

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 1/9/17 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

The Mayor opened the meeting to General Public Comment.

Niki LaBarge, 2 Park Place brought a safety concern to the Board regarding accessing cross walks, sidewalks and bus stops. She feels special attention should be given to remove ice and snow at the crosswalks and bus stops. She provided the Board with pictures for their review. Speaking on behalf of the elderly, children and disabled. She had a conversation with the Code Enforcement Officer last week and has not heard from the Highway Superintendent. She noted that the bus stops and crosswalks are to be used for pedestrian safety but feels there isn't adequate attention being paid to these areas. Please review this further and take her concerns under consideration.

Abe Norman, 11 Third Avenue thanked those involved in assisting to getting the tree removed near his home. Still need to remove the stump when the weather warms up. He thanked all involved. He also concurs with the woman concerned about the crosswalks. He too walks these areas and experiences the same issues.

Members of Phoenix Rising gave a presentation regarding their efforts. Trustee Cook provided some background on Phoenix Rising Hudson Falls Project. In 2014 the Village formed a Vacant and Abandoned Properties Task Force. They identified issues surrounding these properties and researched possible actions that could be taken to address these properties. The 12 member task force met for about six months, spoke to elected officials, visited other communities, spoke with consultants and made lengthy recommendations to the Board. Several original members stayed on. They learned there is a limit to what local elected officials can accomplish on their own. You don't turn communities around merely by passing new codes. What was needed was a private public partnership of committed people working in collaboration with the Village Board to develop initiatives to ultimately give people reasons to want to live and invest in the Village. Needed to work to address quality of life issues, provide positive events that bring people together and find ways to take advantage of what we already have. We have a walkable community, lovely established neighborhoods, an abundance of parks. We needed to find a way to leverage our rich Main Street history and the buildings on Main Street. And to take advantage of the 20,000 cars per day that travel Main Street – get the cars to stop in the Village. All of this would provide positive economic development. In February of 2016 the group became Phoenix Rising Project Hudson Falls Inc. a 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation. A Board of Directors has been put together and are here tonight – Bill Nikas, President, Bob Cook, Vice President, Joelle Timms, Secretary/Treasurer; Brenda Brooks, Head School Nurse Teacher for the Hudson Falls Central School District; Bill Kuba, Hudson Falls resident and IT Businessman; Kathy Varney, former Hudson Falls Trustee and Program Director for Creating Healthy Schools and Community Grant funded through the NYS Department of Health and administered by the Health Promotion Center of Glens Falls Hospital. Patti Gray Whann, owner of Glens Falls Area Realty and owner of Redesign for Seniors and has a deep background with the Glens Falls Collaborative and has worked with the Glens Falls Improvement District; Melissa Brennan a local entrepreneur and Tori Rily, President of the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce.

Phoenix Rising Project Hudson Falls has focused its attention on four major initiatives – Farmers Market, Business Improvement, Parks Expansion and Revitalization and Rehabilitation of the former Washington County Courthouse.

Joelle Timms reported that the Sandy Hill Farmers Market has been very successful. This year they hope to expand with more farmers and fresh flowers. There is a wide variety of vendors and entertainment. It has been a wonderful addition to our community and has brought the community together. There is hope to partner with the Feeder Canal Alliance and organize a 5K Race in the fall. They would like to utilize the Feeder Canal Trail and bring

the race into some of the Village's residential areas. It was mentioned that Howard Raymond of the Feeder Canal Alliance is involved with the groups efforts.

Patti Gray-Whann advised that she is a Glens Falls resident and owner of Glens Falls Area Realty. Just this summer she sold three homes in Hudson Falls so when she is looking at communities she is not just looking in the community she lives in. She wants all of the area communities to do well. She is very involved in the Glens Falls Collaborative which started out as 10 businesses and is now 100 businesses. A group of businesses and not-for-profits who pay a fee where the money is used entirely for joint advertising. As a group you can get cheaper rates, etc... The concept is to collaborate to improve businesses in the area for all. Individual members can also join for a lesser fee. They had events such as "take a bite", "new to you", "hometown holiday", "pet fest", "fit fest", "art in the park", "lunch in the park" – this could be done in the Village. The more feet on the streets the more small businesses would be attracted to the area. Also American Express Small Business Saturday was formed this holiday and was successful. They have also formed the Main Street Hudson Falls Facebook Page.

Kathy Varney advised that they looked at the park assets available and started with Grace Park because it is in the beginning stages and has a lot of opportunities, Wall Street Pond area was looked at and then the Reservoir - it was thought connecting these parks to the Feeder Canal Trail would be a possibility. Chazen Companies has agreed to inventory and assess the different parks, determine the existing conditions, prepare a Park and Trail Master Plan. From that they will prepare a Grace Park Illustration. In 2017 they would then apply for a CFA application to fund the projects.

Trustee Cook advised that the rehabilitation of the former Washington County Courthouse has come a long way. The Building is in terrific condition, an engineer and architect have gone through the building. A list of projects has been put together. The lead paint has been removed, the brick has been repointed, repaired or replaced. The facade on the south side has all been repaired and replaced. There is a plan to repair and replace the corliss on the building. In researching the color of the building with the NYS Historic Preservation Office it was determined the building has always been painted and it has always been white. There is only one manufacturer of the special paint for the building. The interior of the building – the kitchen remodeled, new lighting, appliances rehabbed, downstairs prep area as well, painting done. They are in the process of vetting persons interested in putting a restaurant on the first floor. A Master Plan is being prepared for the use of the entire structure.

Dr. Potvin inquired as to handicapped access – there is a plan for this. Niki LaBarge noted that there is a bus stop in front of this building. She also noted there is not enough farmers at the Farmers Markets. David Cedarstrom inquired as to whether Stadium Eats is no longer being considered. Bill Nikas noted that the day after he and Mr. Cedarstrom talked the group came to a decision that Stadium Eats' focus on pool and dart leagues was not conducive to how the building should be used. They parted amicably and the group is now looking for a restaurant that will be more community oriented.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the minutes of the regular meeting of 12/12/16 were approved as read.

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be authorized to sign the Grant Agreement associated with the Community Development Block Grant (NYS CDBG Project #559PW164-16) together with all necessary documentation and budget appropriations. The grant is in the amount of \$750,000 for improvements to water infrastructure in the Maple Street, Pearl Street neighborhood.

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

RESOLVED, that the membership of Caila Finkle, Firefighter 202 Hartman Road, HF; Adam Stylers, Firefighter, 137 Maple Street HF in the Hudson Falls Fire Council be approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Timms and carried approval the following budget appropriations were approved:

	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
A-2680.000 Insurance Recovery	\$436.00	(Insurance recovered from car damage)
A-3120.4 Police		\$436.00

Upon motion made by Trustee VanAernem, seconded by Trustee Timms 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.	30554 - 30624
Water Fund	Check Nos.	5585 - 5588
Trust Fund	Check Nos.	6802 - 6818
Payroll Fund	Check Nos.	29414 - 29425

The Mayor thanked Phoenix Rising for providing information about their efforts. A lot of things are going on that not many people know about. He thanked them for their efforts.

The Mayor reminded everyone it is snowy and icy and you need to take care of your sidewalks. He will work on some of the issues brought to the board's attention tonight.

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


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

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried the Board entered into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing a personnel matter.

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

No action was taken.

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 7:18 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer

