

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on April 10, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

Present: Mayor John Barton
Trustee James Gallagher, Jr.
Trustee Daniel Hogan
Trustee Jeffrey Gaulin
Attorney William Nikas
Absent: Trustee Michael Horrigan

Mayor Barton opened the meeting up with the Public Hearing on Local Law No. 2 of 2023 to override the 2023 Tax Levy. Mayor Barton explained that the tax rate will remain the same, the total assessments are up. So, the amount being raised by the tax levy was greater than the tax cap. We are looking to pass Local Law No.2 of 2023 to exceed the tax levy this year. Comments requested.

No comment was given.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried; the Public Hearing for the Local Law No.2 of 2023 was closed.

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

RESOLVED, that the Village Board approves Local Law No.2, of 2023, to override the 2023 Tax Levy.

Mayor Barton next opened the meeting up to the public for the Public Hearing on the 2023-2024 Village Budget.

No comment was given.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and unanimously carried; the Public Hearing on the tentative budget was closed.

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

RESOLVED, that the 2023-2024 Village Budget be adopted in the amount of \$6,673,312 which is a total of \$5,470,371 General Fund and \$1,202,941 Water Fund with a tax rate of \$8.500 per \$1,000 and a tax levy of \$3,201,739.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Hogan and carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of March 13, 2023, were approved as submitted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Hogan and carried, the minutes of the special meeting of March 31, 2023, were approved as submitted.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agreement with Bonadio and Co, Certified Public Accountant as Village's Auditors.

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

RESOLVED, to approve to sign a lease agreement with Romeo Toyota for the lease of a 2023 Toyota Corolla for 36 months.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the resignation of Sean Casey as part-time Police Officer effective 3/20/23.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Gerald Messier as part-time Custodian at the rate of \$20/hr for the Derby Park season

The appointment of Billy Blodgett as a Volunteer Fire Fighter is requested to be tabled and will bring up on next board meeting.

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

RESOLVED, to approve delinquent water accounts for March 2023 Billing to Town of Kingsbury

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

RESOLVED, the following monthly reports were approved as read:

Fire Department, submitted by Chief Thomas Bover

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

General Fund	Check Nos. 35584 - 35638
Water	Check Nos. 5916 - 5918
Trust	Check Nos. 7889 - 7897
Payroll	Check Nos. 31073 - 31087

Mayor Comment:

Take a moment to commend the Hudson Falls Police Department with their assistance at the robbery at Calamity Jane's recently. With the Sheriff and State involved they were able to apprehend the young man right away.

Over at the Annex building, the back side of the courthouse, the bricks are coming apart. Mr. Nikas was able to contact someone to come inspect and evaluate the site. We are able to do so with a fee of about \$2100. He believes it is an expense we should expend to have the building evaluated to see how much it would be to repair the building. A brief discussion ensued.

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

RESOLVED, to approve agreement with Ryan Biggs Clark Davis Engineering and Surveying to evaluate the Annex building.

Board Comment:

Trustee Gaulin comments that he has spoken with the school about Derby park's irrigation system and how they are able to assist us with the aeration.

Mayor Barton also adds that the plaques are up on the monument wall. It was a bit of a process, but after holding off for better weather, they are now in.

Mr. Nikas explains a particular donor had donated at the \$10,000 level and was recognized on the plaque. The donation was made unknown to his wife, his wife had many memories at the park including skating, so as they visited the park and saw the plaques his wife was pleasantly surprised to see that they were able to make a monetary donation towards the renovation.

Public Comment:

Jane Havens approached the podium. She began to explain the recent break in at her store in Kingsbury, Calamity Jane's. She commends the response team and agencies that aided in the break in on their professionalism. Washington County, Warren County, State Police, and the Hudson Falls Police all assisted. After a short chase, Officer Winch and Officer Duffy apprehended the criminal and the agencies were able to recover all the firearms. She continues on to share her concerns with the drug problems in our area. She connects it to the break in at her location back in October, linking that with a large drug bust that was a huge accomplishment.

She moves on to comment that she has to participate in court appearances. She compares her somewhat pleasant past experience in the court room to present day. Stating that the people committing crimes now are real crimes, and these people are strung out, they can't sit in a chair or stay awake, they can't control themselves. She has expressed her concerns to the Kingsbury Town Board to be more aware of the crimes being committed and by the type of people in the Town that we live in. She has now formed the Ace High Annie Foundation to help educate youth. To encourage the children to stay off the internet and to get outside and participate in the community groups and sports. Her foundation is to help prevent children from making these terrible mistakes that will forever impact their lives. A brief discussion ensued.

She circles back to commend the Hudson Falls Police Department once again on their recent response to the break in. She states Hope Rosatti is an employee of the Village and an employee at Calamity Jane's. Ms. Havens was told that Hope had come to work

to inform the Village that she can not work today to help assist the store on the break in. It was then that Code Enforcement Officer, Will Celeste, responded to Hope with a negative reaction with an obscene gesture disrespecting our Police and Sheriff departments. Ms. Havens is very offended that a Village employee would express his disrespect in a manner that he did, and she request for him to be reprimanded. A brief discussion ensued.

Shannon Gillis, Pearl Street, approached the Board to express her concerns with Biochar and to share her research. She is looking to see where the Village stands with regard to the Saratoga Biochar. She would like to know if there have been meetings to discuss the proposals. The Board collectively responds that they are actively educating themselves and attending the meetings as they are open to the public. She shares with the Board, Hands off the Hudson, a group that is educating the public on the impacts and trying to protect the river and the communities along side of it. She encourages the Board to visit their website as there is a lot of useful information to help our communities. Ms. Gillis shares her well researched information of the negative impacts Saratoga Biochar could have on our environment and our community as we are just a ½ mile away. She sincerely expresses her concerns, opinions and facts that she has concluded from her extensive research and outreach. She explains the many unanswered questions that the Biochar can not accurately answer and the contradictory statements that the company has made over the past several releases of information, along with her poor interactions with them. She requests support from the Board with regard to have a conversation with DEC. A brief discussion ensued.

Jessica Donnelly, Lincoln Street, approached the Board to also share her concern with the Saratoga Biochar. She states that the Saratoga Biochar's proposed location will be at the Moreau Industrial Park just across the river. She explains the environmental impacts that it can have on our village. The toxins that will be released from this plant will be very dangerous as we live so close. She describes the impacts of the toxins to our tissues that are linked to cancer and immune disfunction especially in small children. She questioned Saratoga Biochar and expressed her concern with the President of the company and the CEO, she requested that they disclose data of the chemicals, she was told that they will not release the information. After the meeting, in a private conversation the president of the company said that the village residents would not even understand the data that she was requesting. She feels as though he insulted the village residents, and she is offended that he insulted her community. Ms. Donnelly shares with the Board some facts that she learned and noted during her time of research to project her perception on the negative effects Saratoga Biochar could have. A brief discussion ensued.

Attorney Nikas recommends compiling a list of questions that she may have that the Board may be willing to discuss with DEC to assist in getting answers and a better understanding. Mayor Barton agrees with Attorney Nikas' advice.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 8, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Gaulin and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 7: 02 p.m.

Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer