

September 9, 2024
Regular Meeting

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Pittstown was held September 9, 2024 at the Town Hall, Tomhannock, New York. Those present included, Councilpersons, Robert Russell, Tanya Lipinski, Erin Maxon & Jason Eddy. Highway Superintendent, Paul Campbell was also present. Supervisor, Matthew Curley and Town Attorney, Stacey Goldstein were absent. Deputy Supervisor, Erin Maxon conducted the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC ACCESS

John Sassatelli, Village of Valley Falls Trustee, thanked the Board for the ambulance service coverage that was proposed for the remainder of 2024. They are looking to maintain coverage on their own for 2025 and after. They have received positive response to their public hearings on a paid service that would be a tax for those covered.

Ted Wright, Village of Valley Falls Trustee, reiterated what J. Sassatelli stated. He is available to answer any questions anyone has. They would like to move quickly so that it could be taxed on the January, 2025 bills. M. Hoag questioned the cost. It is \$21,890 for the coverage. It would be \$.69 cents per thousand of assessed value for the residents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES (8/12/24)

Motion: Lipinski; Second: Eddy to accept the August 12th minutes as presented. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND CONSULTANTS

Motion: Eddy, Second: Maxon 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 Dog Control.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES

ERCSWMA – Russell stated there is nothing new to report. They have a meeting coming up.

Highway – Campbell reported that they received the saw for the boom mower. They are using it on Abbott Road. He thanked the Board for allowing the purchase. He stated that at the last Highway Superintendent meeting, they were advised that after January, 2025, there is a law that if he purchases a diesel vehicle, he must also purchase an electric vehicle. He is working on getting a truck set up now for purchase before 2025 before the new law comes into effect. The Board feels that it is illegal to force the Town to purchase something they do not need.

Buildings – nothing. Eddy asked Campbell to check the cameras at the garage for clarity to see if they need to be replaced.

OLD BUSINESS

Nothing.

FILED RESOLUTIONS

Authorizing Town Court to Apply for JCAP grant. #33-2024 The Board of the Town of Pittstown, authorizes the Pittstown Town Court to apply for a JCAP grant in the 2024-25 grant cycle up to \$2,325.90. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

Village of Valley Falls Ambulance - #34-2024 WHEREAS, the Town of Schaghticoke established that certain Hoosic Valley Ambulance District (AS005) (the "Ambulance District") in 2004, with respect to the Town of Schaghticoke property, including the portion of the Village of Valley Falls (the "Village") located within the Town of Schaghticoke; and

WHEREAS, Rensselaer County (the "County") and the Office of the New York State Comptroller ("OSC") approved the Ambulance District as it relates to the Town of Schaghticoke properties; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Village Trustees, the Town reviewed its records from 2004 with respect to the Village residents located within the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Village, the Town, the County and OSC do not have any evidence, beyond the boundary map of the Ambulance District, as to the authorization of the Town to collect taxes from the Village residents located within the Town in connection with the Ambulance District; and

WHEREAS, the Town has not historically collected taxes from the Village residents in connection with the Ambulance District; and

WHEREAS, the Village Trustees have requested that the Town now collect taxes from the Village residents located within the Town in order for the Village to formally extend ambulance services coverage to the Village residents located within the Town via a contract with Hoosic Valley Rescue Squad (the "Services"), pursuant to the Village resolution adopted at its meeting on August 15, 2024 (the "Village Resolution"), a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town believes it is in the best interests of the Village residents located within the Town boundaries receive the Services; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board is willing to collect the taxes at the request of the Village Trustees for the Services; and

WHEREAS, in order for the Town to collect such taxes to support the Services, the AS005 line item must be properly authorized, subject to permissive referendum, and a public hearing;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, subject to permissive referendum, the Town shall schedule a public hearing regarding the collection of taxes to support the Services and use of AS005; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Matthew Curley, as Supervisor of the Town, is hereby authorized to execute all documents that may be required to effectuate the collection of taxes under AS005 to support the Services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that inasmuch as the foregoing Resolution is subject to permissive referendum, the Town Clerk is hereby directed to cause proper public notice thereof to be given in accordance with the provisions of Article 12-A and Article 7 of the Town Law. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

Exhibit A
Resolution #1-2024
Village of Valley Falls
Purpose:

The ultimate purpose of this Resolution is to enable residents on the Pittstown side of the Village to obtain, prompt, reliable ambulance service from the same provider, and upon the same terms, as residents on the Schaghticoke side now enjoy.

The immediate purpose is to request Pittstown authorities to begin collecting an annual tax for Ambulance District AS005 from those property owners whose parcels are situated within that District – e.g. on the Pittstown side of the Village of Valley Falls.

Text:

WHEREAS, Both New York state and Rensselaer County have made provisions for the creation of Ambulance Tax Districts (Town Law Article 12-A and town Law Article 7); All properties throughout the Village of Valley Falls are listed on county assessment rolls as belonging to Ambulance District AS005;

The Village of Valley Falls exists within two towns: Pittstown (the majority) and Schaghticoke (the minority);

The Town of Schaghticoke has been collecting taxes for AS005 since October 2004;

The Town of Pittstown has never done so;

Residents on the Schaghticoke side of the Village are presently assured of ambulance coverage through contracts made by their town;

Residents on the Pittstown side of the Village desire similar assurance;

The Village Board of Valley Falls is willing to contract with the same ambulance provider on behalf of our Pittstown-side residents, so long as we may obtain funding through a tax on Pittstown-side properties in the Village;

The Board has called and given proper notice of a Public Hearing set for 6:30 pm on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at the Community Center (village hall): 11 Charles St., Valley Falls; The Board has further provided opportunities for discussion during Listening Sessions scheduled for Community Center on July 31 (7:30 pm), August 5 (7:00 pm) and August 11 (5:00 pm); It is in the public interest to have both sides of the Village covered by the same ambulance service; All property owners in District AS005 will benefit from taxes they pay for such service;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Valley Falls respectfully requests Pittstown authorities to take all necessary steps toward collecting an annual ambulance tax for District AS005 from property owners on the Pittstown side of the Village.

FURTHER...

In consideration of revenues thus to be raised, the Village Board of Valley Falls will annually enter into contract with the AS005 ambulance provider(s) on behalf of those Village residents who live on the Pittstown side.

No later than October of each year, the Valley Falls Village Board will provide to Pittstown authorities a dollar figure for the aggregate ambulance tax requested – to be raised from, and for, Pittstown-side properties.

Pittstown will remit to the Village of Valley Falls by April of each year whatever amount(s) it has collected in respect of Ambulance District AS005.

This resolution is subject to Permissive Referendum requirements as set forth in Section 9 of the NYS Village Law.

Adoption:

Resolution adopted on this 15th day of August, in the year 2024 by vote of the Village Board. 4 ayes, 1 absent, 0 nays. Mayor Jay Overocker, Trustees Chris Keyser, Denile Paro, John Sassatelli, and Charles (Ted) Wright.

Motion: Maxon, Second: Lipinski to hold a public hearing on the Town collecting the taxes to support the Ambulance Service and use of District AS005 on October 14th at 6:30 p.m. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

National Society of Daughters of American Revolution National Const. Week & National American Indian Heritage Month #35-2024 WHEREAS: It is the privilege and duty of the American People to commemorate the anniversary of the drafting of the constitution of the United States of America with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 915 guarantees the issuing of a proclamation each year by the president of the United States of American designating September 17-23 as “Constitution Week”.

NOW THEREFORE, Matthew Curley as Supervisor of the Town of Pittstown does hereby proclaim the week of September 17-23 as “constitution week” and urge all citizens to study the constitution and reflect on the privilege of being an American with all the rights and responsibilities which that privilege involves. Vote: Ayes – All; Nays – none.

#36-2024 Whereas, the history and culture of our great nation have been significantly influenced by American Indians and indigenous peoples; and

Whereas, the contributions of American Indians have enhanced the freedom, prosperity and greatness of America today; and

Whereas, their customs and traditions are respected and celebrated as part of a rich legacy throughout the United States; and

Whereas, Native American Awareness week began in 1976 and recognition was expended by Congress and approved by President George Bush in August 1990, designating the month of November as National American Indian Heritage Month; and

Whereas, in honor of National American Heritage Month, community celebrations as well as numerous cultural, artistic, educational, and historical activities has been planned,

Now, therefore, Matthew Curley by virtue of his authority as Supervisor of the Town of Pittstown does hereby proclaim November, 2024 as National American Indian Heritage Month, in this town and urge all our citizens to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies or activities. Motion: Lipinski, Second: Russell to authorize the Supervisor to sign both proclamations Vote: Ayes – all; None.

NEW BUSINESS

Updated Drug & Alcohol Policy – Lipinski questioned who wrote the policy. Campbell advised that it was written by the same man that does our drug testing. It is the same policies that he has written for other surrounding towns. The issue of medical marijuana needs to be clarified because even if you have a medical card, you cannot operate machinery/equipment. Maxon would like it sent to the Union for their review. Campbell advised that it is similar to our current policy, but the penalties have been updated. The Board tabled the issue until the October meeting for Stacey’s review as well as the business agent for the union.

MEMBERS PRIVILEGE

Russell- nothing; Lipinski – sent a revised mobile home park law to the Board for their review. Will be discussed at the October meeting. Eddy – nothing; Maxon – the solar moratorium is up. The Board agreed to extend. Motion: Lipinski, Second: Russell to extend the solar moratorium for 3 months. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none. Curley forwarded to him a letter and budget from the Melrose Fire Dept. showing the figures for them for the distribution of the Tomhannock Fire Protection District. He isn’t sure how they got the figures because he talked with the Assessor today, and she has not heard anything from the County. It was tabled until the October meeting.

PUBLIC ACCESS

John Sassatelli stated that he will be at the October 15th meeting to answer any questions the public may have in regards to the proposed Valley Falls Ambulance Service

AUDIT OF BILLS

Motion: Lipinski, Second: Eddy to pay the vouchers on Abstract 9 except for voucher 269. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none. Motion: Maxon, Second: Eddy to pay voucher 269. Vote: Ayes – Lipinski, Eddy & Maxon; Nays – none; Abstains – Russell.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Maxon, Second: Lipinski to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Vote: Ayes – all; Nays – none.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle A. Hoag
Town Clerk