

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on 3/8/21 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order.

Present: Mayor John Barton
Trustee Robert Cook
Trustee James Gallagher, Jr
Trustee Daniel Hogan
Trustee Michael Horrigan
Attorney William Nikas

The Mayor opened the meeting to General Public Comment – none was given.

The Mayor asked the Board to provide their list of parking signage concerns so they can be compiled and prioritized. Trustee Horrigan noted his top concerns – Preston to Coleman, fire department entrances on Locust and Clark, and Mechanic Street. Trustee Cook noted the S turn on Locust Street, the school transportation department has advised a number of accidents in that area.

The Mayor asked the Board if scheduling a Workshop with the downtown businesses regarding the parking lot on east side of downtown. The Mayor advised that Village Hall will be opened up to the public on March 9th with all social distancing protocols. Meetings will be held in person using social distancing protocols as well. Trustee Hogan suggested walking the parking lot with those interested. He noted the two trucks parked on the corner of the K of C building in the thoroughfare. Trustee Cook noted that the Board needs to be clear what the purpose of the meeting is and what message we want to convey to the property owners, so as not to confuse the situation with extraneous discussions. The message is that much of the property is privately owned and the Village cannot continue to maintain privately owned property. Beyond that are the options or alternatives. The Board has asked Attorney Nikas put together those options. Trustee Horrigan indicated selling the Village's portion is an option – especially the diamond shaped area. Trustee Hogan noted that the question that will be asked is why can't the Village keep maintaining it when they have done it for so long. Attorney Nikas noted that Carrie Woerner's Office is still behind the \$100,000 grant to improve the parking lot (it may take longer to get the funds due to the current financial circumstances surrounding COVID). Trustee Cook advised that the Board simply did not know the situation, it wasn't until Mr. Roccasecca brought it to light that the Board began to look into it and became aware that the parking lot is primarily privately owned. In addition, because it is privately owned the Village is breaking the law by continuing to maintain privately owned property. Mayor Barton asked Attorney Nikas to forward the draft letter to the Board for their review. We send the letter, have the workshop and state the Village's position. Trustee Horrigan suggested that the map of the parking lot should be included in the letter. There is a misconception that the Village owns most of the parking lot – the map shows the ownership information. Workshop scheduled for April 13, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. The Mayor asked the Board to review the draft letter, provide any suggested modifications, final copy mail out with an invitation to the workshop on April 13th.

Attorney Nikas reported that we are awaiting response from a letter sent to the Attorney General asking for an opinion on Chief Gillis' inquiry about what to do with a dog that has been "taken into police custody" as a result of the arrest of its owner.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRANT AGREEMENT WITH EMPIRE
STATE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FOR MASONIC TEMPLE
RENOVATION PROJECT**

Upon motion made by Trustee Horrigan, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls Board of Trustees (the "Board") sought the renovation of the Masonic Temple Building at 214 Main Street as detailed in the Application and Grant Disbursement Agreement described below (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Village of Hudson Falls (“Village”) has been awarded a grant to finance a portion of the Project (the “Grant”) by the New York State Urban Development Corporation d/b/a Empire State Development Corporation (“ESD”); and

WHEREAS, the Village must enter into a Grant Disbursement Agreement with ESD and execute various related documents in order to receive disbursements of the Grant funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED that the Village Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and deliver a Grant Disbursement Agreement with ESD in substantially the form provided by ESD with such revisions and amendments as the Mayor and Village Special Counsel deem to be in the best interests of the Village; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such other agreements and documents and take such further actions as he, with the advice of the Village Special Counsel, deems necessary and appropriate to effectuate the intent of this Resolution and the Agreement; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the acts taken and decisions made on behalf of the Village relating to the matters described above to the date hereof by the Village Mayor, Village Board and Village Special Counsel are hereby ratified and approved.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of this Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Roll Call:	Trustee Cook	Aye
	Trustee Gallagher	Aye
	Trustee Hogan	Aye
	Trustee Horrigan	Aye
	Mayor Barton	Aye

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried the minutes of the regular meeting and public hearing of 2/8/2021 be approved as submitted.

Chief Gillis provided the Board with the draft Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. It has been published on the Village Website for public review. The Mayor reported members of a committee which included himself, Trustee Cook, Chief Gillis, D.A Tony Jordan, Dan Boucher from Probation, an individual from HF Central School Board, Attorney Michael Mercure and members from Warren Washington County Mental Health. Based on the Governor’s Executive Order a plan was drafted. Because our Police Department is accredited much of what is in the Plan was already in place. There were a couple of things that came to light to improve and those are recognized in the document. The next step is to have a public comment period. Prior to this the Chief sent out 200 letters to community members, he received one response. The public comment period will give the public another chance to provide input. The Plan must be submitted to the State by April 1st.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried it is

RESOLVED, that a public comment period will be conducted on 3/24/21 at 6 p.m. where the public can provide comments, written comment can also be provided at any time.

The Mayor presented the draft Public Employer Health Emergency Plan to the Board, also a part of Governor’s Executive Order. The Plan has been provided to both labor unions for their review and comment (none were provided). The Plan has been published on the Village Website for public review. It must be approved by April 1st.

Trustee Hogan inquired as to the definitions of timeframes. Facilitation remote work for non-essential positions, do we need to budget for this? Clerk Brayman advised that all employees were deemed essential in the

Plan. Chief Gillis advised that he was able to work remotely from home very easy with some assistance from our IT person. There was some concern as to the security. Clerk Brayman advised that both the police and clerk's office is upgrading their computer systems which will include security upgrades, they hope to be in place before June 1st.

Upon motion made by Trustee Hogan, seconded by Trustee Horrigan and carried it is

RESOLVED, that Public Employer Health Emergency Plan be adopted.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and carried it is

RESOLVED, that a public hearing be set on 4/12/2021 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment on the 2021-2022 Budget.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Cook and carried it is

RESOLVED, that that the request be approved of Superintendent Fiorillo's recommendation of Joshua Rouse's 5-year performance raise in accordance with the collective bargaining agreement effective 3/15/2021.

Trustee Horrigan would like clarification on the definition of a boarding house. Attorney Nikas advised that a boarding house is where meals were provided by the owner and the boarders had their own rooms – an extended bed and breakfast. Are the definitions in place currently enough to allow Code Enforcement to get in a building to determine what's going on. Attorney Nikas advised that if Code feels there is an issue with non-family members exceeding what is allowed to be able to issue a violation. The other side of that is if they are all family members living in a house you can't limit the number living in one house. The Mayor advised that the house in question, according to Code Enforcement, had one electric meter, one gas meter, not different apartments – it has six bedrooms. Trustee Horrigan wants confirmation that the existing Code is sufficient if there were many non-family members living in a larger home that Code Enforcement could address the issue. Mayor Barton and Attorney Nikas advised that in 2015 the Board adopted legislation to address these issues.

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Hogan and carried, the following monthly reports were approved as read: Police Department, submitted by Chief Gillis; Code Enforcement submitted by James Buxton; and Fire Department, submitted by Chief Thomas Bover.

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

General Fund	Check Nos.	33938 - 34000
Water Fund	Check Nos.	5808 - 5810
Community Local Devel.	Check No.	170
Derby Park Fund	Check No.	115 - 118
Courthouse/Enterprise Fund	Check Nos.	153 -154
Small Cities/CDBG	Check Nos.	785
NYS Main Street Grant	Check No.	1029
Trust Fund	Check Nos.	7572 - 7584
Payroll Fund	Check Nos.	30567 - 30576

The Mayor announced Village Hall will be reopened tomorrow – March 9, 2021. He feels the infection rate is down, so long as compliance with social distancing, etc... is adhered to it is safe to open to the public. The Mayor advised that he and Clerk Brayman will be meeting this week to go over the draft budget. If necessary a workshop will be scheduled.

Attorney Nikas advised that they have started renovation of the restaurant space at the Sandy Hill Art Center. The individuals are confident we will get through this pandemic and open their Italian Restaurant. Electricians will

begin work on the ansul system this week, beer taps, etc... excited they are still committed to the deal. Once they have everything in place, they will be applying for a liquor license. The Mayor noted that restaurants can open to 75% capacity March 19th.

The Mayor asked the Board for their comment – none were given.

The Mayor opened the meeting to Public Comment - none was given.

Next Meetings – 3/24/21 at 6 pm Special Meeting to present the Board with the Tentative Budget,
Public Comment on the Police Reform and adopting of the Employer Health Emergency Plan.
4/12/21 at 6 pm Public Hearing on the Budget
4/12/21 at 6 pm Regular Meeting of the Board

Upon motion made by Trustee Cook, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.


Ellen M. Brayman, Clerk/Treasurer