

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 2/9/15 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Present: Mayor John Barton
Trustee Thomas VanAernem
Trustee Robert Cook
Trustee Michael Horrigan
Trustee James Gallagher, Jr.
Attorney William L. Nikas

The Mayor opened the meeting to General Public Comment – none given.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the minutes of the regular meeting and public hearings of 1/12/15 were approved as read.

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried it is

RESOLVED, that the Financial Audit for the year ending May 31, 2014 conducted by Whittemore, Down & Ricciardelli is accepted and available for review at the Village Clerk's Office.

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried it is

RESOLVED, that approval be granted of the Hudson Falls Fire Councils appointment of Damian Hilpertshauer, 33 Thomas Avenue, Hudson Falls as Fire Fighter in the Hudson Falls Fire Council as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried it is

RESOLVED, that the request of Chief Diamond to hire Robert Breen, Gansevoort, NY to the position of PT Police Officer at a rate of \$18/hr. effective 2/5/15 be approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and carried the following budget appropriations were approved:

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
A-2770 Unclassified Revenue	\$6,100	
A-8140.4 Storm Sewers		\$6,100
A-3001 State Rev Sharing	\$7,740	
A-7140.4 Village Parks		7,740
F-8310.4 Water Admin.	\$ 265	
F-1910.4 Insurance		\$ 265

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried, the following monthly reports were approved as read: Police Department, submitted by Chief Diamond; Justice Court submitted by Justice Matthew Mabb; Code Enforcement submitted by Francis Cortese; and Fire Department, submitted by Chief Michael Fitzgerald.

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee VanAernem and carried the following abstracts were audited and ordered for payment:

General Fund	Check Nos.	28739 - 28927
Water Fund (General Fund)	Check Nos.	28739 - 28927
Water Fund	Check Nos.	5483 - 5486
Drug Fund	Check No.	1302 - 1303
Trust Fund	Check Nos.	6401 - 6418
Payroll Fund	Check Nos.	28611 - 28627

Mayor's Comments – The Mayor reported that the project involving improvements to Derby Park is still progressing. There are also plans for improvements at Grace Park, Juckett Park and possibly Murray Park. Kathy Varney has provide a great deal of support on the project and the committee will be meeting with her and Superintendent Fiorillo to determine what will be purchased with the grant money available.

The Mayor asked the Board for their comments – none given.

The Mayor opened the meeting up to General Public Comment.

Diane Rehn, 35 LaCrosse Street thanked the Board for reviewing their Petition against the Recovery Center at the Gospel Lighthouse Church. They would like to make it clear to all readers and concerned people of the community that they are in favor of some kind of place for heroin drug addicts in our community. They do not want it at the Gospel Lighthouse Church. The neighbors were not informed of a proposed Recovery Center and the Pastor did not have any type of meeting or notices to neighbors. It wasn't until 1/23/15 when the Post Star published an article "Heroin Task Force Plans New Center" that the neighbors were aware of the plans for a Recovery Center in their neighborhood. On 1/26/15 she approached the Pastor and requested a meeting so that the neighbors could voice their concerns and ask questions. Seven (7) neighbors were able to attend the meeting on 1/28/15. At the meeting he provided those in attendance with a "Dear Neighbor" letter. The letter indicated that he was not planning a recovery center, not interested in being a treatment center, and said "we do not have a program, we are just talking". The neighbors were able to voice their concerns – their properties, homes, the children's exposure, etc... No reply from the Pastor was provided. At the end of the meeting the Pastor asked the neighbors if they would like another meeting which would be an open invite for anyone to attend. All agreed and it was scheduled for 2/4/15 but the day before the meeting he went to Mrs. Rehn's home and advised her that the meeting was canceled. He indicated to her that there was nothing more to discuss, and if the Post Star was to enter the church he would leave. Mrs. Rehn's reiterated to the Pastor that it would be in his best interest to hold the meeting because there were folks who weren't able to attend the initial meeting. She begged and pleaded with the Pastor to take his concept elsewhere. While leaving her porch the Pastor turned to her and stated "I don't trust you", while walking away he also stated "you probably don't trust me". This was very upsetting to Mrs. Rehn – she was taken aback by this comment.

Mrs. Rehn advised that their neighborhood is in a residential neighborhood and she has owned her home for 30 years. This church has never even had an AA Meeting. The letter provided by the Pastor indicated that he was possibly considering holding AA/NA 12 step meetings at the church, with other possibilities. This past weekend it was brought to the neighbor's attention – a brochure is now being distributed. The brochure indicates that the recovery center is being called the "Hope and Healing Community Recovery Center". Things the Pastor said were not going to happen are outlined in this brochure which is being distributed at the Washington County Jail. It was recommended that the neighbors call David Shephard who is the head of the Council for Prevention Inc. to obtain another prospective of this. The neighbors chose not to because in the Post Star article of 2/4/15 he stated that he had no direct knowledge of the plans that the Gospel Lighthouse Church might have, but his phone number is on the back of the brochure.

They are all in favor of having help for these folks but not at these risks – homes are in jeopardy, families are in jeopardy and it is not an appropriate location in a residential neighborhood. Has the Pastor done what is necessary at the State, County or Local level in regards to this? Has the Pastor questioned or discussed his plans with the Zoning or Planning Boards to offer bedding or shower accommodations at the church? The Petition has a list of questions they would like addressed: Adequate law enforcement to monitor, etc... Their meeting with the Pastor offered no information or resolution at all. The Pastor was not forthright in answering any questions and became irate.

Katie Morehouse, 29 LaCrosse Street said that she and her husband are concerned because they have five (5) children and live right across the street from the church. Her youngest is very medically fragile and is on oxygen. They are concerned that people visiting the recovery center would assume her child is likely on other kinds of medication. They questioned the Pastor what would qualify a person as "none-user" – he couldn't answer these types of questions. She is also concerned with the two (2) apartments in the church which house children on the property which she feels would put those children at risk. She questioned whether the church would do background checks. Mrs. Morehouse is concerned because her children do attend the church's Wednesday program and the

Friday Youth Ministry Program, and these programs will now be available to the people attending the recovery center. Doesn't feel this is a good mix. She feels the recovery center should be in our business district or in a vacant building elsewhere – not in a residential neighborhood.

Cheryl Romano, 37 LaCrosse Street advised that the neighbors had talked to the Pastor and asked for criteria on who would qualify as a “non-user”. Rumors are that the church is considering housing some of the addicts. The neighbors are looking for answers and have been provided with nothing. The information sheet the Pastor provided the neighbors said “first and foremost let me explain how the Post Star totally misrepresented me and the church” and he stressed that in their meeting. Mrs. Romano has an elderly mother-in-law with pre-dementia who will open the door to anybody who knocks. Concerned about an elderly neighbor who lives by herself as well. Mrs. Romano feels they have a very good neighborhood – they know when someone out of character is walking in their neighborhood (gave an example). There was mention of the close proximity to the Recovery Center on Main Street and the benefits of locating another recovery center at Gospel Lighthouse. Concerned with children as well. The neighborhood consists of EMT, Police Officers, etc... and all are willing to help people but in the same aspect having it directly attached to their neighborhood without having specific criteria for “none-user” it is a problem. She asked the Board to point them in the right direction and let them know what is going on.

Mary Bascue, LaCrosse Street advised the Board that their group is going to proceed to fight this. They do not want drug users and criminals in their neighborhood. That is not the neighborhood that she moved into, she did not buy a house to have to put up with this. Betty Little has been notified and if this is not stopped legal action will be taken. She talked to a realtor and was told her home value will go down 10% and she is not going to stand for that. She advised the Board that they are serious about this, they are taking a stand and will not back down. Legal action will be taken if they are not happy with the results they get.

The Mayor advised that the Village will follow up on the situation and try to get some answers to what the plans are, what the church can and can't do - code enforcement and legal council will be involved.

Mrs. Rehn asked why the neighbors were not informed of this. Attorney Nikas advised that there was nothing to inform. This is a new use by this entity and there is nothing for the Village Board to follow up on. The church will be required to file for Site Plan Review and go through the Planning Board. At which time there will be public hearings and everyone in the neighborhood would be notified of the public hearings. The neighbors and anyone concerned will have the ability to voice their concerns at that time. He strongly recommend that the group hire counsel because there are some zoning issues that apply to this kind of use.

A lengthy discussion ensued with regards to the brochure that is being disseminated (a neighbor advised that the brochure is being handed out at the Washington County Jail), none-use criteria/standards and the proposed use at the church.

Attorney Nikas again advised that the use itself is not prohibited regardless of the zone. However, because it is a new use the church is still required to go through Site Plan Review. There are other issues such as traffic, hours of operation, etc... that they may have to address. Attorney Nikas advised that the brochure represents a use whether it is in operation or not. The Pastor should be advised that the new use requires Site Plan Review.

Chief Diamond reported that Pastor Mead came and met with Code Enforcement Officer Cortese and himself on 1/22/15. At that time he spoke to them about a program called Teen Challenge Ministry which is someone who has been in recovery from 2-4 months. A person involved in this program would be going into the vocation, continue studies, travel back and forth to Albany for school. At that time Chief Diamond suggested that the Pastor come in to address the Board because of the concerns. The note which was provided to the Chief contained information about four (4) rooms which were being remodeled but it would strictly be for those involved in the Teen Challenge Ministry Program. The second time the Chief met with Pastor Mead he advised that he was meeting with the neighbors to address their concerns. The Chief again suggested that the Pastor attend a Board meeting and the Pastor had agreed to do so.

The Board asked our Code Enforcement and Chief Diamond to address this issue and inform the Pastor that he needs Site Plan Review and approval prior to doing anything. It was asked if we could attempt to pull the brochures.

Dr. Potvin, Pearl Street asked if it would be prudent for the Pastor to attend a Village Board meeting prior to going before the Planning Board. Attorney Nikas advised that this is a Planning Board issue and he will advise the Village Board not to respond to it because it is the Planning Board issue.

Katie Morehouse, LaCrosse Street advised that on April 19th of each year is "Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day". She sent a request to the Mayor for consideration. The Mayor reported that the Board will adopt a resolution at the April 6, 2015 meeting. A letter has been sent to Mrs. Morehouse confirming this. A certified resolution will be provided.

Brian Parsons, King Avenue inquired as to the status of the stormwater issue in their neighborhood. Attorney Nikas advised that the surveys have been completed. K. Martin, the engineer, has been delayed because of the weather but will have a report by the next meeting.

Brian Parsons, King Avenue asked about the status of the zoning issues discussed at the workshop. The Mayor advised that there is nothing new to report.

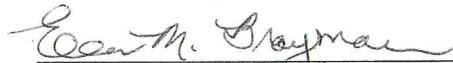
The Deputy Mayor reported that the next regular Board meeting will be held 3/9/15 at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing matters leading to the appointment of a particular unnamed person or persons.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried executive session was closed and the regular session continued.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and carried the request of Clerk Brayman to hire Penny Ward, Argyle, NY as Deputy Clerk/Treasure at a starting rate of \$16.483/hr. effective 2/24/15 and to increase to 17.01 upon successful completion of training.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.



Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer