

**Town of Hoosick
Regular Board Meeting
Monday March 10, 2025 7:00 pm**

Called to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jerry McAuliffe, Eric Sheffer, William Hanselman and Jackie Houghton **Absent:** 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 .

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.

- **David Dres** addressed the board regarding the open meeting law policy that was passed in our previous meeting. He stated that this law has not been followed, especially with the Zoning Board. There needs to be more oversight by the town board regarding foil requests and paperwork provided by applicants and LaBerge on the solar projects so that the community can make an educated response and list of questions to be addressed by the governing board.
- **Marianne Zwicklbauer** addressed the board and provided all the board members with a packet of information that she feels needs to be addressed with the Zoning Board.
- **Silvia Plasse** addressed the board regarding the solar projects that have been approved and how these projects have been handled. She reiterated that the paperwork that was provided by the board was not adequate enough to make the community aware of the individual projects and what they entailed. The minutes for the Zoning Board are not detailed enough and she feels there should be specific names in the minutes. Training for new members should be done prior to them sitting on the board. At the last meeting, there were maps that were in the way and the public was not able to see what the board was talking about along with muffled talk.

Correspondence/Announcements

There were no correspondences or announcements for the month.

Town Clerk's Report

- **Monthly Report:** The Clerk's report for the month of January is as follows: \$931.00 and remitted to the Supervisor was \$597.51.
 - **Tax Collection-**We are about halfway through the month of March and the penalty period has begun. Letters have been sent out to all that have not paid their bills yet. However, when the
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letters went out it had stated 2010 on the top of the letter and a phone number to the county which does not work. These did not populate correctly in the computer system. It was supposed to be 2025 and the number was supposed to be the Town of Hoosick's office number. Clerk Cross received a call from the county already regarding the same, so they are aware of this. Also, on our regular tax bills the \$2 fee was not included in the amount owed. The board has decided to eliminate the \$2 for this year. Clerk Cross will see how to include this on the 2026 tax bills.

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to eliminate the \$2 fee for this year as it was not part of the original 2025 tax bill. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

- **Town Emails**-All the town emails have been issued and should be operational. If anyone is having difficulties with this, please let Clerk Cross know so that it can be fixed.
- **AED's**-There was an issue with the AED in the Perry room. Dave Borge had Bill Gaillard come to look at it. The battery needed to be replaced. There was a spare battery in the other AED. They used that battery to fix the one in the Perry Room. Clerk Cross ordered a new battery to replace the one taken and new pads to replace the expiring pads.
- **Annual Training Discussion**-The board discussed having an annual training session for all Town of Hoosick Employees so everyone would be done together. This worked out with everyone in the past. We will try and get this set for everyone to attend.
- **Parking Signs for Town Business**-The signs have been reviewed, and an order will need to be placed. Hanselman stated that there should be parking along the fence line for employees of the town as well as town business. Clerk Cross will also inquire about those signs as well.
- **Facility Use**- No requests for this month

Superintendent of Highway's Report

- **Report**- Superintendent of Highway Hoag reported that there has been a lot of snow, wind and other elements of weather this past month. The town did run out of salt but had 80 tons delivered. Salt came from a different vendor.
- **NYMIR Inspection**- Insurance inspection suggested to enter into the LENS program to check on driver licenses. The town does this annually, but this would give notification if anyone was issued, or their license would become suspended. It was recommended that the town do pre-trip inspections electronically. Superintendent of Highway Hoag states that they do this manually and does not feel they need to do this electronically.
- **New Roller**- Superintendent of Highway Hoag would like to purchase a new roller for \$47,336. He feels that this roller is a good deal and would help the town with getting the roads fixed quickly.

MOTION

Hanselman made a motion to approve the roller purchase for \$47,336. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

- **Winter Sand Bid**-Winter sand bids were opened. The only one received was from Peckham. They quoted 12 ton for \$30,000. Superintendent of Highway Hoag stated the salt would come from Coeymans, NY and this would be purchased off of the NYS Bidding contract.

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to approve the Winter sand bid in the amount of \$30,000 for 12 tons from Peckham. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

Assessor's Report

- **Report-**Tiffany supplied her report to the board via email and it is on file in the Town Clerk's office.
- We received 2025 Tentative Special Franchise Full Values from NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance.
- Tax Law 575-b in reference to the assessed value of solar and wind projects declared unconstitutional.

Code Enforcement

- **Report-** Jared supplied his 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.

Recreation

- **Ashley Ice Skating-** Ashley reports that there have been over 2,000 skaters this year at the rink. Everything went well. The rink is now close for the season. Ashley is wondering when the turf could be laid down since skating is now over.
- **Zamboni-** The board did not discuss this as the season has ended and there will not be a need for the use of the Zamboni at this point. The board would like someone to look at the Zamboni to see if it may be able to be rebuilt or refurbished.
- **Pool & Summer Camp-**Ashley has started the process of getting lifeguards recertified and she is working on getting the CPR and First Aid for all employees arranged. She is hoping to have this done by the end of April. Ashley stated that New Lebanon School District has a pool that could be used to certify the lifeguards.
- **Pool Assistant Manager -** Ashley has requested the Board appoint Lucy Haynes as Pool Assistant Manager for the 2025 pool season. Motion to appoint Lucy Haynes as the 2025 Town of Hoosick Pool Assistant Manager.

MOTION

Houghton made a motion to approve Lucy Haynes as the 2025 Town of Hoosick Pool Assistant Manager. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

Supervisor Surdam's Report

- I virtually attended the monthly CPWG meeting.
- Town Board meeting prep and agenda.
- I virtually attended the Supervisor Round Table meeting.
- Began the .gov process for the Town website.
- The Board attended the Transfer Station Workshop with Village Trustee Doug Sauer and ERCSWMA Director Matt Curley.

- Jerad, Paul, Eric, Attorney Pezzulo and I Virtually attended meetings with solar reps for the Wilson Hill and Hawthorn (Ford Rd.) solar projects as they move forward.

Town Council Reports

Deputy Supervisor Sheffer- Eric did not have anything this month.

Councilperson McAuliffe- Jerry did not have anything for this month.

Councilperson Hanselman- Bill wanted to know about the EV station cost with National Grid. He does not feel this is fair to the town to be paying. The cost should be on the users of the stations.

Councilperson Houghton- Jackie will be meeting with Falls Fencing and some of the pickleball players to find out where the nets and posts need to be placed on the courts. Jackie also is looking for community members that are interested in being on the committee to put together the Wind Law for the Town of Hoosick.

New Business

- **2025 Budget Modification** to pay for bookkeeper transition training – **Motion to approve Resolution #45 of 2025 to add \$5,000 to A1310.4 Training using A Fund Balance.**

MOTION

Hanselman made the motion to approve **Resolution #45** of 2025 for the 2025 Budget Modification to pay for bookkeeper transition training. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

- **ASA Farmland Protection Grant Application for High Meadows of Hoosick LLC-Motion**

MOTION

Houghton made the motion to approve the grant application for High Meadows of Hoosick LLC. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

- **Assessment Review Board-** Motion to approve Kendal Baker to the Assessment Review Board replacing Christopher Woods.

MOTION

McAuliffe made a motion to approve Kendal Baker to the Assessment Review Board to replace Christopher Woods. Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried except Supervisor Surdam who were absent.

- **Shared Service Agreement** with the Village of Hoosick Falls pertaining to the Village Transfer Station- Discussion, Motion to reimburse the Village \$29,000 based on the income and expense reports provided and to Authorize Supervisor Surdam to sign the 1-year agreement. **This was tabled until further discussion could happen with the Village after the new Mayor was elected. Some of the board members had more questions and concerns about the shared service.**

- **Discussion referencing combining 3 part time positions into a fulltime position.** Deputy Supervisor Sheffer moved this into an executive session since it pertains to personnel.

- **ZBA Resignation-** Motion to accept the resignation of Gary Sussman from the Zoning Board of Appeals.

MOTION

Hanselman made a motion to accept the resignation of Gary Sussman from the zoning board of appeals. McAuliffe seconded the motion. All ayes were carried except Supervisor Surdam who was absent.

- **NYMIR Crime Recommendations for the Town of Hoosick-** There was no discussion regarding this since Supervisor Surdam was absent.
- **Newer NYS Requirement to have our Town Website as a .gov-** The new town website is being put together and will meet the new requirements for NYS.
- **Pioneer Bank-** Is upgrading to Business Plus online banking. They are walking us through the process. Rae and Josh had no idea regarding what this was about. Eric decided to table the discussion until more information could be obtained.
- **Website Streaming and saving of Town Board meetings-** The board agreed that the best practice for the meetings is to continue with Zoom.

Old Business

- **Comprehensive Plan-**This has been referred to Rensselaer County and we await a response.
- **Rensselaer County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Plan-** Updates have been completed and submitted for review. We now wait to hear back. **No Updates.**
- **Local Compliance with NYS Open Meeting Law Policy & Procedures for the Town of Hoosick- Discussion**
- **HFCS/Town Communications Update-** Sarah Livingstone has settled into her position at the school and has been working on the school's website. They are using the Apptegy Platform and have secured a separate module that will be the Towns website with a separate URL connection. Sarah has begun to develop our website as a ghost site for a few months until we are ready to go live. Our website will continue to operate as it is. **Update-** We received new information that the Town website needs to be a .gov so we are working on compliance with that.
- **Rink & Playground Projects through the NY Forward Grant- No Update at this time.**
- **Village Transfer Station Changes- Discussion** of joining ERCSWMA in order to continue use of the Village Transfer Station beyond 2026.
- **Town of Hoosick Emergency Medical Services-** Initial Workshop was held last month to discuss community support. This is a statewide issue. We will be reaching out to the Association of Towns to assist us through the process. **Discussion of next steps**
- **IT Updates-**
 - Initial meeting with Edmonds to review accounting software has been scheduled.
 - Updated Firewall has been ordered.- **Recently installed.**
 - New emails are in place for new board members. Each board member will need to complete their own login.

Executive Session- Motion to enter Executive Session to discuss ongoing legal issues with solar

ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:52PM

MOTION

McAuliffe made the motion to enter the Executive Session to discuss ongoing legal issues with solar. Sheffer seconded the motion. All ayes carried except Hanselman and Houghton who were absent.

EXITED EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 9:44 PM

MOTION

Houghton made the motion to exit the executive session. McAuliffe seconded the motion. No decisions were made. All ayes carried except Supervisor Surdam who were absent.

For specific questions about the public water supply: Email: bpwsp@health.ny.gov, phone: 518-402-7650

For specific questions about private wells: Email: bee@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](tel:800-801-8092), is available, Monday-Friday 9am-8pm and Saturday 9am-3pm.

Scheduled Meetings-

Scheduled Meetings- Zoning Board meets on the Second Tuesday of the month; **Planning Board** meets on 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 or from the Town Clerk.

Adjournment

McAuliffe made the motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:45 p.m. pending the signing of vouchers, Hanselman seconded the motion. All ayes carried except Supervisor Surdam who were absent.

Bills Paid Abstract #3 2025 Vouchers 113-167

General A	\$	16,529.23
General B	\$	3,330.90
Highway DA	\$	-----
Highway DB	\$	151,503.87
Capital Fund H	\$	21,087.89
Fire Protection	\$	891,255.00
Library	\$	95,000.00
Trust & Agency	\$	<u>4,186.99</u>
Total:	\$	1,182,893.88

Respectfully submitted,

Holli Cross
Town Clerk