

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on August 14, 2023, at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

Mayor Barton began the meeting to follow up on a former discussion of temporary garages with regard to the Village Code. Attorney Nikas has provided the Board with recommendations on a revision to the Village Code for temporary garages. The current Village Code has minimal regulations to the location of temporary garages with it being preferred that one is not to be located in the front yard. Preferred cannot be enforced. Mayor Barton recommends that it is not to be allowed in the front yard and the six-month renewal requirement to also be revised and removed. Trustee Hogan asks about the ones in poor conditions after an extended period of time. Attorney Nikas states that those situations can fall under property maintenance and handled under that code. Trustee Hogan inquiries about quantities allowed. Attorney Nikas says currently there is not a limit, but you may have to limit the size if there are multiple, but they would be subject to set backs.

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

RESOLVED, to approve regular meeting minutes from July 10, 2023.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the retirement of Michael Fiorillo as Village Superintendent of Public Works, 45 Years of Service, effective August 31, 2023.

Trustee Hogan requests clarification of the creation of the next position and appointment. Mayor Barton informs the Board that Michael E. Fiorillo (former Superintendent) is retiring and coming back part-time to assist in the transition. The Water Department is currently going through the process of upgrading the plant and it is in the Village's best interest to keep him on for the project and transition.

Trustee Gaulin asks about the title being considered an interim instead of Assistant. Mayor Barton thought it would be best to create a separate, new position. Trustee Hogan asks about appointment process. Mayor Barton would next be requesting the Board to allow Trustee Horrigan and himself to conduct interviews of the two qualified candidates that applied and appoint one temporarily pending the next Board Meeting. Trustee Hogan would like to clarify that the job posting was posted conspicuously in the building and all employees who were eligible were given the opportunity to apply. Trustee Hogan is requesting feedback from the Mayor and Trustee Horrigan upon the interviews of the interested candidates. A brief discussion ensued.

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

RESOLVED, to approve the creation of Assistant Superintendent of Public Works (temporary position, maximum 18 months).

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

RESOLVED, to approve the appointment of Michael Fiorillo as Assistant Superintendent of Public Works, effective September 1, 2023 at the rate of \$30/hour.

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

RESOLVED, to approve Village Mayor and Deputy Mayor to temporarily appointment most qualified and interested candidate to Village Superintendent of Public Works, Interim (for training purposes), maximum of 2-week retirement overlap, effective upon completion of the interview process.

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

RESOLVED, the following monthly reports were approved as read:

Fire Department, submitted by Chief Thomas Bover
Code Enforcement, submitted by William Celeste

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

General Fund
Water
Trust
Payroll

Check Nos. 35846 - 35910
Check Nos. 5931 - 5935
Check Nos. 7931 - 7941
Check Nos. 31163 - 31178

Mayor Comment:

We are hearing less and less complaints at Derby-Moran Park. Officer Casertino is doing a great job. We are having a lot of events down there with rec, although the weather hasn't always cooperated. Special thanks to Trustee Mike Horrigan for another successful gold tournament. Trustee Gaulin also thanks Trustee Horrigan on the tournament.

Board Comment:

None given.

Public Comment:

Resident of Liberty Place approached the podium to express the concerns with the drug activity at a nearby house. He states he understands the police are doing the best they can, but the excessive traffic continues. The property owner's husband has recently passed a few months back and the traffic and drug activity is getting worst. Mayor Barton said that we have talked about this subject at last months Board Meeting and since then, he has been able to talk with the Police Department. He requests input from Trustee Gaulin, the retired Detective. Trustee Gaulin adds that the laws have changed that makes it tough for enforcement. A brief discussion ensued with regard to drug activity, guns, trespassing and animal neglect. Mayor Barton will follow up with the Police Department once again for a better understanding.

Belinda McFee, owner of McFee's Smoke Shop approached the Board to inform them of her attempt to open a cannabis dispensary. She has worked with different people and local business to keep things local. She has been approved by the State for her location and the State has advised her that she needs approval from the Village. Attorney Nikas commented that she will need site plan review from the Planning Board. She was awarded a Provisional License. She states she would like to stay in Hudson Falls. She explains her plan briefly including security detail and the increases number of staff that will be needed from the security and inside of the building. She is currently renting the building but before she continues to keep working on her plan, she is just looking for the Boards opinion. Trustee Hogan asks about the set back for the school districts. Ms. McFee believes it is 250 feet for a school and 500 feet for a church. He asks the distance from the school. She believes it was the same distance for the tobacco license and she was approved for that. Trustee Hogan mentions a discussion has been had about the school receiving a strip on property nearby for traffic flow. Trustee Gaulin states that the school is doing a traffic study and they are hoping to by the property from Dana Hogan, it has not been finalized but they would use that as an entrance to the school. Ms. McFee does have another building in mind, but it is near a church. There is also a property in Fort Edward that is near a church. She has been working on this project since September, including a POS system, security, and tax ID, along with all the other necessary paperwork. Trustee Hogan asks about the outdoor signage while expressing his concerns of it being visible from the school. Ms. McFee agrees with Trustee Hogan and explains the sign will be discreet without neons. A brief discussion ensued. The Board commends her due diligence and wishful success.

Mr. Yole of Paris Avenue approached the podium to inform the board of the nuisance he is facing with neighborhood cats. He inquires why dog owners are forced to leash their dogs, but cat owners are allowed to let them roam freely, more specifically inside of his yard, porch, outdoor furniture. He is looking for the board to explain the recourse. If it is possible for him to take the animals to a place like the SPCA to help find them a better home rather than neglecting them by just letting them roam freely outside. Trustee Horrigan comments that they are looking into the options of how to address this issue. Attorney Nikas adds that animal control is restricted to dogs. There may be a discussion than can be had with it being a nuisance. A brief discussion ensued.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 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 4:38 p.m.

Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer