3:30pm to go over court lining and further evaluation. She also states that the poles will need to be moved for the tennis and pickleball courts. The board would like the basketball court on the further end away from the playground.

### New Business

- **Solar Moratorium- Motion to approve Local Law No. 1 of 2024, A local law establishing a temporary Land Use Moratorium prohibiting large/commercial solar installations within the Town of Hoosick.**

**MOTION**

Sheffer made a motion to approve the Solar Moratorium prohibiting large/commercial solar installations within the Town of Hoosick. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Commercial Windmills Moratorium-**The public hearing was held March 11, 2024, at 6:30 before the regular board meeting. There were some definitions that will need to be corrected before submitting to Rensselaer County for review.

**MOTION**

Houghton made the motion to approve the windmill moratorium and submit this to the county for review. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Solar Project(s) Professional Permitting Assistance-**Supervisor Surdam states that someone will need to work with Jared on the solar projects. The board agreed that Kevin Schwenzfeier with LaBerge should be the one since he is the most familiar with all of the projects that have been presented to the zoning board. Some of the concerns are application fees, schedule of fees, and escrow monies for the companies submitted the applications.
- **2024 Budget Transfers- Motion** to approve Debit B1421.4 Attorney CE-PFOA and Credit B4120.4 Attorney CE \$1500.00

**MOTION**

Sheffer made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget transfers. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Zoning Board Attorney Resignation- Letter received March 5<sup>th</sup> 2024.** The board accepted the resignation.
- **New Zoning Board Attorney-** Supervisor Surdam states that the new attorney would be out of the same office as our town attorney. This would prevent any kind of delay in information from the zoning board. Salary would be set by proposal from the office. It would be similar to the town attorney's, which is a monthly retainer and additional cost for special attendance.
- **Town Clerk & Highway Superintendent Salary Increase-**Supervisor Surdam states that the state law states that no increase can be made after the budget has been approved without a local law. The process for this would be a resolution, public hearing, and acceptance by the board. The salary would be retroactive back to January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **NYS Ag and Markets Municipal Shelter Inspection Report for Feb 2024 has been received. Dog Shelter services were rated "Satisfactory."**
- **Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Plan Update Authorization and Letter of Intent to Participate- Motion** to authorize Supervisor Surdam to Execute and return the "Authorization and Acknowledgement"- Supervisor Surdam states that this needs to be updated every couple of years. He will work with Paul to get this updated and submitted.

**MOTION**

Houghton made a motion to authorize Supervisor Surdam to execute and return the authorization and acknowledgement for the Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Plan. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Congresswoman Stefanik 2025 Community Project Funding Portal-** The board discussed the funding and stated that there really is not enough time to gather information on projects that may need to be done in the Town. They will think of some projects and gather information for the next time this comes around.

### Old Business

- **Zoning Law re-writes update- No update currently.**
- **Troy & Banks, Inc. Utility rebate search-** Rae reported that a utility credit was issued and came off the bill. This project is now complete.
- **Shared Communication Position-** We received an email this week from HF School Superintendent Patrick Dailey asking to discuss the possibility of a shared Communication position with the Town and the Village for a person to manage social media and websites for all of us. The board is in favor of this but have not heard anything back from Pat Dailey regarding the next steps to put this together.
- **Comprehensive Plan- Proposed completed plan is available for review. The new Solar Law Review Committee will be reviewing as part of the Solar Law Review Project.**
- **Ethics Board-** Councilperson Sheffer has two people that are now part of the ethics board for the Town of Hoosick. James Monahan and Wendy Baker will be the two from the community. Eric will talk with Jan Kimball regarding being the third one on the board.

**Executive Session-** Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and for consulting with our Town Attorney referencing potential solar related litigation issues.

**ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:30PM**

#### **MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel issues and for consulting with our Town Attorney referencing potential solar related litigation issues. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:09 PM**

#### **MOTION**

McAuliffe made the motion to exit the executive session with no decisions made. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried. No decisions were made in executive session.

*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.

### **Adjournment**

Hanselman made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:09 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**Bills Paid Abstract #3 2024 Vouchers 101-152**

General A	\$	27,082.11
General B	\$	12951.02
Highway DA	\$	841.42
Highway DB	\$	42,777.39
Capital Fund H	\$	3,365.47
Fire Protection	\$	-----
Library	\$	-----
Trust & Agency	\$	4,550.74
Total:	\$	91,568.15

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross  
Town Clerk