

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 2/8/16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

The Mayor opened the meeting to Public Comment.

Sharon Lowell, 10 East LeClaire Street advised that she received a call from Mayor Barton on January 9, 2016 who advised her that the Village was not going to remove a live tree in front of her home. She feels the tree is a nuisance and a hazard; she also feels the side walk is still a hazard, the Village used blacktop and the sidewalk is still on an angle which she feels is still a hazard. She gave a list of issues she has relating to the tree – sink in bathroom hasn't worked in a year (she firmly believes the roots from the trees are causing this); the limbs fall on her truck and are all over the front lawn; it is a hazard; and the tree is big.

She also questioned why the Village removed four (4) live trees on Mechanic Street when the Village has stated they do not remove live trees. The Mayor advised that the trees removed in that neighborhood are due to a waterline replacement project.

Mrs. Lowell stated she is considering leaving the street because of the tree – she pleaded with the Board to reconsider. She obtained three estimates [NIMS \$1,500 - \$1,600; A-1 Tree \$2,800 and Sears \$2,800] but she doesn't have the money. The tree is too much for her to take care of and she can't afford a plumber to take care of her sink.

The Mayor thanked Mrs. Lowell for her input and the Mayor advised that the sidewalk repair is temporary because of the time of year. They will take another look at the sidewalk. The village will not change their minds as far as taking the live tree down. Ms. Lowell would like the Village to trim the limbs of the tree.

Jim Hunt from Hunts Tree Service, on behalf of Mrs. Lowell advised the Board that she had called him three weeks ago to get a price on taking the tree down. He made the Board aware - it is a Village tree (the Mayor agreed); the sidewalk had been previously repaired and in doing so some of the roots of the tree were removed in order to level the sidewalk panels. This may cause the tree to become wounded and some day will become a problem. He has seen trees become decayed and the roots to break on one side allowing the tree to easily tip over. He doesn't feel this is the case with this tree now, but it could be in the future. At a minimum his suggestion would be to prune the dead from the tree and consider removing it. Although it is a live tree it crowds its own space and it has outgrown its usefulness in terms of beauty. Trustee Cook inquired as to how old Mr. Hunt estimated the tree to be. Mr. Hunt estimates it to be 75 to 100 years old – it is a Pin Oak. All trees have litter, the amount of dead wood in the tree does not represent a tree that is in decline, it is a normal amount. Because it lies over Mrs. Lowell's property it constitutes a nuisance, he feels you would be stretching it to call it a hazard but it will become a hazard. It is not uncommon for trees, including Pin Oaks, to cause intrusion to underground pipes. Trustee VanAernem inquired as to whether the homeowner has the right to remove the roots that may be causing the plumbing issue. Mr. Hunt advised that a homeowner has the right to cut anything on its property. The tree will need to be addressed someday.

Ed Charpentier, 2 Circular Drive asked what happens to all the wood when the Village does remove a tree like they did on Mechanic Street recently. Could it be sold; did we take it down ourselves, or does someone take it down for us. The Mayor asked CEO Cortese if he knew what Superintendent Fiorillo did – Mr. Cortese advised that he contracts someone to assist with taking the trees down. Mr. Charpentier advised that the overflow area down between his properties has a tree that is dead and when it falls it will take the bridge down. The tree is on the right side and is wrapped into the stone bridge. Over the years he has encouraged National Grid to take down as much as they are willing to when they are in the area. He wanted it on the record so that this tree could be placed on the list for removal.

**Resolution Designating an
Environmental Review Certifying Officer**

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls has been awarded a grant from the Office of Community Renewal (OCR) Project No. CDBG 559PW49-14 to replace water mains and private water laterals in a low/moderate income neighborhood; and,

WHEREAS, as a grant recipient the Village is required to undertake and complete an environmental review process for the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Community Renewal requires that the Village designate an Environmental Review Certifying Officer; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Village Board hereby designates Ellen Brayman as the Village's Certifying Officer, and authorizes the Mayor to inform OCR of such designation.

**RESOLUTION - Amendment
APPROVING GRANT AWARD
UNDER THE NEW YORK MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls is the recipient of a one hundred and ninety-five thousand dollar (\$195,000) Main Street grant funded through the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation and administered at the state level through the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR); and

WHEREAS, the Main Street Grant Program provides grant funds on a 75/25 matching basis to eligible applicants of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) for Façade and first floor commercial improvements and an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each upper-story residential unit, not to exceed a building total of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); and

WHEREAS, the property at 10 Court Street is eligible for grant assistance, and the owner had developed plans for building improvements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village approves the following grant award under the New York Main Street Program:

PROPERTY

10 Court Street

GRANT AWARD

Façade and interior improvements
– Not to exceed \$50,000

**RESOLUTION
APPROVING GRANT AWARD
UNDER THE NEW YORK MAIN STREET PROGRAM**

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls is the recipient of a one hundred and ninety-five thousand dollar (\$195,000) Main Street grant funded through the New York State Housing Trust Fund Corporation and administered at the state level through the NYS Office of Community Renewal (OCR); and

WHEREAS, the Main Street Grant Program provides grant funds on a 75/25 matching basis to eligible applicants of up to thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000) for Façade and first floor commercial improvements and an additional ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for each upper-story residential unit, not to exceed a building total of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000); and

WHEREAS, the property at 166 Main Street is eligible for grant assistance, and the owner had developed plans for building improvements;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Village approves the following grant award under the New York Main Street Program:

PROPERTY

166 Main Street

GRANT AWARD

Façade and interior improvements
– Not to exceed \$35,000

RESOLUTION

Determination that the Village of Hudson Falls Neighborhood Water Main Replacement Program is a Type II Action under SEQR Regulations - Project No. CDBG 559PW49-14

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls has received a grant from the NYS Office of Community Renewal to assist (1) in the replacement of deteriorated water mains on Mechanic Street, Hudson Place, Pearl Street from Route 4 to Oak Street and Cherry Street from Pearl Street to Mechanic Street, and (2) with the replacement of a limited number of private water laterals; and

WHEREAS, the grant award requires that the Village meet applicable requirements for a review of the project under SEQR; and

WHEREAS, the project is considered to be a Type II action under Section 617.5 (c)(2) of the SEQR regulations and is therefore not subject to review under the SEQR regulations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED; that the Hudson Falls Village Board hereby determines that the replacement of water mains and private water laterals within the Village is a Type II action under SEQR regulations, and therefore is not an action subject to review under SEQR

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the minutes of the regular meeting of 1/11/16 were approved as read.

The Village Board of Trustees acknowledges receipt of the the Independent Auditors Report and Financial Statement FYE 5/31/15 prepared by Whittemore Downen & Ricciardelli, LLP.

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be authorized to execute the CSEA Employee Benefit Fund Vision Plan Contract.

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

RESOLVED, that the membership application of Matthew D. Bain, Hudson Falls as a firefighter in the HF Fire Council be approved as requested.

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

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
A-1210.4 Mayor	545.00	
A-1010.4 Board of Trustees		545.00 [ARCC Membership]
A-5182.4 Street Lighting	21.00	
A-5680.4 Join Bus Transportation		21.00
A-3331.000 JCAP Court Grant	452.35	[Left over Grant \$]
A-1110.4.008 JCAP Court Grant		452.35
A-5110.1 Street Maintenance	14,000.00	
A-7140.1 Village Parks		14,000.00 [Park Improvements]

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 Cook and carried the following abstracts were audited and ordered for payment:

General Fund	Check Nos.	29759 - 29833
Drug Fund	Check No.	1312
Water Fund	Check Nos.	5539 - 5543
Trust Fund	Check Nos.	6613 - 6628
Payroll Fund	Check Nos.	29078 - 29093

The Mayor reported that he will be attending a meeting this Wednesday to discuss and brainstorm response planning in the event of a crude oil spill along the railroads. Many agencies are involved, Superintendent Fiorillo, Chief Fitzgerald, and Chief Diamond will also be attending.

The Mayor also reported that on February 19th a meeting at the former Courthouse has been scheduled to obtain ideas and suggestions.

The Mayor asked the Board for their comments – Trustee Cook gave an example of a tree around the corner from him that was a Village tree which the homeowner removed to put in a driveway. He feels the Board needs to come up with a plan for addressing trees. He feels there comes a point where a tree outgrows its useful life, where they become too large and they do become a problem. He has a very nice maple in his yard that loves his sewer lateral. Every two years he has to hire IBS or someone to snake it out to remove the roots. He doesn't mind but he can see where it could become a real problem. He understands you can't take down a tree every time someone complains about one but yet we should be able to come up with some reasonable way of taking a look at what's there. That is why he was asking Mr. Hunt how old the tree was. As far as the sidewalk goes, the only way to fix it is if you cut the

problem out or turn the sidewalk into a half-moon to avoid it. He is not necessarily advocating taking down a particular tree but he feels we should come up with some sort of a way of dealing with the trees when someone has a legitimate concern. Clerk mentioned the plan would have to be incorporated into the budget. Trustee Cook advised that apparently the Village already allows people take trees down if they want to.


Mr. Charpentier feels there must be people in the business of selling firewood that could work toward getting some revenue to start a program.

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

Jim Johnston, Wright Street is still waiting to hear more information on the former Courthouse as far as the youth center goes. From what he reads in the Post Star there is an up and going youth center in the Hudson River Music Hall with programs in place. He inquired as to whether the Village is still entertaining a youth center for the former Courthouse? Mayor Barton advised that the Village is still considering a youth center. Trustee Cook advised that the Hudson River Music Hall has programs for youth that do not require a home base. Mr. Johnston doesn't feel there is enough kids in the area to have both. Trustee Cook advised that there are more children in need of services than there are services available. He feels a youth center is a place for kids to have fun for a while then go home. Trustee Cook feels that could be part of it, but modern youth centers for kids today go beyond a place for kids to socialize -it also provides counseling, housing services, etc... Mr. Johnston mentioned the GF Youth Center almost went broke this year because of the lack of donors (except a Director's relative gave \$50,000), where are we going to get the operating capital to have an administrator, etc... Trustee Cook advised that there is a group working on this and these are all questions that are being considered. Trustee Cook reported that as far as he knows the GF Youth Center is not in dire straits. Mr. Johnston feels GF has a greater donor pool than Hudson Falls. Mr. Johnston asked if all of these questions will be answered prior to the Board making a decision about purchasing the former Courthouse in June. Trustee Cook advised that there are two (2) issues – whether we want to buy the property and what we want to use the property for. This Board is concerned about whether to purchase the property; there is another group working on the kinds of programs and the necessary space available for things such as a youth center. Mr. Johnston's impression is that the only viable thing that has been discussed is a youth center with no direction on the rest of the building. Trustee Cook feels there has been a lot of direction on the building but it hasn't been put together yet. This only started in November and since then an enormous amount of progress has been made. Mr. Johnston doesn't want to see \$300,000 worth of taxpayers money spent on a field of dreams that vaporizes before your eyes. He gave the TD Bank property as an example. Trustee Cook advised that the TD Bank building has a home healthcare firm, a law firm and residential income property in the building, everything except the bottom floor of the bank is rented out – he feels it has been a successful project.

Mr. Johnston inquired as to what is going on at the old GE property on Sumpter Street – are they going to knock it down? The Mayor reported that they anticipate the building will be taken down. CEO Officer Cortese reported that the project is under the direction of DEC and all of the debris is required to be brought to proper dump sites.

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 6:42 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Hudson Falls was held on February 11, 2016 at Noon in the Council Room of Village Hall for purposes considering the purchase of a used 2001 GMC HD 3500 BUCKET TRUCK VERSALIFT TELESCOPIC BOOM and to conduct such other business that may come before the Board.

Present: Mayor John Barton
Trustee Robert Cook
Trustee James Gallagher
Trustee Thomas VanAernem

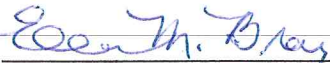
Absent: Trustee Michael Horrigan

The Mayor opened the meeting at Noon and announced that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the purchase of a used 2001 GMC HD 3500 BUCKET TRUCK for use in the Department of Public Works. The truck is a budgeted item.

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem and seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried IT IS

RESOLVED, that approval be granted of the request of Superintendent Fiorillo to purchase a 2001 GMC Budget Truck at the purchase price of \$19,800 to be used by the Department of Public Works in several applications including but not limited to street light repairs and installation, tree trimming and removal, and various other useful applications. The Board approved check number 29839 made payable to Kellogg B Auto Sales and authorized the Mayor to sign the letter providing Superintendent Fiorillo the authority to sign for the truck and pick it up at the designated location.

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 12:05 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer