

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on November 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

Mayor Barton is absent, Trustee Horrigan will run the meeting.

Old business leads us to a recently condemned property on John Street. Attorney Nikas comments that it has recently been locked up, further discussion to follow.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve regular meeting minutes from October 10, 2023.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve regular meeting minutes from October 23, 2023.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Superintendent Michael Fiorillo to sign Annual Highway Work Permit Application.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve to Authorize Superintendent Fiorillo to sign the annual Snow Agreement between the Village and Washington County (to participate in the State Snow & Ice control program).

The Village Water Department is in the process of doing an upgrade/repair project. A disbursement request from the Water Equipment Reserve funds is requested in the amount of \$75,000.

A Public Hearing is scheduled for December 11, 2023, at 6:00 pm. To discuss upgrade/repair project and to expend monies from the Water Equipment Reserve funds in the amount of \$75,000.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Village of Hudson falls offering the New York State Deferred Compensation Roth (after-tax) contribution benefit available to employees effective January 1, 2024.

Notification to Municipality, Office of Cannabis Management, 30-day Notice for 345 Main Street, High Society Dispensary LLC. (McFee) was presented to the Board.

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

**RESOLVED**, the following Budget Appropriations are approved:

Budget Appropriations:

	Credit	Debit
A-9945.9.000 Interfund Park		300,000
A-9950.9.000 Trans to Capital	300,000	
A-3389.000 Other Public Safety	8,000	
A-3120.4.006 Police Small Equip		8,000
A-9945.9.000 Interfund Park		25,000
A5010.1.000 Street Admin	25,000	
A-9945.9.000 Interfund Park		25,000
A-1620.2.000 Buildings	25,000	
A-5031.000 Interfund Water		75,000
A2401.000 Interest & Earnings	75,000	
F-9901.9.000 Trans to GF		75,000
F-8340.2.000 Trans & Distrib	75,000	

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  
Code Enforcement, submitted by William Celeste

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

General Fund	Check Nos. 35977 - 36100
Water	Check Nos. 5940 – 5949
Derby	Check No. 1050
Trust	Check Nos. 7956 - 7976
Payroll	Check Nos. 31204 - 31241
2% Fire	Check No. 1012

**Mayor Comment:**

Absent

**Board Comment:**

Trustee Horrigan, would like to remind everyone of the Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 at Juckett Park. Santa will be rescued and cookies and hot cocoa in the park.

**Public Comment:**

John Shaw, Feeder Street, informs the board he recently cleaned up some properties he owns on Feeder Street. He is currently using one of those lots as a viewing lot with a fence and a shed. He states 3 ½ months ago he applied for a water line to be installed and was told he needed a heated structure. After that discussion, he got a shed on the property; He explains he has turned the shed into a small bathroom and a break area and the only need for the water on the property was to wash the cars. Once the water lines were connected onto his property Washington County Sewer District approached him with the concern of proper disposal of the wastewater generated from the bathroom but was denied his request to install sewer lines to his shed as it is not a permeant structure. Prior to the Sewer District's involvement, he purchased a holding tank, it is 1500 gallons, and had it plumbed to the bathroom he made in the shed, and also arranged for IBS to pump it out monthly. It is currently 6 inches under the sand. He proceeds to tell the Board that he was told it was going to be approx. \$1500 for the water line to be ran to the property but once the project it was completed it was \$2500. He also added that he had to pay an additional \$650 to have copper piping instead of pex piping, as it is a Village requirement. He explains that he does not see anywhere within the Village codes that a holding tank cannot be used. He has decided to be shut down the shed for the winter, he is not going to bother to heat the bathroom he made. Mr. Nikas recommends that he comes into his office tomorrow to discuss his options. Trustee Horrigan, comments that he is sure there must be some sort of approval. Trustee Horrigan asks for clarification on the permit process. Mr. Shaw says there is no permit. Trustee Horrigan asks if it is an issue with the shed or with the tank, Mr. Shaw states he is unsure what is holding him up with Code Enforcement. Mr. Shaw says he is using the shed for a toilet,

sink, and there is a couch inside. Mr. Nikas asks if it is for habitation and Mr. Shaw no, it is basically an office, but he is not using it as an office, but more of a break room. Mr. Shaw explains that he has had his engineer look up everything that is required, including proper monitoring by IBS. Mr. Shaw's engineer he refers to is present and Mr. Nikas requests for him to inform the board his position. Pat Mitchell, works for PHB Engineering, explains he is not a licensed engineer but has been practicing civil engineering and works below a licensed engineer. Mr. Nikas will talk with Code Enforcement tomorrow, a brief discussion ensued. Trustee Horrigan says it reminds him of an office on a construction site, Trustee Hogan inquires about regular permits and approvals at other locations prior to installing a tank like Mr. Shaw has done. Mr. Mitchell does not have any knowledge of the approval process that leads up to installation, he is just there to assist Mr. Shaw with any engineering advice if needed for his project. Trustee Horrigan concludes that after discussion with Attorney Nikas and Code Enforcement tomorrow, further information will be provided.

John Hack, resident of John Street approaches the Board to share his concerns about Will Celeste, Code Enforcement and 134 John Street. He believes Mr. Celeste does not construct himself in the manner of business as he should. He does not return his calls and is rude to him when he does speak to him. He explains the house at 134 John Street, recently condemned, Code Enforcement allowed the owners of the home to leave their dogs there for 3 days, the owners were not tending to the animals as they should. Mr. Hack contacted animal control to inform them of neglect. The Board collectively agreed that they were under the impression the animals were removed when the building was condemned.

Mr. Hack explains he called and spoke with Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk to explain the situation, the negative interaction with Mr. Celeste and the unprofessionalism with how the property was handled and has asked to speak with the Board. He states the Animal Control Officer told him the Police were involved and the Police are allowing them to do it. Mr. Horrigan requests clarification of Dog Control statement and will investigate the accuracy of that statement. In addition, Mr. Hack explain the owners of the property are still going into the home and also expresses his concern with possible unsafe electricity connections and utility connections. A brief discussion ensued.

Trustee Horrigan will inform the water department of the vacant property, will discuss with Will Celeste of conducting himself in an unprofessional manner and the Animal Control Officer involvement.

Trustee Hogan inquires about a topic up for discussion, Warren Street and Quarry Crossing. These two streets have been recently discussed with Warren County. Attorney Nikas briefly discusses the history of Washington County during the development of Warren County and establishing the boundary line back in the 1700's. Referring to century old maps, surveys, and historical facts and information. It is to be further discussed with Warren County and the Town of Queensbury.

Trustee Gaulin comments that in his 23-year police career, accidents in that location were always handled by Warren County Sheriff's not Village Police because of jurisdiction.

Trustee Gallagher asks about tax issues. Attorney Nikas refers to facts about Woodbury, a town that has property in two different counties due to property lines and what has been established between the different municipalities to simplify the maintenance and common ground.

We will be requesting our Historian to get a copy of the original Kingsbury Patten.

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

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Hogan and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

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Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer