

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 9/12/16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Present: Mayor John Barton
Trustee Robert Cook
Trustee James Gallagher, Jr.
Trustee Joelle Timms
Attorney William Nikas

Absent: Trustee Thomas VanAernem

At 6:00 p.m. time was set aside for a public hearing for the purpose of discussing the Restore NY municipal grant program and the property assessment list which identifies the property targeted for assistance. The Mayor reported that the Village has engaged special council, Mark Schachner to represent the village on this matter.

Mr. Schachner advised that he is representing the Village on this matter because, Mr. Nikas has an involvement in the targeted property - the Masonic Temple. The Village is considering applying for an Empire State Development Corporation grant. One of the first steps of doing so is the adoption of a resolution that essentially says that proposed project fits within the overall Village's game plan and that it would be an effective and efficient use of resources. It is not a commitment at this point from the Village but it is a support resolution to accompany the grant application

Bob Murray of Shelter Planning & Development, the Village's grant writer, reported that the grant program was announced in June and it is Round 4 of the Restore NY grant program. There is 60 Million Dollars in grant money available for communities to revitalize community centers and to address vacant or mostly vacant buildings that would have a significant impact on the community. The Village was successful one time before with the First National Bank building in 2009 and this is a comparable situation. The Village is the applicant, the actor is the owner/developer of the Masonic Temple. We expect that together with the grant money there will be significant private financing and equity investment on the part of the owner in order to make this project happen and in order to be competitive. Mr. Murray's job at the moment is to work with the Village and the owners of the building to put together the most competitive application possible. The application is expected to be submitted prior to the October 4th deadline. He feels it is a great project and will be highly competitive no matter who else is applying. The application process requires that the Village hold a public hearing and to publish the list of the property that is being considered – both have been accomplished.

Mr. Schachner advised that if the project were to proceed there will be necessary requirements down the road but at this point the first step is to authorize the resolution to accompany the grant application.

There were 9 members of the public present.

The Mayor opened up the public hearing for public comment – none was given.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Timms and carried the public hearing was closed.

Restore NY Resolution – Project Conformance to program goals

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

WHEREAS, Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) is accepting applications for funds under the Restore New York grant program;

WHEREAS, the Restore NY program is intended to revitalize urban areas and stabilize neighborhoods through funds provided to aid in the implementation of a project of significant benefit to the community;

WHEREAS, such grant money may be used in projects involving demolition, deconstruction, rehabilitation and/or reconstruction of vacant, abandoned, condemned and surplus properties;

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls intends to submit an application for funds through the Restore New York grant program;

WHEREAS, the proposed project is the renovation of the Masonic Temple Building at 214 Main Street to provide 4,220 square feet of commercial/office space and 10,020 square feet of residential space;

WHEREAS, the proposed project implements an overall strategy for revitalization supported in the Village Comprehensive plan as well as the Village's Revitalization Opportunities Program;

WHEREAS, costs over and above any assistance granted by Empire State Development will be financed by the building owner;

WHEREAS, the renovation of the vacant building at 214 Main Street will help to maintain an important downtown asset;

WHEREAS, the proposed project will aid in the creation of new commercial and residential space, generating increased investment in the downtown and a more significant market for existing and prospective businesses;

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, the proposed project is consistent with revitalization or redevelopment plans; the proposed financing is appropriate for the specific project; the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources and the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create, and sustain employment opportunities.

The Mayor opened the meeting to General Public Comment.

Michelle Wood, Maple Street advised that she was in attendance a few months ago and volunteered to help with a social media campaign for the Village. After meeting with the Mayor a couple of months ago she compiled screen shots from the web page. She outlined what she felt needed to be addressed in order to make the website more user friendly, especially for new residents. She did note that the Village Fire Dept. has a fantastic website. If we could strive to do something along this line it would be fantastic. She is not a big twitter fan but she was following the Village's twitter. Now that she figured out how to follow she began to retweet them to Facebook. She does know that when she posts to twitter it automatically posts to Facebook so if the Village had a Facebook page you would only have to post one time (both Twitter and Facebook) to reach a much larger audience. This is important because people do not typically search for information anymore, they want to receive push notifications (automatically). She provided the Mayor with her notes for improving the Village website.

Mrs. Wood further noted her continuing battle over the front sign. She was told that the sign can't be on at night because of safety issues, however, twice now it has been on to sell tickets for particular events. A discussion ensued. She is asking that the meetings be posted on the sign when she walks by in the early morning hours or send her push notifications of the meetings. The Mayor will review the matter.

Dr. Potvin, Pearl Street inquired as to regulation concerning raising a goat on your premises – specifically Pearl Street. The Mayor reported that the goat is allegedly a service goat with some type of certification as such. The Village has asked for proof of this. Attorney Nikas advised that Code Enforcement has directed the owner to provide proof that the animal is indeed qualified as a therapy animal - there is a protocol to prove this. If she does not comply then she will be issued an appearance ticket. Dr. Potvin is concerned this may open the door for other farm animals.

Abe Norman, 11 Third Avenue advised that he has an issue with a Village tree near his home. This has been going on for three years. It has a rotten branch that extends to the top of the tree and bugs have infested it. For three years when the branches come down he has cleaned them up because he feels it is a safety issue. He also reported that the tree is pushing the sidewalk up as well. He asked a tree company to provide him with an estimate for removal

of the tree. He submitted this to the Mayor and he feels the Village should take care of this tree. The Mayor advised that he would look into it.

The Mayor reported that he has spoken to the Town Historian. He is currently working towards separating the historical items to identify whether they are town or village. The Village would like to eventually obtain the items in order to display them for all to see. The Mayor is attempting to schedule a meeting to have a conversation with the historian.

Upon motion made by Trustee Timms, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried the minutes of the regular meeting 8/8/16 were approved as read.

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

RESOLVED, that the request of Chief Diamond to promote Steven Bunio and Ryan Woodward to the position of Sergeant effective today at the current contract starting rate be approved.

Chief Diamond thanked the Board for their support. He noted Ryan Woodward is present and congratulated him. The Board congratulated the officers.

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

RESOLVED, that the membership of Brandon Smith, 153 Broad Street, as a Firefighter in the Hudson Falls Fire Council be approved as submitted.

Trustee Cook congratulated the fire department for their staffing numbers and efforts.

Upon motion made by Trustee Timms, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried the following budget appropriation be approved:

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
A-1990.4 Contingency	\$2,400	
A-7140.4 Village Parks		\$2,400

(The Village received \$2,400 funds from the GF Hospital Grant in the previous year for landscaping at Derby)

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; Code Enforcement submitted by Francis Cortese; and Fire Department, submitted by Chief Michael Fitzgerald.

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

General Fund	Check Nos.	30286 - 30343
Water Fund	Check Nos.	5570 - 5573
Trust Fund	Check Nos.	6732 - 6751
Payroll Fund	Check Nos.	29298 - 29318

The Mayor reported a successful and quiet Sandy Hill Days. The Community Block Party that took place on 8/27 was a success and well attended. Don't forget the Sandy Hill Farmers Market on Sunday's – it seems to be growing.

Trustee Timms reported that the farmers market is in fact growing. They have two new vendors this week and in a couple of weeks they are planning an "Authors Event" where about 8 authors will be on hand at the Farmers Market.

Trustee Cook noted that the Board has talked about trees before. He feels the Board needs to revisit the issue because it isn't the first time a resident has complained about a tree that appears to have outlived its usefulness. He agrees with Mike's approach that you don't remove live trees but when a tree is heaving sidewalks or going into sewer laterals maybe there is a point at which something should be done. The Mayor advised that maybe this could be reviewed and looked at during budget time.

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

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing proposed lease negotiations of the John Street property.

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

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Timms and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer