

**VILLAGE OF HILLBURN
Board of Trustees Meeting
Tuesday, February 9, 2021 – 7:00PM**

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING held on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, via GoToMeeting.com, commencing at 7:00PM.

PRESENT: Joseph P. Tursi, Mayor
Bernadette Tarantino, Trustee
Bonnie O’Blenis, Trustee
Terry Rice, Village Attorney (excused early from meeting)
Eve Mancuso, Village Engineer
Thomas Conklin, DPW Superintendent

RECORDER OF MINUTES: Robin G. Miele, Clerk-Treasurer

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The Hon. Mayor Joseph Tursi called meeting to order. Village Engineer Eve Mancuso led in the Salute to the Flag.

Minutes of the 1/26/2021 Board Meeting - Approved by Village Board.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

Village Attorney’s Report – Attorney Rice reported:

Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2021 - A local law amending § 50-9 of the Code of the Village of Hillburn regarding enforcement of Chapter 50 of the Code of the Village of Hillburn relating to Alarm Systems.

-A Public Hearing was scheduled for Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 7:15PM.

Hillburn vs. Noved/Nicholas Cianciaruso, et. al – 12/1/20 Decision and Order signed by Judge Eisenpress

-The law firm of McCarthy and Fingar, LLC was formally retained at the 2/9/2021 meeting to enforce the 12/1/2020 Decision and Order signed by Judge Eisenpress.

-Still Pending – Order regarding Remediation of Site (Judge is awaiting the outcome of pending NYS DEC administrative proceedings against Mr. Cianciaruso and the property owner (VanShaik).

RE: Pending Claim filed 5/29/2020 – Terry Rice – Village of Hillburn v. Cianciaruso

-Inv. #550 – Legal Services - Litigation (Other than Contempt Hearings) \$11,745.00 **Approved by Village Board.**

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

Insurance –

RE: Hillburn Fire Department – Workers’ Compensation Coverage - The Village’s Insurance Agent, Garrett Durland of Seely & Durland, provided a quote from Comp Alliance, who provides workers’ compensation coverage for the Village. The quote is very competitive, providing a short term pro-rated option (from 3/1/21 to 1/1/22) at 29% less (-\$4,090) than the NYSIF renewal offer. The Village can decide to either keep the HFD coverage separate or combine it with the Village’s renewal on 1/1/22.

-Attorney Rice stated he had no concerns regarding the quote submitted by Comp Alliance.

A MOTION was made by Trustee O’Blenis and seconded by Trustee Tarantino to accept the quote from Comp Alliance to provide Workers’ Compensation coverage for the Hillburn Fire Department, effective 3/1/21 and expiring on 1/1/22, at the pro-rated total funding contribution of \$8,404.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

-On 2/8/2021, the Village of Hillburn received a “Member Loyalty Award Check” from NYS Municipal Workers’ Comp Alliance, in the amount of \$515.00.

Street & Water Commissioners’ Reports – Approved by Village Board.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

Village Water System

-SUEZ Water New York - Mayor Tursi stated he will be reaching out to Bill Madden of SUEZ Water New York to discuss the status of the billings to the Village of Hillburn.

Police Commissioner’s Report – No report.

DPW Report - DPW Supt. Conklin reported:

Trees – Supt. Conklin reported that pruning/removal of trees by Perfect Cut has been delayed due to the snow.

Water Leak Detection – DPW Supt. Conklin reported that scheduling of the leak detecting on the west side of Route 17 by Northeast Water Technology has been delayed due to snow.

Village Municipal Building – Gutters – Supt. Conklin is obtaining quotes for repair/replacement.

Parking Restrictions due to Snow Removal – Supt. Conklin reported the Ramapo police are enforcing the parking restrictions and issuing tickets. The next step for persistent violators will be to have their cars towed.

Mayor Tursi reported he had spoken with Ramapo Police Captain Hyman regarding the noncompliance of the Stop signs at the intersection of Fourth Street and Terrace Avenue.

-Mayor Tursi thanked the DPW for all of their hard work and long hours plowing the roadways during the recent snow storms.

Keep Rockland Beautiful/Hillburn Clean Up Day – Scheduled for Saturday, 4/24/21 (Rain Date: 5/1/21) – Modifications to the event will be made to comply with COVID restrictions.

Environmental Construction, Inc. - Repair of Leak in area of 12 Suffern Road – Invoice #7212 Received 1/28/2020, in the amount of \$17,310.00 (Reflects a \$900.00 reduction from the original quote of \$18,210 for using plastic copper tubing size pipe in place of copper pipe). Invoice and payment of \$17,310.00 was approved by the Village Board.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

Tropical Storm Isaias – Public Assistance - NYS Dept. of Homeland Security & Emer. Services (DHSES) – Required paperwork and documentation has been submitted to FEMA for reimbursement of expenses incurred by the Village.

H.F.D. Report – Chief Shane Starr reported:

Cascade System – Chief Starr requested the unit be declared surplus, as it is no longer working and is too outdated to be repaired (approximately 30 years old). Bottles can be filled using the system on the fire truck.

A MOTION was made by Trustee Tarantino and seconded by Trustee O’Blenis to declare the cascade system as surplus and valueless.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

Emergency Vehicle Access – Boulder Avenue – HFD Chief Starr stated that parked vehicles on side of the road, north of 23 Boulder Avenue prohibit access of emergency vehicles, especially when snow has accumulated on the road shoulder.

-DPW Supt. Conklin confirmed that this is also an issue for the garbage truck.

-Mayor Tursi will make an inspection of the area with the HFD Chief and DPW Supt.

Removal of Snow from Around Fire Hydrants – Chief Starr stated the importance of property owners clearing snow from hydrants in the area of their homes.

-Mayor Tursi stated that this matter will be followed up on.

Village Attorney Rice left the meeting.

RBC Wealth Mgmt – Portfolio Account Statement (January, 2021) and Prospectus Statement dated 1/21/2021. (Village Board acknowledged receipt of same)

2021 Agreement with the Town of Ramapo for Town of Ramapo Fire Protection Districts No. 1 and No. 5

The Village is in receipt of Check #419721, in the amount of \$120,525; and Check #419754, in the amount of \$70,000.00,

SAM Capital Funding Grant Application – Funding Application: Purchase of ~~*Scott Air Packs~~ and Back Hoe – (*Scott Air Packs purchased with alternate funding. Item on Application to be revised) - Mayor Tursi stated a “Zoom” meeting has been scheduled with Assemblyman Lawler for 2/12/2021.

LED Street Lighting Upgrade

O & R – RE: NY Public Service Commission Case 16-E-0226; O & R’s Add’l LED Street Lighting Options Available to Municipalities – Competitive alternatives being offered by O & R regarding LED lighting – no further report.

-O & R approved the upgrade of four streetlights to LED at no cost. Supt. Conklin will meet with Mayor Tursi to confirm the locations for the 4 streetlights upgrades. (*malfunctioning streetlights will continue to be upgraded to LED).

Village Engineer’s Report – Engineer Mancuso reported:

NYS DEC – MS-4 Audit – The 1/29/21 conference call with the NYS DEC Auditor went well. The two comments received are being followed up on. The required field walk, scheduled for today, was rescheduled for Friday, 2/12/21, contingent on the weather.

RE: 2020 Repavement Project – Project Funding: CHIPS –

-Pending Balance for Reimbursement from CHIPS: \$27,688.16 – A claim has been filed with the NYS DOT CHIPS EWR Program for the balance amount.

\$125,000 BAN – Dated 1/14/2021 (DPW Vehicle, DPW Pre-Fab Garage & Misc. Office Equipment)

-No change to Financial Report at 1/26/2021.

-Purchase of Ford F-550 XL 4WD Diesel Truck w/ 11’ Dump Body (Genesee Valley Ford \$54,730.00. (Order placed)

-DPW Pre-Fab Garage – Bids for this project will be solicited.

-Misc. Office Equipment – Laptop computers and Laser fice purchases are being reviewed.

Hawkins Delafield & Wood, Village’s Bond Counsel – 1/29/21 Invoice – Preparation of \$125,000 BAN: \$2,255.60.

A MOTION was made by Trustee O’Blenis and seconded by Trustee Tarantino to approve the payment of \$2,255.00 to Hawkins Delafield & Wood and said payment is to be funded out of the BAN proceeds – DPW Truck Appropriation.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis
Noes: None

2020 Assessment Roll

TOKNY Realty Group, LLC v. Hillburn Board of Assessors – Index No. 031947/2020 – Petition: Tax Year 2020/2021 (Received 6/1/2020) – Attorney Rice stated that an updated appraisal will need to be made.

2021 Assessment Roll – Taxable Status Date: 1/01/2021 –

-The Hearing of Complaints will be held on Tuesday, 2/16/2021, via GoToMeeting.com.

Emergency Preparedness Plan – Pending

Personnel Manual – As discussed at the 1/26/21 meeting, Manual is to be updated to include COVID-19 protocol.

Various Capital Improvements (In accordance with 9/1/16 BAN)

-No updates to Financial Report at 1/26/2021.

2016 Master Plan Committee – Comprehensive Plan & Related Zoning – Adopted 1/14/2020

Proposed Revisions to the Zoning Local Law – A phone conference is to be scheduled among the Mayor, Village Attorney, Building/Fire Inspector and Bonnie Franson.

General Code Publishers

-Proposal/Estimate for Updating Village Code Book - Between \$6,985.00 and \$7,630.00. (Tabled at 8/18/20 meeting until proposed revisions are made to Zoning Code). Tabled

-Proposal for Laser fiche – Tabled.

2021 Village Election – Tuesday, 3/16/2021.

-Appointment of Election Inspectors – As authorized at the 1/26/2021 meeting, the Clerk-Treasurer reported that the following individuals have consented to serve as 2021 Inspectors of Election: Mary Bryan, Joseph Gage, Jennifer Gage and Roberta Doremus. **Approved by Village Board**

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis

Noes: None

Zoning Board of Appeals – No report.

Planning Board – Next meeting: 2/17/2021.

Building/Fire Inspector’s Report – Building/Fire Inspector Gordon

-The Village Board acknowledged receipt of copies of various correspondence from the Building/Fire Inspector and Asst. Building Inspector.

Escrow – No change to Status of Escrow Accounts Report @ 1/26/21.

Hillburn Sewer Committee (Hillburn Village Board) - No report.

Mayor Tursi reported he had attended the recent meeting of the RC Sewer District. A topic of discussion was the Split Rock property. At this time, the RC Sewer District and the NJ Land Conservancy is moving forward to ensure the preservation of the property.

Regular Garbage, Recycables and Bulk Trash Collection – Scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Correspondence - The Village Board acknowledged receipt of correspondence, regular and email.

-NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance – Check #08043486 in the amount of \$500.23 - RE: Unified Court System – Request for Reimbursement for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) filed for by the Hillburn Court Clerk.

-A Purchase Order was issued to Electrolock for installation of the Intercom Locking System at Village Hall.

-The Intermunicipal Agreement for the purchase of fuel was sent to the Village of Suffern for execution.

- US Census Bureau – “Thank You” Certificate issued to the Village of Hillburn.

Public Comments

Jessica Strohli (Property owner of 31 Sixth Street) stated she is the owner/landlord of the three family dwelling and she is questioning the high consumption reflected on her Village water bill for period ending 11/30/2020. She stated she had a plumber at the dwelling and there were no major issues.

-DPW Supt. Conklin stated the meter was installed 7/23/2020. A leak detection company, contracted by the Village to check for leaks in the village-owned water mains, identified a large amount of water running inside of the respective home. At the request of Ms. Strohli, DPW Supt. had monitored the water meter for several days and the meter showed a high usage. After the plumber came to the property, the usage decreased substantially.

-Mayor Tursi advised Ms. Strohli that if the meter was sent to a third party to confirm that it was functioning properly, it would be at her expense.

-Ms. Strohli declined the offer to have the meter tested. She stated that the Village should have let her know that a large amount of water was being used; and that, if the Village billed monthly instead of every four months, she would have noticed that there was a problem earlier.

-Mayor Tursi stated that the Village was not going to change its billing schedule. Further, any outstanding bills will be relieved on the next Village tax bill.

Voucher Claims and Budgetary Transfers to Cover Approved Expenditures - Approved by Board.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis

Noes: None

MOTION was made by Trustee Tarantino and seconded by Trustee O’Blenis to adjourn the meeting at 8:13PM.

Ayes: Mayor Tursi, Trustees Tarantino & O’Blenis

Noes: None

Next Village Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 23, 2021.