

**Town of Hoosick  
Regular Board Meeting  
Monday August 12, 2024 7:00 pm**

**Called to Order**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**Others Present:** Ryan Pezzulo, Town Attorney and Paul Hoag, Superintendent of Highways.

**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.

Sylvia Plasse addressed the board and asked if there is a local law against burning in the town. She has a neighbor who is burning almost every day, and she is unable to have her windows open because the smell of the fire comes into her house. She states that this is infringing on her wellbeing. She called DEC and was told that there is nothing they could do about it as it is considered a celebratory fire, and they are allowed to burn. She feels that this is a nuisance fire, and it should be addressed.

**Correspondence/Announcements**

- **Hoosick Township Historical Society August 2024 Newsletter is available.** This month's articles include "The Six Week Hoosick Buffalo Hunt of 1931", an article on Rachel Wilkins Barker Cottrell, and an Interview with Lawyer Edward Gorman in the Wood Block.
  - **Historical Society Upcoming Events**
    - Music on the Lawn August 17<sup>th</sup> 5pm-6:30pm Kristoffer Andrew Ross with Michael Raffel & Nola Muscatello- Folk Music.
    - September 14<sup>th</sup> Music on the Lawn Rusticator DUO- Country/Bluegrass.
  - **Bennington Battlefield Friday August 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm Commemoration of the Battle of Bennington.**
  - **Village Rte. 22 Water Project-** We have been receiving weekly project correspondence from Engineer Daniel Servetas. The bulk of the work along Rte. 22 has been completed with the exception of some restoration work within the NYS ROW. Traffic management will coincide with the shoulder closure.
-

**Town Clerk's Report**

- **Monthly Report-**The Clerk's report for the month of July is as follows: \$7,259.50 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$6,592.46.
- **Facility Use-** Hoosick Falls Football and Cheer have sent in a request to use the athletic fields and pool. Supervisor Surdam has amended the Facility Use Request to use the rink in inclement weather.

**MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to approve the Hoosick Falls Football and Cheer facility use request as noted. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**Superintendent of Highway's Report**

- **Report-** Superintendent of Highway Hoag stated that 7.7 miles of roads have been shimmed and chip sealed. The department used 1,000 ton of blacktop to patch other roads. The mowing tractor was worked on by Capital Tractor and the grader had a bad radiator. The new truck should be done by September. This will be needed for winter.
- **Cottrell Road Bridge Update-**
  - We have received the letter from NYSDOT that the Town of Hoosick application for the replacement of the Cottrell Road Bridge over the Walloomsac River has been approved for funding through the 2023 Bridge NY Program in the amount of \$2,484,250.
  - Next Steps, the Town needs to execute a State-Local Agreement (SLA) with NYSDOT. We are waiting to receive the agreement. The project's anticipated starting date will be in 2026. The anniversary for the battlefield is in 2027.
  - We need a Design Agreement with Foit-Albert. Note- Resolutions will be needed for both.
- **Farmers Inn Road Culvert Project-** Superintendent of Highway Hoag reports that the culvert has arrived for the Farmers Inn Road project. The permit has been received and is good through 2025.
- **CHIPS Funding-** \$222,214 has been received.
- **Local Floodplain Administrators in Rensselaer County have been asked to take FEMA's national survey in reference to training-** Highway Superintendent Hoag and Code Officer Smith have agreed to work on this together.
- **VT AOT Emergency Contact & 511 Information-** This is in reference to the 3 railroad bridges on the Vermont Rail Systems line that are scheduled for rehab work. Trussell is being worked on right now. The bridge wall has been redone.

**Assessor's Report**

- **Report-**Tiffany supplied her report to the board via email and it is on file in the Town Clerk's office.

**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**

- **Ashley- Summer Camp-**Ashley states that the county came and did an inspection. They went over and conducted a drowning camper drill while the county was present. The buddy check has

been undated to match the state and county rules. The campers went on a walk field trip to the Cheney library. Pool has been great. Swimming lessons went great, and the playground has been good. There are no nets on the basketball hoops. Just wondering if these will be put back on. Updated the Facebook page with pictures from camp. Will be doing an end of year meeting. Ashley will review the 2025 camper application and handbook, so this is ready to go for next year. Pancake breakfast with the campers on Friday. Ashley invited the board to attend.

- **Abigal Woods- Pool** Abigal reports that there were 72 kids in session 1 and 64 kids in session 2. My mommy and me swimming classes ended on August 9<sup>th</sup>. This class was well attended.
- **Pool Update-** We received the Pool Permit from Rensselaer County Department of Health on July 11<sup>th</sup>.
- **Pool Inspection was completed by Rensselaer County Department of Health on July 29<sup>th</sup>-** There was an inspection of the pool and the only thing lacking was a self-lacking gate into the pool area. This has been ordered and received and just needs to be installed.

**Supervisor Surdam’s Report**

- Meeting prep and agenda.
- I spoke with David Chavez from The Fitness Court to gather information on their outdoor gym for our playground area.
- Met with Ayla and Abby at the pool in reference to the pool management.
- We held a Solar Law Workshop.
- I met with Lenore Kushner from Parkitects Inc. at the Castle Playground to discuss the possibility of new equipment.
- Eric and I met with Hoosac School at the Reynolds-Gilchrist Rink to discuss submitting grant application for ice refrigeration to the NY Forward Grant through the Village.
- We held a Special Meeting so the entire Town Board could hear from Hoosac School and ask questions.
- Paul, Jerad, and I virtually met with the Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation team.

**Town Council Reports**

**Deputy Supervisor Sheffer-** Eric states that he is still working on quotes for cyber insurance that is now not offered through the regular insurance policy. Have received the application for Travelers and will get this submitted.

**Councilperson McAuliffe-** Jerry had nothing for the month

**Councilperson Hanselman-** Bill had nothing for the month

**Councilperson Houghton-** Jackie states that Don and Nick are trying to coordinate schedules to get the project for the courts completed.

**New Business**

- **2024 Inter Budget Transfers – Motion to approve as requested.**

B7140.4.9	Recreation-summer camp	577.97	
B7140.4	Recreation		577.97
B7550.4	Celebrations	1,000.00	
B6997.4	Local Promotion		1,000.00
DB5112.2.21	Permanent Improvements-Farmers	8,212.00	
DB5112.2	Permanent Improvements-		8,212.00

**MOTION**

Houghton made the motion to approve the 2024 inter budget transfers. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

• **2025 Budget Process Review- Review & Discuss**

- **Schedule the 2025 Budget Workshop for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM.**

**MOTION**

Houghton made a motion to schedule the workshop for October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Schedule the Public Hearing for the West Hoosick Fire Department Budget for Thursday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

**MOTION**

Sheffer made a motion to schedule the Public Hearing for the West Hoosick Fire Department Budget for October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Reschedule October Town Board Meeting due to Columbus Day.**

**MOTION**

McAuliffe made a motion to reschedule the October meeting to October 16<sup>th</sup>. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Reschedule November Town Board Meeting due to Veterans Day**

**MOTION**

Hanselman made a motion to reschedule the November Town Board Meeting to November 6<sup>th</sup>. Houghton seconded the motion

- **Dental Insurance for Non-Union Full-Time Town Employees-** Supervisor Surdam gathered some information regarding dental insurance for Full-Time employees. The cost would be \$6,000 per year for Delta Dental. This will be renewed every year.

**MOTION**

Houghton made a motion to approve the dental plan as discussed. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Solar Updates-**Town Engineers have provided us with copies of escrow letters that have been sent to the companies representing Hoosick Solar West, Hoosick Solar East, Nexamp Energy/Wilson Hill, Coyote Flaco, and the Sheep Solar Projects. A few checks have been received.

- **Reynolds-Gilchrist Proposed Skating Rink Upgrade working with Hoosac School-** at a Special Meeting held on Monday August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Town Board listened to a presentation from Hoosac School in reference to submitting a project to the NY Forward Grant Project through the Village of Hoosick Falls that would bring upgrades and refrigeration to the rink. Hoosac School will partner with and support the Town and the Village to offer local reliable ice skating for up to 6 months a year while at the same time making the facility the official home ice for their highly competitive boys and girls hockey program. After listening to the presentation, asking questions and considering the positive economic impact this could bring to our local area the Town Board did agree to support the submission of the project.

**MOTION**

Sheffer made the motion to submit the grant with the Village of Hoosick Falls for the NY Forward grant regarding the Reynolds-Gilchrist skating rink. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Town of Hoosick Castle Playground Update-** What began a month or two ago in reference to removing the last remaining section of the castle playground is evolving into a possible nice upgrade. Hoosick Rising is also submitting on our behalf a project proposal to the NY Forward Grant Project through the Village of Hoosick Falls that would bring us a new wall, new sidewalks to the playground and possibly some new playground equipment. Marianne gave some details of what she had submitted regarding the playground with a 56' long 10' high concrete wall with a mural on the one side with interactive play on the other side. Looking to add wheelchair accessible equipment to the playground with a poured foundation for fitness court, exercise area and a place for picnic tables and benches.
- **PAYCHEX HR Essentials- Discussion** in reference to PAYCHEX coordinating all forms, required information, and acknowledgment of required training in electronic format. The board decided to hold off on the addition of this to the paychecks packet. The only time that new forms need to be filled out and added to the system is summertime and wintertime.
- **National Grid Clean Resilience Link (CRL)** - In March of this year we sent a letter of support for this project at the request of National Grid. We were informed this week via email from Robert Shevy from National Grid updating us that the Federal Dept. of Energy did not select the project, therefore did not fund the Community Benefits Plan.
- Clerk Cross has received a couple of notifications from e-code regarding some laws.
  1. **Cannabis Law:** We have begun editing the latest supplement to the Town's Code and need your assistance. Local Law No. 1-2021, Section 3 states that it is subject to referendum; did it pass? If so, we will codify Sections 1 through 3 as a new Ch. 88, Cannabis, Art. I, On-Site Cannabis Consumption Site Opt-Out (Sections 4 and 4.1 pertain to a moratorium and, as they are temporary, are not typically codified).

Hoosick Town Attorney Pezzulo has provided the needed paperwork for the Referendum, but we need to determine if it was ever discussed in any of our meetings after this should have gone into effect. Attorney Pezzulo stated that the time has passed for the referendum so I can go ahead and sign the form and send it over to ECode.

2. The second one is that there is language in our Local Law #3 of 2022 that may need to be fixed. I am not sure if this is the way the law should be read and understood or if there should actually be a date inserted where the bracketed language is. Please see attached. The language in question is highlighted in yellow with the provided copy. The board has received a copy of this and will need to read the entire law to know what date needs to be inserted in the spot. This has been tabled to the September meeting date.
- **Comp Alliance Training Schedule through the end of 2024 is available-** The board discussed this. They felt that in-person training would be best for all. Supervisor Surdam will set this up with Comp Alliance.

### **Old Business**

- **Zoning Law re-writes update-** Nothing new to report.
- **Solar Law Review-**A public hearing has been set for September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30. There are some definitions that will need to be clarified before the final draft is presented on September 9<sup>th</sup>.

- **Shared Communication Position with Central School and the Village- Update-** Central School and the Town are moving forward with the position, the Village has taken no action to date. Central School is in the process of advertising the position.

- **Comprehensive Plan- Workshop has been set for August 28<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

**MOTION**

Houghton made a motion to schedule a workshop for August 28<sup>th</sup> to finalize the Comprehensive Plan. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **Pool/Playground Camera System Upgrade Project-** Phase one is complete around the pool. No update at this time on the final camera.
- **Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Plan-** Mark, Paul and Jerad are working with the County on this updated plan. **We all virtually attended the most recent meeting.**
- **Murphy Building-** the Village Police Department is interested in the building and has submitted a proposal to the NY Forward Grant Program through the Village.
- **Shared Communication Position with HF Central School. This will be a shared services position between HFCS and the Town.** Sarah Livingston has been hired to fill the position. Supervisor Surdam and Deputy Supervisor Sheffer will be meeting this week with Sarah and HF School Superintendent Pat Dailey to outline the goals and objectives.
- **NYS Deferred Compensation Plan-** The paperwork has been submitted to NYS.

**Executive Session-** No need for 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: [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 Second Tuesday of the month; **Planning Board** meets the third Monday of the month. These meetings are held at 7pm in the Court Room at the Armory. Meeting minutes are available online @ [www.townofhoosick.org](http://www.townofhoosick.org) or from the Town Clerk.

**Adjournment**

Houghton made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:53 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

**Bills Paid Abstract #8 2024 Vouchers 370-423**

General A	\$	25,436.81
General B	\$	22,117.42
Highway DA	\$	1,059.26
Highway DB	\$	212,944.54
Capital Fund H	\$	6,129.55
Fire Protection	\$	-----
Library	\$	-----

Trust & Agency	\$ <u>5,177.72</u>
Total:	\$ 272,865.30

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross  
Town Clerk