

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on June 13, 2022, at 4:13 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Present: Trustee Michael Horrigan  
Trustee Daniel Hogan  
Trustee Jeffrey Gaulin

Delayed Arrival: Trustee James Gallagher, Jr.  
Attorney William Nikas

Absent: Mayor John Barton

Trustee Horrigan began the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gaulin and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2022, were approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve resignation from Brendan Dauber, Laborer, effective 5/20/2022.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve resignation from Ryan Woodward, Police Sergeant, Effective 6/10/2022.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve Police Department request to rollover 5 employees' unused benefit time into new year.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve Petty Cash reimbursement request of \$58 for on-hand postal stamps.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, to approve 50% down payment to Center for Security in the amount of \$1,090, to increase security at main Police Department door entrance with existing Paxton Card Access system.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gaulin and unanimously carried it is;

**RESOLVED**, the following monthly reports were approved as read:

Police Department, submitted by Chief Gillis  
Fire Department, submitted by Chief Thomas Bover

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Gaulin and unanimously carried, the following abstracts were audited and ordered for payment:

General Fund

Check Nos. 34892 - 34976

Water	Check Nos. 5876 - 5881
Capital Project	Check No. 179
Special Grant Fund	Check Nos. 129 - 130
Historical Court House	Check Nos. 159 – 161
Capital Derby/DASNY	Check Nos. 1041 - 1043
Trust	Check Nos. 7781 - 7794
Payroll	Check Nos. 30870 - 30893

Trustee Horrigan informed the residents of the scheduled flushing of fire hydrants from June 12, 2022, at 6:00 p.m. through June 17, 2022, at 4:00 a.m.

Derby-Moran Park Grand Re-Opening will be held on Saturday June 18, 2022, beginning at 11:00 a.m. Trustee Horrigan shared some of the exciting events that will be happening to help bring the community together including face painting, stickers for the kids, free books provided by Ben Osborne, the Sheriff's K-9-unit, concession stand and many more activities. All proceeds from the concession will be donated to the Kingsbury Fort Edward Area Senior Center. Carrie Woerner will be planning to attend the event as well. Trustee Horrigan welcomes everyone out to the event beginning at 11:00 a.m.

#### **Board Comments:**

No other comments at this time.

#### **Trustee Horrigan opens the meeting up to the public.**

Renee Burnell, Burnell Plumbing in Heating, approached the Board to express her concerns and frustration with the shared parking lot off of Center Street, near her business. Recently, it has been approved for a nearby property owner to install a fence on their property. She has brought pictures of the property to share with the Board. This fence is blocking the surrounding properties from easily accessing their buildings. She informs the Board that there was no verbal or written warning of the installation and she believe the fence is installed improperly as it is 5 inches past the property line. She feels as though it serves no purpose. Trustee Horrigan agrees and adds that this particular parking lot has been an issue for many years. Years prior, he had tried to bring the different businesses together to try to find a solution. At that time one of the businesses decided to put in a patio on their property, and no one complained about the inconvenience of that. Although it is the property owner's choice as to what they do with their property, he would like to assume that they can't block off access to another property. Code Enforcement has been involved and addressed some issues. Chief Gillis asks about the deterrent of the Fire Department. Trustee Horrigan says there is no deterrent for the Fire Department when it comes to fire protection. Burnell is concerned that their only access is in the back of the building that is now being blocked. Trustee Horrigan mentions that fire protection was a concern when it was in the beginning stages of discussion and was told that it's their property, they can block it off without considering that adequate space for emergencies but if it is affecting the safety of other properties, it will be another issue we will have to look into to address. Burnell states that after a brief discussion with the property owner putting up the fence and expressing her concern to them that their property was indeed her only access for the past 2 years, it was suggested to Burnell to access it through the neighboring property. Trustee Horrigan asked about the patio that was set up by the neighboring business, Burnell replied that it did not affect them, but it did help the speeding. Trustee Horrigan states that at that time, no one had any issues with the changes to that private property but now another change is happening on private property that is not in benefiting the surrounding properties and everyone is concerned. Trustee Hogan adds that for a few years, as Burnell had stated prior, everyone used all of the parking lot and spots without restrictions and regard to others property. It wasn't until the it came up that the property owners were putting it on the Village to maintain. For many years the Village did maintain it to a point, but then when it became a demand from the property owners to maintain and repair the lot, the village had to step back because they did not own all of those properties. That is when the disagreements began. A brief discussion ensued.

Burnell would also like to request for the fire hydrant to be moved so they can easily access their property.

A discussion of which property owners own which parking spots and who do not own any property at all continued, along with sharing with the Board that one of the property owners has offered to lease parking spots at \$9,000 a year.

A member from the public has commented that it is too pricey for all the people that own property there. Two years ago, an easement was signed over to the village stating that they village would maintain these properties and the owners would pay for parking spaces. Trustee Horrigan implies that there may be a bit confusion on that particular topic, as that is not the way that it is written. A continuation of discussion ensued.

Brenda, a local business owner being affected by the Center Street parking lot issue, approached the Board. She shares her recommendation on how to lay out parking spaces to allow adequate parking and access to buildings. Horrigan confirms her ideas but explains we will have to take away parking spots in order to allow the access. He understands that the village may have to make changes to the property owned by the village in order to address this concern. Brenda informs the board that her customers will now have to park along Route 4 and with the constant traffic traveling at excessive speed, it makes it unsafe to cross. Also, the parking on Route 4 continues to be a concern especially around the cross walk. Trustee Horrigan moves to Chief Gillis for insight, and Chief says that it has been discussed previously and it is not enforceable. A suggestion of aggressive painting the ground area was given but it is a state road. The village will have to work with the state to make these changes. A brief discussion on parking and speeding on Route 4 ensued.

Pastor Sue Mackenzie, Pearl Street, approached the Board. Since she has moved here, she now no longer feels safe. Harassment from two neighbors has made her feel unsafe. Prior to the most recent series of events she was being harassed about her clothing, her figure, and her occupation. She has made reports with the Police Department and is thankful for everything that they have done. With the assistance that she received from the Police Department; she no longer feels the need to hide in her house. She is disturbed by the harassment that she has been made aware of from her nearby neighbor, Agnes Kearon. The harassment Agnes is receiving from her next door neighbor. She believes Agnes is a good person and has helped her in many ways and the harassment that she faces from her neighbors is having a detrimental effect on her quality of life. Mackenzie respectfully requests that the Police Department is to receive more support from the town and more funding to help keep our streets safe. She states that the Village is a beautiful place to live, and we should not allow a few people to disturb that and cause it to be an unpleasant place to live.

Agnes Kearon, Cherry Street, approached the Board. She has been joining the meetings for the last few months to share her concerns that she has had with her neighbor and to find out why more is not being done. Recently they both have been arrested for harassment and aggravated harassment, but nothing has been done to stop them. Trustee Horrigan confirms with her that they have been arrested, she agrees, Trustee Horrigan simply implies that something has been done. She would like to inquire why the nuisance household code is not being enforced. She says that according to the code, residents should be given warnings based upon how many police calls have been placed on that residence. She says that there has been a lot of calls to the police for a particular house by her and her neighbors, so she believes it is credible to this code. She states she feels afraid to live there. She has tried to beautify her yard with flowers, but now she is afraid to go in her yard. She states that her neighbor has thrown eggs at her, a water bottle and have walked across her driveway. Trustee Horrigan inquires about her reporting it to the police. Kearon says she has called the police many times to make a report. Trustee Horrigan asks if paperwork was filed or was it just a phone complaint but not an official statement, or if she has ever denied her right to fill out the proper paperwork. He also would like to confirm that when she calls with her concerns and complaints if she is just letting them know but does not want to put it in writing. Kearon informs the Board that she did not know until just recently that she can write an official statement, she just assumed it was automatically happening. She states that previously when she has called, the officers have told her there is not enough evidence. Last year she noticed a camera being pointed to her back yard and the police came and told her that there is nothing they can do as her neighbor is allowed to own cameras. She contacted Albany, Legal Aide Department, and they told her that there is a law; that you can not have a camera in a person's yard, as it is their private area. Just recently was her first official report but that was when the officer asked her if she wants to write a statement. She states that she was not aware of this option, no officer has asked her to do that. Chief Gillis comments, the incident that happened last weekend the Officer Casertino, 25 years of experience, asked her what she would like done with the situation. She requested for it to be just documented. Upon beginning of business on Monday, once Chief was informed of the incident, he had one of his officers go to her house to get the incident in writing. Kearon says she never said that she only wanted it documented she was not aware that she had a choice or if she could press charges every time. Chief Gillis informs the board that previously Kearon had claimed that she had been assaulted with a water bottle, during the officers questioning on the incident, it was made known that the water bottle was empty, and no one was physically hit with it. Chief Gillis is concerned that it seems as though the stories are getting mixed up. Kearon says she was told by an officer that she was not physically hit with the water bottle, its is cannot be considered assault. Kearon feels as though nothing is going to be done due to the Chief blocking the officers from doing anything. Chief Gillis says he is not taking sides, in any situation and recommends that both her and her neighbor need to be more respectful of one another and each other's properties. Recently, a complaint was made by Kearon, both members of the house were arrested, and a protection order has been issued. Kearon would still like to know what is going on the drugs and the background. The Board informs Kearon that we will not be discussing criminal cases. A brief discussion ensued.

The Board recommends that with every incident that occurs to file an official report. Chief Gillis recommends that she should also refrain from initiating any conflicts. If there is a criminal charge, a legitimate complaint, it may be prosecuted.

Lynn Townsend, of Corinth approaches the Board. Typically, the Board does not allow non-residents to speak at a board meeting. At first, she was declined to speak. Attorney Nikas informed the Board she did attend Hudson Falls High School. They allowed her to proceed with her opinion. Townsend begins that this is a hate crime against Agnes Kearon for being gay.

She states that Kearon could sue the Village of Hudson Falls for not taking care of her for a hate crime. Trustee Gaulin reiterates that it was just discussed, that the people that are involved in the feud have been arrested and then questions Townsend's interpretation of the statement of nothing being done. Townsend says that they continue to harass her, and they are not being stopped by the police. She states that she is a retired Drug and Alcohol Counselor and that based on her experiences and as a 30-year recovered addict herself, these people, Agnes' neighbors, are strung out on drugs and believes Kearon could never be a good neighbor to a bunch of drug addicts like that because there is no reasoning. Chief Gillis questions how it is known that they are drug dealers, Townsend replies that she has read the papers and based on the traffic at that location, it is clear. Chief Gillis informs her that the Police Department can not make an arrest on an assumption and ensures that it is being looked into. Townsend adds that she would not be a good neighbor to someone dealing drugs or on drugs and that Agnes can't either. Townsend states they exhibit all traits of an addict based upon her past life and career experiences. Trustee Hogan verifies that Townsend is a recovered addict, she agrees. He sincerely adds, that if there is an active case, that can't be discussed, and if these people do have a drug issue, then they too may stand a chance for rehab and recovery as well when they get to that point. A brief discussion ensued.

Chief Gillis would like to share that back in May we had a serious offense on Meadow Road. One of our officers responded to a domestic situation, he had a gun pulled on him and shots were fired. He would like to publicly thank Washington County Sheriff, Warren County Sheriff, and New York State Police for their assistance. He would like to meet with the Mayor to draft a thank you letter to send to the departments to respectfully show appreciation. Trustee Horrigan agrees and thanks all the departments involved for their continued support. Trustee Gaulin also adds that he hopes that the officers are receiving the support of the aftermath effect as well.

The next meeting will be held on July 11, 2022, at 4:00 pm.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer