

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on February 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room of Village Hall.

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

Mayor Barton begins the meeting with the former topic that was being discussed, Center Steet parking lot. Since the last meeting, he was able to speak with Shawn Lipscomb, Greenwood, who was going to meet with his corporate office later in the week and plans to discuss the different options available to help provide shared parking with the property that is owned by Greenwood. Once Mayor Barton is able to talk with him again, he will have an updated decision on Greenwood's stance and will then be able to move forward. There has been no decision made by the village on leasing or dividing up the parking lot yet.

Jason McCann, McCann's Pharmacy, asks the location of the spots Greenwood was willing to offer. Mayor Barton explains that originally, based on last month's discussion, Greenwood was wanting to provide parking alongside of the Everything Under Foot building. He believes he may have mistaken the boundary line because along side of the building is Village property. Attorney Nikas and the Mayor met with a gentleman, Matt at Greenwood last year attempting to get a more permanent change to the boundary line. Currently the village owns 25 feet out from the brick building that is being utilized as parking and then just behind that is what is being used as a right of way, and that part of the property, the right of way, is what is shared with Greenwood. At any time, the shared property that is privately owned can be withdrawn from public use, forcing the village to change the current parking alongside the building to make it a right of way. Mayor Barton further explains that last year we were trying to get Greenwood to either deed it to us or have a permanent agreement to keep the current right of way in the current location. The village will need that in order to lease those desired parking spaces. Mayor Barton anticipates hearing back from Mr. Lipscomb by Friday.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gaulin, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and unanimously carried, the minutes of the regular meeting of January 8, 2024, were approved as submitted.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Village Election on March 19, 2024, to be held at The American Legion, 72 Pearl Street, Hudson Falls, from 12:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the disbursement amount as reflected in Stipulation and Consent Order for Martindale Terrace and Juckett Drive.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the Application for Refund or Credit of Real Property Tax for 9 Parkwood Avenue, \$166.01 due to a water relevy.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve resignation from Charles Mattison, Motor Equipment Operator, effective January 19, 2024.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the resignation of Francis Cortese as Code Enforcement Officer (per diem), effective January 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Francis Cortese as a member of the Planning Board for the term of February 1, 2024, to February 1, 2031.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Brandon Adamcezyk as a member of the Planning Board for the term of February 1, 2024, to February 1, 2031.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Richard Wagner to move to alternate member of the Planning Board for the continued term of March 1, 2018 to April 1, 2025.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Christopher Connelly as an alternate member of the Zoning Board for the term of February 1, 2024, to February 1, 2029.

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

**RESOLVED**, to accept Membership into the Hudson Falls Fire Department, Joseph Charland as a Volunteer Fire Fighter, contingent upon successful completion of required screening.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Mayor Barton to sign Civic Plus update/renewal contract for Code Enforcement software.

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

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

Fire Department, submitted by John Santa Croce

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

General Fund	Check Nos. 36225 - 36291
Water	Check Nos. 5955 - 5960
Trust	Check Nos. 7990 - 7997
Payroll	Check Nos. 31273 - 31285
Courthouse	Check No. 162

#### **Mayor Comment:**

Shares that a couple months ago Kevin Hasselwander (Labella), the lead architect on the Derby Park Project nominated the park for an award with American Public Works Association, Capital Branch. Mayor Barton recently received a call from the Director of the Association to inform him that Derby Park won the award for Project of the Year Structures, Less than \$5 Million and invited him down to the ceremony for the award to be presented. New York State is divided into four sections for this Association, Capital District, Western, Central and Southern. It is quite an honor to receive an award. At the end of the ceremony, he was told that everyone that did receive the award will also be nominated at the State level. This award is good for the village because we did do the project on a grant, and it ensures the state that the grant funding was well spent.

#### **Board Comment:**

Trustee Hogan asks Mayor Barton if we should discuss the recent opportunity that they Fire Department may have on grant funding. Mayor Barton explains that he was recently notified that there is a potential upcoming grant that may benefit our Fire Department and has requested the Fire Committee to look into it. Not to prematurely go into detail but if approved it could help the department immensely. We are beginning to look into the details of the opportunity with Labella our grant writes to see if it is something we can

or should apply for. Trustee Hogan and Trustee Gaulin adds that the grant can be used towards structures and equipment but unfortunately not vehicles. A training center may be of use to the Department.

Trustee Hogan also would like to let the public know that DPW is out doing line testing, this requires them to be digging to get to the pipes to observe and note the type of pipe at the water main in front of each residence. They are checking for lead pipes to formulate a report that is required to be submitted to the state in the Fall. Mayor Barton says that he was told that we do not have a lot of lead connections left in the village. Mayor Barton also plans to meet with Labella to discuss other grant opportunities for water line replacement in the future. In the past we have been fortunate to receive similar grants in the past for water main replacement. We are looking at grants but also USDA loans, we currently qualify for the lowest interest rate.

Trustee Hogan also inquires about village comment for DEC with regard to Biochar. Mayor Barton says the position we are taking is to oppose until there is scientific consensus that it is safe. Attorney Nikas adds that there are articles that talk about the slow pyrolysis with sewage sludge and you will see an enormous number of scientists that feel that there are possibilities it is possible, but we are not ready yet because of the lack of study.

Mayor Barton polls the board if they would like to take the position of opposing until there is scientific proof that it is safe. Attorney Nikas explains that seeing that we are in the plume we have an environmental issue and concern. Trustee Hogan recalls reading on the application that it asks if it is in a disadvantage community, which Hudson Falls and Fort Edward are and may be affected more by the plume than Moreau. Attorney Nikas says Fort Edward is not, but we are. Based on a map that was presented the plume will negatively affect the village. Mayor Barton would like to request a motion to approve the village's official position on Biochar.

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

**RESOLVED**, that based upon inadequate scientific facts and insufficient long-term studies of environmental and potential human health risks, the Village of Hudson Falls is opposed to supporting Saratoga Biochar.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this opposing position will remain in effect until scientific facts are presented and studies are performed on a scale comparable to that of which can be demonstrated as interchangeably or one in the same, with the proposed scale or size of Saratoga Biochar.

**Public Comment:**

None given.

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 11, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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 6:22 p.m.

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Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer