

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 6/8/15 at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

The Feeder Canal Alliance was to address the Board but has asked to postpone their presentation until the July 13, 2015 meeting due to the weather.

Kevin Hayes, Washington County Administrator addressed the Board regarding the Government Efficiency Plan submitted by the County on behalf of all of the Villages and Towns in the County in order to comply with the Property Tax Freeze.

The Efficiency Plan is a requirement in the second year of the tax freeze. The tax freeze began last year and as long as municipalities stay within their tax cap, tax payers will receive a rebate in October. The second phase of the tax freeze is to file an Efficiency Plan. The plan must show or attempt to show a savings of 1% of the tax levy for 2017, 2018 and 2019. Washington County is lead agency and has filed an Efficiency Plan on behalf of all municipalities within the county. The look back period is from 2012 going forward through 2019. In that period of time the County sold their public health nursing item and that alone saved \$900,000. Pleasant Valley Infirmary was also privatized and an Adult Home within that facility was funded in the amount of \$250,000. One percent of the budget for all municipalities in the County is around 56 Million Dollars based on 2014 tax levy. The Efficiency Plan would show a savings of 1% or \$562,000. By using the two examples the County met their benchmark but every municipality provided savings ideas. The Efficiency Plan reported a proposed savings of \$2.5 Million Dollars in savings. These savings were documented on the report and the report has been filed with New York State. This ensures us of our second step of the tax freeze program for this year. As long as a municipality stays within their tax cap, a rebate will be provided to the taxpayer for the following year. The rebate is only for two years – 2015 and 2016.

Mr. Hayes reported that one of the things that has come out of putting the Efficiency Plan together is that better communication between the County and the Villages is needed to better serve our residents. The talk of future savings should be continued, because it would pay dividends in the future. Mr. Hayes provided a copy of the Efficiency Report and the tax freeze regulations.

Attorney Nikas inquired as to what is the incentive for the Towns and Villages to come up with plans to save since the County has already met the goal for the savings. Mr. Hayes advised that one of the items in their plan was the Dispatch consolidation between the Village of Hudson Falls and the County. They tried to include all municipalities plans in the report. The Workers Comp item showed savings across all the municipalities. The incentive for local municipalities to save is the need to stay within the tax cap so their taxpayers receive the rebates.

**RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO PARTICIPATE
IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY PLAN WITH WASHINGTON COUNTY**

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried

WHEREAS, the State of New York has required each local government unit to file a Government Efficiency Plan with the New York State Division of Budget (DOB), and

WHEREAS, Washington County is looking to be the lead government unit for filing the Plan,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Hudson Falls hereby agrees to work with Washington County to submit ideas for the plan which will save at least 1% of the 2014 combined tax levy amount of all participants, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Village of Hudson Falls agrees to make its best effort to implement the Plan beginning in 2017 to 2019, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Hudson Falls authorizes the Mayor to certify the Government Efficiency Plan.

The Mayor opened the meeting to public comment.

Rick Connolly, Town of Kingsbury would like to know what the time frame for finishing Juckett Park is because he plans to restore the canon in the park. Superintendent Fiorillo reported that the Village DPW will be done this week; Girard Landscaping and the sprinkler outfit will then be conducting their portion of the project. Mr. Connolly reported that he will need electricity and water for his project. Superintendent Fiorillo advised that the water and the power is already there. He feels if pressure washing is going to be done it would be better to do it before the hydro seeding. Mr. Connolly and Superintendent Fiorillo will get together to coordinate the cannon restore in the park. Mr. Connolly has volunteered at Gettysburg National Historical Park for the last seventeen summers, working in the cannon shop. He has been involved in restoring 50+ cannons. Restoring our cannon should be a fairly simple process – he explained the process. The Village will supply the paint and materials necessary

John Hall, 52 Ferry Street requested that the Board consider selling a portion of the Village property adjacent to his property. They want to construct a two car garage on the property. He provided the Board with a map of the property outlining the area he is interested in purchasing. He has also staked off the property if anyone would like to take a look at the area. The Board advised that they will review and let him know.

Mr. Barber, Fourth Avenue inquired as to the status of his concern with the grass on Fourth Avenue where the water line was replaced. Mayor Barton advised that the DPW will put new grass seed down but it will need to be taken care of.

A discussion ensued regarding the proposed zoning changes. It was agreed that Attorney Nikas will draft proposed legislation for the Board's comments regarding lot size, restricting two family in Residence A and B and eliminating the need for a tax map in the definition of a building lot.

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

RESOLVED, that a public hearing be scheduled for 7/13/15 AT 4:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the transitioning of Paris Park to a Municipal Parking Lot.

Attorney Nikas reported AT&T wishes to extend their current Option regarding the lease on the water tower.

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be authorized to execute the AT&T Option to Lease for purposes of a cell tower.

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the minutes of the regular meeting of 5/11/15 and the Special Meeting of 5/29/15 were approved as read.

The Mayor appointed Trustee Robert Cook to be appointed Village liaison to the group Sandy Hill Vision, an association of concerned individuals formed by the community of Hudson Falls NY with the goal of revitalizing our village.

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

RESOLVED, that the following individuals be appointed officers in the Hudson Falls Fire Council:

FF Brian Downs to Captain
FF Dean Stine to Lieutenant
FF Tom Noble to Lieutenant
FF Ashley Rivers to EMS Liaison Officer

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

RESOLVED, that approval is granted of the Hudson Falls Fire Councils appointment of Miranda Drouin, 36 LaCross Street Hudson Falls as a Fire Fighter in the Hudson Falls Fire Council as submitted.

The Mayor announced that the Concerts in the Park will begin on Thursday, July 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in Juckett Park and will continue each Thursday through August 27th. The location of the concerts has been changed until further notice due to the renovations in Juckett Park. All concerts will be held at the Village Hall parking lot until further notice.

The Mayor announced – the flushing of hydrants will take place June 7th – 12th from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. Flushing will begin north of Feeder Street and continue until all hydrants have been flushed. Some discoloration of water may occur during this period. Residents are advised to check water before doing laundry and to drain and flush hot water tanks after the process is completed.

The Mayor advised that the Village received a request of Roger Street resident to place a sign “Slow Children at Play” on the street or to make other efforts to get drivers to slow down.

The Mayor advised that the Board has been a proponent of not installing Children at Play signs because there are children at play on virtually every street. NYMIR has also provided information which does not recommend the practice of installing these signs. The Mayor spoke to Chief Diamond and he is in the process of arranging to place the mobile speed trailer on that street and other streets throughout the Village. The Police Department will also ramp up speed enforcement in various places throughout the Village.

Trustee Horrigan reported that he lives on Roger Street, he is not the person who complained but he confirmed that they do have a problem with speeding on their street. He is not against the “slow children at play” sign. They do have a speed limit sign. He noted the past complaints are the hot spots – Martindale, Pearl, Maple, Wall, East LaBarge, East LeClaire, and John Streets. The enforcement should also be directed in the hot spot areas. He inquired as to what the results of the speed trailer is? Chief Diamond advised that the speed trailer is placed in a location for two or three days, then they begin enforcing the speed limit. This gives drivers a warning. The speed trailer also provides data – number of cars and their rate of speed. Trustee Horrigan feels the speed limits should be enforced - warnings are not necessary and the police should target the hot spots. These complaints have been addressed multiple times. He asked the Chief how many speeding tickets were issued this past month – the Chief did not recollect the exact number. Residents can put a sign on their property if they feel one will help. The Chief reported that speeding tickets were issued to a few high school students, then word got around quickly. Trustee Horrigan referred to the speed enforcement in the Town of Moreau near Harrison Avenue School – most people know not to speed there because of the heavy enforcement.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Cook 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.

Trustee Horrigan asked Code Enforcement Officer Cortese whether there are any violations associated with the Nuisance Law in the last month. Code Enforcement Officer Cortese advised that two warnings have been issued and are pending. They are also working on a new address at this time – the Deputy Chief of Police is doing the calculations on that address. This particular property is in the process of being foreclosed upon but is not in the banks name yet. The owner is advising that he doesn't own the property because of the foreclosure proceedings.

Attorney Nikas asked for authority to take preliminary action to put the owner on notice and the bank on notice. A letter was sent to the Attorney General in January of last year looking for authority to place a levy on the property taxes in accordance with the statute. If this could be added to the Village tax bill, the County would then pay us. Washington County has essentially told the Village if they did this the Village would have to collect its own

