

March 11, 2024
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pittstown was held March 11, 2024 at the Town Hall, Tomhannock, New York. Those present included Supervisor, Matthew Curley, Councilpersons, Robert Russell, Tanya Lipinski, Erin Maxon and Jason Eddy. Town Attorney, Stacey Goldstein was also present. Supv. Curley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Curley advised that if anyone from the public is here in regards to the reval, the Assessor is here and is willing to meet with those who have any questions.

John Sassatelli, Valley Falls Village Trustee and Jay Overocker, Valley Falls Village Mayor were present looking for assistance in getting the Village EMS service; they currently do not have any. Curley advised that since their initial conversation he has been in contact with the State Comptroller's Office on how to proceed to have the Village included in the contract that we have with the PVEC, and he has been in contact with the PVEC to obtain a cost to include the Village; that figure is \$18,000 for a 10 month period - \$1,800 per month. There will need to be a change in the budget process in the Fall as well; the Ambulance will need to be paid from the "A" fund (town wide) and not the "B" fund (town wide; excluding the Village); which is where it is currently being paid from. The issue has not been addressed as a Board at this time; it will be discussed later in the meeting. Erin Maxon stated that Johnsonville Ambulance covered the Village. When Johnsonville Ambulance dissolved, Hoosic Valley purchased their Certificate of Need; Hoosic Valley controls the coverage for the Village at this time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (2/12/24)

Motion: Eddy; Second: Lipinski to accept the minutes of 2/12/24 as presented.
Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND CONSULTANTS

Motion: Maxon, Second: Russell to accept the Town Clerk's report as presented.
Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none. Reports were received from the Supervisor/Bookkeeper, Code Enforcement Officer, Town Justices, and Highway Superintendent.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

ERCSWMA – Russell stated that they held their first meeting of the year on February 22nd. They are looking into getting more of the clothing donation sheds in the area. The hazardous waste clean up is in Stephentown this year on April 27th. You need to register.

Highway – Campbell was not present – nothing to report.

Buildings – Curley – nothing.

OLD BUSINESS

Tomhannock Fire Protection – Goldstein stated that she has been working with the State Comptroller's Office. The County has prepared the maps. When everything is completed, the State Comptroller will work to distribute and tax accordingly. This will occur on the 2025 tax bills.

Adoption of Local Law #2-2024 Solar Installation Moratorium – Motion: Curley, Second: Eddy to adopt Local Law #2-2024 Solar Installation Moratorium. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

FILED RESOLUTIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Board of Assessment Review Hours/Grievance Day

Curley advised that the Assessor would like to have the hours of the Grievance Board adjusted. They will now sit on Grievance Day from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. with no break. Grievance Day is the 4th Tuesday in May.

MEMBERS PRIVILEGE

Russell – nothing; Lipinski – nothing; Maxon – nothing; Eddy – nothing; Curley – waiting on the street light maintenance meeting. Nothing to report on the bell restoration. The Town will need to go out to bid for trash removal for 2025. Reminder that Brookfield Damn is holding a luncheon/meeting on April 16th from 9 – 1 if anyone is interested in going. He advised that due to our building inspector resigning, he and Russell met with David Crowther who is interested in the position. He is currently getting certified, which is a requirement. He will start on April 1st working with our current inspector and then be on his own May 1st. He will be receiving the same salary as our current inspector. Motion: Curley, Second: Maxon to hire David Crowther as the building inspector/code enforcement officer effective April 1st. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none. He stated that he has been advised that it is time to review the hazardous mitigation plan – it is done every 5 years. It will be himself, Erin Maxon and the building inspector. He asked the Board how they want to proceed with EMS coverage in the Village. The Board agreed that they do not want to leave the Village with no coverage. Maxon stated that he is aware that the PVEC does not want to become a charging district; we can't make them. He asked where the money would come from? Curley advised there is money in the budget. Eddy asked how this came about? Jay Overocker stated that they were approached by Hoosic Valley Ambulance looking to charge them \$38,000 for coverage; the Village cannot afford that. There is a portion of the Village that is across the river that is the Town of Schaghticoke; they are covered under Hoosic Valley. Curley advised that our current contract with the PVEC would need to be amended to include the Village. Maxon advised that the PVEC would need to advise Rensselaer County dispatch. Motion: Lipinski, Second: Eddy to amend the 2024 contract with the PVEC to include the Village of Valley Falls, for those who are not covered by the Town of Schaghticoke, at a cost of \$1,800 per month for the rest of 2024 and the 2025 budget will have a fund change. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

PUBLIC ACCESS

Aaron Roberts from Gifford Road questioned the reval and who approved it. Curley advised that a reval has not been done in 26 years. Roberts stated that there is no service in the Town that he cannot do without and the Town should not have raised taxes – and why in the height of the of the housing market? Eddy stated that the Board did not vote to do the reval with the intent to raise taxes; their goal was to make all residents equal. Lipinski stated that the Board cannot control what happens with the housing market; the Board did this to level the playing field, evaluate equity for everyone and make it fair. It is not about raising taxes. The resident can certainly go thru the grievance process. Seth Brenenstuhl questioned the process. He was advised to go thru the process with GAR Associates; he can then go to grievance if he doesn't agree with their determination.

AUDIT OF BILLS

Motion: Eddy, Second: Lipinski to pay the vouchers on Abstract 3 except for voucher 48. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none. Motion: Lipinski, Second: Maxon to pay voucher 48. Vote: Ayes – Russell, Lipinski, Maxon & Eddy; Nays – none; Abstains – Curley.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Eddy, Second: Lipinski to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m. Vote: Ayes
– all; Nays – none.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Hoag
Town Clerk