

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on December 09, 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 began the meeting with an update on Warren Street. Attorney Nikas has prepared documents to go to court. Mayor Barton is requesting a resolution authorizing Attorney Nikas to proceed with the filing of the of the documents for the court proceeding.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Attorney Nikas to file the appropriate documents on behalf of the Village of Hudson Falls, to continue with the court proceedings and process for the Warren Street boundary line discussion.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the regular minutes f the November 12, 2024, Board Meeting.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the retirement of Cynthia Bardin, Registrar of Vital Statics, effective December 31, 2024.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the appointment of Paige Zahaba as Registrar of Vital Statistics effective January 1, 2025.

There has been recent discussion with the Fire Committee on purchasing a used truck. Trustee Hogan and Trustee Gaulin have been working with the Fire Department discussing their needs for several months. The Fire Department has found a used truck that is available and is requesting the Board to consider purchasing the truck. Chief Bover is planning on taking a trip to Massachusetts, where it is located to inspect it. Mayor Barton discusses the purchase is subject to permissive referendum due to the ourchase will be made with using the funds from the equipment reserve. With the guidance of Attorney Nikas, this purchase is subject to permissive referendum, but the Board must authorize the purchase of this truck. Anyone from the public can petition within 30 days. Mayor Barton requests a motion to move forward with the purchase.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve the purchase of a 2008 Spartan Sutphin, not to exceed the purchase price \$189,000. This purchase is subject to Permissive Referendum, monies to be expended from the Fire Department Equipment Reserve Fund upon inspection and review of the apparatus from Chief Tom Bover.

Next, Mayor Barton would like to publicly state that on behalf of the Village of Hudson Falls, we are opposed to the Clean Earth Facility in Fort Edward.

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

**RESOLVED**, to approve Attorney Nikas to draft a letter of dissent and submit it to the appropriate involved agencies to clearly indicate that the Village opposes the additional use at the Fort Edward facility.

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

**RESOLVED**, Monthly Reports approved as submitted.

Fire Department, submitted by John Santa Croce  
Code Enforcement, submitted by Will Celeste

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

General Fund	Check Nos. 36859 - 36921
Water	Check Nos. 5995 - 5997
Trust	Check Nos. 8051 - 8058
Payroll	Check Nos. 31442 – 31448
Derby	Check No. 151

**Mayor Comment:**

Please take caution in the winter weather. He also commends the volunteers that assisted with the Santa Rescue. He continues to receive compliments on the Juckett Park and appreciates all the assistance from everyone that participates.

**Board Comment:**

No Comment.

**Public Comment:**

Shannon Gillis, Pearl Street, approaches the Board to express her gratitude on the positive response she received from the Board in their participating in the recent virtual meeting about the facility in Fort Edward. Ms. Gillis shared information about issues with the permit that the facility is having, outlining specifics including Department of Environment and Conversation (DEC) requirements, and the rights of disadvantaged communities. She also shared what is her belief in the misguidance they are portraying to the communities and not being completely honest with the operations and negative health effects it will have on our communities. Ms. Gillis explains that the examples that were being used in the facilities demonstration from the virtual meeting does not accurately compare to what they are proposing. Trustee Hogan asks about a public in person meeting. Ms. Gillis explains that they do not have to. The facility received a notice of incomplete and one of the things they needed to address was that they are up against an economic disadvantaged community and with environmental justice they must have a public participation meeting, she states that their response was that they don't think they need to. A brief discussion ensued.

Attorney Nikas asks about her status on her FOIL request to Fort Edward on their permits that were issued. She said she has received the current air permit. For the Petroleum permit, the furthest thing they could find is from 2013-2023, there were 3 modifications to that permit. The second modifications was to process PCB's but it cannot be from the dredging project. The Village of Fort Edward can not locate their original application to show what its original intent was of the plant. The Village will begin to search for it and a request to DEC will be made for that information as well. A brief discussion ensued.

Ron Atkinson, Burgoyne Ave, approaches the Board to revisit the prior Wheelabrator discussion on the public concerns of the plant. He shares with the Board copies of some information packets that he compiled, so they are able to review and follow along with his presentation. A presentation was put on by Clean Air Network (CAN) at the Hudson Falls Library recently. He explains CAN's presentation outlined the disadvantages that plants like Wheelabrator have on communities such as ours. Throughout his presentation he refers to certain pages of his packets that he provided to the Board, including a statement that the monitoring that is being done are not adequately being disclosed to the public. He states that in his research he has learned that Wheelabrator is grandfathered into old environmental regulations and that is why they don't comply with new requirements. Th first requirement that he states they are not required to comply with is back house rules, basically a filter that catches particular matter, he adds Wheelabrator does not have that. They also do not have control on nitrogen oxides emissions that have proven to cause asthma attacks. The tests that are being performed at the plant are being monitored by only Wheelabrator. They are only required to submit one emissions test results a year to DEC. His concern is that these results of the annual test are taken by a third party, after being monitored by Wheelabrator all year. The self-monitoring allows the test to be performed at any given time that is convenient for Wheelabrator leaving the opportunity for Wheelabrator to manipulate the scheduling process inside of the plant to allow them to pass this once a year required tested. Mr. Atkinson proceeds in explaining different facts and opinions on the impacts that waste disposal has on our environments including air, soil and water. He states that it is the responsibility of the Village, Town, Counties, and Department of Health, that should all be addressing these concerns collectively. He requests the Board to appoint a person to help monitor the plant and the hazards impacts it is having to our health and community. A brief discussion ensued.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday January 13, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

Upon motion made by Trustee Gallagher, seconded by Trustee Gallagher and there being no further business to come before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 6: 36 p.m.

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Cassandra Allen, Village Clerk-Treasurer