

**Town of Hoosick
Regular Board Meeting
Monday February 12, 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 .

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.

- **Dave Engel** representing the Village of Hoosick Falls and **Dale Desnoyers** representing Honeywell in reference to the New Village Water supply project. They are here to answer any questions we may have prior to voting on Resolution # 44 of 2024. **Village of Hoosick Falls New Water Supply Project- Resolution # 44 of 2024 Approving Open Development Area-Motion**
MOTION
Sheffer made a motion to approve the Open Development Area for the Village of Hoosick Falls New Water Supply Project. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Tom Valone proposed Pickle Ball Courts at the Town Park**-Tom presented to the board along with Rosemarie Rogers and Heather Wysocki, the layout of the courts that they are proposing to see at the park. Tom would like to see 4 courts and possibly see the tennis court lined up for pickleball use. He suggested that the town only do one basketball court instead of the original two that were there.
- **Silvia** -She stated that she is not happy about the moratorium and the way that is worded. Supervisor Surdam stopped her and told her that we would not be discussing this as we had had a public hearing already on this and the moratorium was not changed enough to have another public hearing.

Correspondence/Announcements

- **Hoosick Township Historical Society** February 2024 Newsletter is out, website is hoosickhistory.com.
 - **FEMA National Flood Insurance Program Training**, Thursday 2/22 9-11 @ HVCC.
 - **New NYS Law to clarify disclosure of credit card surcharges.**
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Town Clerk's Report

- **Monthly Report**-The Clerk's report for the month of January is as follows: \$1,328.50 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$960.99.
- **Facility Use- Kiwanis Free Skating 2/17 and 6th Grade Reading Goal Celebration/Reward for HFCS**

MOTION

Sheffer approved the Kiwanis Free Skate for 2/17. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

MOTION

Houghton approved the Hoosick Falls Central School 6th grade reading goal celebration/reward skating day 2/28/2024 with a backup date 3/1/2024. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Superintendent of Highway's Report

- **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 delivered with the mower attachment.
- **Cottrell Road Bridge Update- Feb 8th email from Capital Region Transportation Council**- Email received states that this bridge has been reviewed and sent over for recommended repair.
- **Town of Hoosick Road Asset Management Plan**-Supervisor Surdam and Paul have sent over the information that was requested for the long-term road plan and are awaiting the results.
- **Culvert Projects- Farmers Inn Rd & Tate Road** (near Markers Rd.)- Tate Road bridge will need to be replaced sooner than later. The bridge is considered a culvert because of the size of it. Wayne Bonesteel will need to look at this before submitting to see if this can be funded. He does not have a good feeling about this one being funded this year. This will not require DEC to be involved because it is a creek and not a wetland. Paul states that this cannot wait to be replaced. He is saying that the cost they attached to this is around \$700,000.
- **NYMIR request form reference Heavy Truck Disconnects**- Paul needs to review the inventory sheet of trucks and fix this. Then review the trucks that should have disconnects and make sure that they have them.
- **Ground Tank Pollution Renewal Insurance Policy**- Policy for the year is \$571. This is up just a bit from last year.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve the renewal insurance policy for the ground tank pollution. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Assessor's Report

- **Report**-Tiffany has been working on exemptions with the deadline fast approaching of March 1st. The Senior Citizen tax exemption post cards have been mailed out by the county. Calls have increased and walk-ins have also increased since the cards have been sent.
- **GAR/Town of Hoosick Property Revaluation Project**-Tiffany has received 5 spreadsheets to review. 3 spreadsheets have been approved. The next meeting will be on 2/16/2024.
- **Rensselaer County Assessor Meeting**-This was scheduled for 1/18/2024 and was cancelled due to weather. It has been rescheduled for 2/15/2024.
- **Request** to have Tony Rice assist with closing out the Re-Val Process- **Motion to approve Anthony Rice** to assist with revaluation review per-diem for \$30 per hour.

MOTION

Sheffer made the motion to approve Anthony Rice to assist with the revaluation review per-diem at \$30 per hour. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

- **New York State Assessor Certification**-Tiffany has two training sessions left, one in March and one in April.

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. Supervisor Surdam states that the report is more detailed and feels that Jerad has been doing a great job with giving more information on his reports.

Recreation

- **Report- Ayla Senecal Rink Program Manager** – Ayla was not available at the meeting. Supervisor Surdam states that there has not been any skating. There has been no ice.
- **Ice Maintenance**- With the cooler temperatures coming up this week, they will once again try to make ice but if it does not stay, Supervisor Surdam states that he has a feeling the season will be over.
- **Broken windows have been repaired.**
- **The Town is accepting applications for these positions.**
 - **Pool Manager**- this position has been filled.
 - **Pool Assistant Manager** - Still in need of an Assistant
 - **Lifeguards**-Still in need of Lifeguards

Supervisor Surdam's Report

- The Board met with our Court Clerk and Judge Restino to complete the required annual Court Audit.
- I attended the Village ZBA meetings to record the meetings.
- Paul Hoag and I attended a follow up meeting via Zoom with the Capital Region Transportation Council and Stantec to review the TOH Road Asset Management Project. We are getting close.
- I attended the monthly CPWG meeting via Zoom.
- Eric, Attorney Pezzulo, and I met with representatives from CS Energy in ref to the Hawthorne Solar Project.
- Completed preparation for the annual TOH Organizational Meeting.
- Completed meeting prep and the agenda for tonight's Board Meeting.

Town Council Reports

Deputy Supervisor Sheffer- Eric spoke with David Gilmore. David states that he is done with his portion of the updates and has turned everything over to Nicole for processing. The military banner applications are out and are available in the Armory or at the Legion. March 1st is the deadline.

Councilperson McAuliffe- Jerry states that the military banner applications can be hand delivered to the American Legion. If in need of help filling them out, there are people available at the legion to assist with this.

Councilperson Hanselman- Nothing (Not present)

Councilperson Houghton- Jackie states that she has a meeting with Shaun on February 19th at 10am to discuss the lining of the courts.

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.** There are some corrections to the language that need to be made. Once the corrections have been made, this will need to go to Rensselaer County for review. The question was asked about what happens to the solar law going forward. A workshop has been scheduled for February 28th at 6pm to further discuss changes to the solar law and possibly set up a committee of 4-5 people to conduct changes to the law with community input.
- **Commercial Windmills Moratorium-** the board discussed this and felt that the shadow effect and noise from the windmills warranted a moratorium. There is a public hearing scheduled for March 11th at 6:30pm.
- **Town of Hoosick Rescue request** to become a taxing entity as the local Fire Departments are- We are researching the requirements and the process involved.
- **Ethics Board-** The board should consist of two members of the community and one employee that is not elected from the Town. Eric has contacted Jim Monahan and Wendy Baker to be part of the board. Rae Granger is going to be the employee. The board will review the ethic forms that are filled out by employees once a year.
- **Local Law No. 2 of 2024-** A local law amending Local Law 1 of 2007 exemption for disabled persons with limited income- **Motion to approve**
MOTION
Sheffer made a motion to approve Local Law #2. Houghton seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Local Law No. 3 of 2024-** A Local Law amending Local Law 5 of 1998 Exclusion of Senior Citizen medical and prescription drug expenses- **Motion to approve**
MOTION
Houghton made a motion to approve Local Law #3. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.
- **Check Washing Warning-**The Board has reviewed the security recommendations and voted to sign up with Pioneer Bank for the Positive Pay Program. This is no extra cost to the Town.
- **Town of Hoosick Youth Center additional funding request-** the board discussed additional funding for the youth center. They now get \$14,000 and were looking for an additional \$2,500-\$5,000. The Board voted and will provide an additional \$2,500 to the youth center for this year.
- **Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Planning Group-**The Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation needs to be updated every 5 years. The last time Supervisor Surdam and Bill Shiland attended the group. Supervisor Surdam will ask Paul Hoag to attend with him.
- **Planning Board Appointment-** At the January 2024 Town Board meeting we mistakenly reappointed Adria Diel whose term will not expire until the end of this year. Clark Brenenstuhl's 5-year term expired Dec 31st 2023; Clark is willing to continue serving on the Planning Board. **Motion to** appoint Clark Brenenstuhl to the Planning Board retroactive to January 1, 2024 for a 5 year term which will expire December 31st 2029. **Discussion**
- **Meeting minutes process review for all TOH Boards-** Meeting minutes are to be completed within two weeks after a meeting. They can be posted in draft form and later updated if needed.
- **Ag & Markets Report dated 1/16/24 Received-** Satisfactory report on dog control facility.

- **Solar Project(s) Professional Permitting Assistance-**Will need to hire professionals to work with Jerad regarding all solar project permits.

Old Business

- **Zoning Law re-writes update- No update currently.**
- **Troy & Banks, Inc. Utility rebate search- Nothing new to report.**
- **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. **Update**

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

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:15PM

MOTION

Houghton made the motion to enter Executive Session to discuss two 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 9:54 PM

MOTION

McAuliffe made the motion to exit the executive session with no decisions made. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

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.

Adjournment

Sheffer made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:54 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes carried.

Bills Paid Abstract #2 2024 Vouchers 46-100

General A	\$	23,844.08
General B	\$	12,774.00
Highway DA	\$	-----

Highway DB	\$	51,632.56
Capital Fund H	\$	17,498.33
Fire Protection	\$	881,769.92
Library	\$	95,000.00
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>2,409.24</u>
Total:	\$	1,084,928.13

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross
Town Clerk