taxes. In speaking with the County Attorney, he thinks they will work with us if we don't abuse it. But the issue still remains can we do it lawfully. He feels the Village should take a chance at it and do it on their own. There is a residence on Spruce Street which caused a lot of attention in the neighborhood. There is a tarp that was going over the entire roof and is now dangling and shredded and the neighbors are complaining because it is a nice neighborhood. Code Enforcement Officer put a notice into the code compliance website where they track the bank to determine if that bank will take responsible action for the property. The process takes time. The property is still in the name of Gary Rigby, and the foreclosure was started in January 2013. It is coming up for sale on June 22, 2015. Attorney Nikas explained that the landowner of title is still obligated to follow the Village Code. He is then put on notice (or anybody else like him) that the Village will be obtaining a quote for the cost to remedy the issue; our intention is to remedy the issue and add the cost of remedy to the tax bill. Let them contest it if they wish to do so. The Banks have been paying the taxes on this property and if they want to save their equity they are going to pay whatever it costs. This is sending the message that says the foreclosure process does not take away your responsibility as a property owner. Attorney Nikas will check with the assessor on the process. The Board agreed to move forward with this recommendation.

Trustee Horrigan inquired as to what organization Code Enforcement Officer Cortese put notice in to. Code Enforcement Officer Cortese explained how the code compliance website efforts assist in tracking the bank holding the mortgage and many times is able to notify the bank of the violation, the bank then hires a property preservation contractor to remedy the violation and usually that property is then put on a schedule for regular maintenance. This is a lengthy process and sometimes it ends in a dead end.

Attorney Nikas advised that the problem with notifying the bank of the violations is that the bank does not have any obligation to do repair work on the property. Once the Bank takes the deed, then they have an obligation to adhere to the Village Code.

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

General Fund	Check Nos.	29202 - 29245
Water Fund (General Fund)	Check Nos.	29202 - 29245

The Mayor asked the Board for their comments.

Trustee Horrigan asked the status of Derby Park because it looks terrible – grass isn't mowed, nets aren't up, etc... The Mayor advised that the nets have been ordered and will be put up this week, according to Supervisor Lindsay. The Mayor also reminded Supervisor Lindsay that he (the Town) had agreed to maintain the fields beginning in 2015. Supervisor Lindsay advised that maintaining the fields at Derby will be on the Town's agenda tonight. Trustee Horrigan feels a meeting is not necessary because there is an Intermunicipal Agreement that says the Town will maintain the fields.

Trustee Horrigan feels Derby Park has never looked worse.

Trustee VanAernem inquired as to the term of the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town regarding Derby Park. There is likely a clause indicating either party can terminate the agreement with a 30 day written notice.

A discussion ensued regarding the condition of the park and the responsibility of the upkeep of the Park. The Ark in the Park is not an issue, the Village has plans to update the park and that project will be completed by the Village.

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

RESOLVED, that a letter be sent to the Town of Kingsbury a letter asking them to immediately act on the Intermunicipal Agreement regarding maintaining Derby Park.

Rick Connolly inquired as to what ever happened to Derby Park and all the recreation activities that used to take place at Derby Park. How many kids grew up at Derby Park – arriving at 9:00 a.m. and not going home until

9:00 p.m. It is sad, he worked at the playground for a number of years. Where is the morning and afternoon activities which used to take place at the park – basketball, softball, etc... Trustee Horrigan reported that the Town Recreation activities are everywhere but Derby – high school, middle school, primary school, kindergarten center. They have from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Derby where they due limited activities. He has suggested to the Town Recreation that they have kickball, whiffle ball, basketball all ages/boys and girls etc... to have something for the kids to do all summer (as in the old days).

The Mayor asked for general public comment.

Dr. Potvin, Pearl Street asked if there is any merit to Glens Falls solution to the foreclosure problem. Attorney Nikas advised it was acknowledged in the article that their solution is not going to work. Eminent domain is condemnation of the property, then the municipality would buy the property but they would have to pay the value of the property. The Banks would be in favor of this.

Dr. Potvin thanked Trustee Cook and Horrigan for pushing for a resolution to the zoning issues.

Mike Willig, 58 Elm Street reported that Sandy Hill Vision is exploring a Farmers Market in the Village. A meeting is scheduled for tonight to discuss this topic. The Farmers Market will likely take place on Village property, what is the insurance liability and any other concerns the Village may have regarding this. A pavilion is a possibility. The Village is in support of this endeavor. Attorney Nikas advised that the Village will look into how Glens Falls handles their Farmers Market and their vendors – there is no sense recreating the wheel. The Village will likely require an application and a Certificate of Insurance from each vendor. The Farmers Market use would be consistent with what Paris Park is used for now, consequently the Village won't have to wait to hear from the State. Trustee Horrigan advised that the Glens Falls Farmers Market is a year round event. In the winter their Farmers Market is held in a church. A discussion ensued regarding a pavilion and possible grant opportunities for such a project.

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 5:29 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer

