

8-8-24 Hadley Town Board Meeting Minutes

Supporting documents for this meeting are available in the Town Clerk's Office

Members present: Supervisor Arthur Wright, Highway Superintendent Andy Gilbert, Attorney Raeann Johnson, Town Clerk Colleen DeMarsh, Town Board: Charles Ovitt, James Brewster, Tim Hilker & Tina Ladd

7:00 p.m. – Supervisor Wright called the meeting to order and all cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Pre-Paids (Includes July and August):

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|
| General: | \$ 21,279.45 | Highway: | \$ 15,281.50 |
| Water 1: | \$ 691.91 | Water 2: | \$ 836.44 |
| Sewer: | \$ 400.28 | Street Lighting: | \$ 3,291.50 |
| Capital Bldgs. HO-20: | \$ 7,387.47 | | |

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Approval of Paying Bills:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|
| General: | \$ 11,382.46 | Highway: | \$ 9,531.83 |
| Water 1: | \$ 81.27 | Water 2: | \$ 76.48 |
| Sewer: | \$ 897.86 | Youth: | \$ 14,013.95 |
| Capital Bldgs. HO-20: | \$ 8,400.00 | Parks: | \$ 89.10 |

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Budget Transfers:

GENERAL

TRANSFER **\$12,191.00** FROM CODE 1355.4 (ASSESSOR) TO CODE 1355.1 (ASSESSOR)

PAYROLL MONIES THAT WERE CODED TO CONTRACTUAL, NOW BEING PAID OUT OF PAYROLL

TRANSFER **\$28.25** FROM CODE 1410.2 (TOWN CLERK) TO CODE 1410.4 (TOWN CLERK)

TRANSFER **\$89.42** FROM CODE 7110.4 (PARKS) TO CODE 7270.4 (BAND CONCERT)

SW1

TRANSFER **\$699.70** FROM CODE 8330.4 (PURIFICATION) TO CODE 8320.4 (SOURCE)

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

YOUTH

DEBIT CODE 510 (ESTIMATED REVENUES) BY **\$1000.00**, CREDIT CODE 960 (APPROPRIATIONS) SUB-CODE 7310.4 YOUTH PROGRAMS - ADDITIONAL MONIES COLLECTED TO FUND

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Provided in Folders

- Minutes from 7/11/24 Town Board Meeting.
- Reports for June: Supervisor's Report

- Reports for July: Fuel Report, Town Clerk (DEC & Monthly), Building Inspector, Animal Control, Operating Statement, & Supervisor
- Correspondence from Jason & Sue Hoffman
- Resolution to name October 17th Surrender Day

Assessor's Report

- Assessor Lorraine Fiorino presented the board with information regarding Firefighter/Ambulance Tax Exemption RP-466-A. She provided the board with samples of what Corinth & Greenfield adopted and information on what Saratoga County adopted.
 - o If the board so chooses to proceed, they would need to rescind Local Law 1 of 2006 – A Local Law Authorizing a Real Property tax Exemption to qualified Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers.
 - o **It would require a Public Hearing to be completed by 3/1/25**

Public Comments

Dane Morton of Adirondack Adventure discussed the proposed project of purchasing land on the Stony Creek Road for his business. He wished to address the misinformation that is out there. He provided facts regarding his business and the project;

- He pays out \$175,000.00 in wages per year
- He employs 14 & 15 year olds who have trouble finding jobs
- He has 66 employees – 40 of them being High School Students
- All employees are trained in CPR
- He stated his project would;
 - o Bring new business to Hadley
 - o Add to the tax base
 - o Opportunity for HS students to learn valuable skills
- He also stated that he understands the heat that the town board is taking due to this project but asks that they consider the benefits and support local business that bring positive change to the community.
- He also stated that he is also attempting to purchase the property due to safety concerns on the Lake Luzerne Buttermilk side; traffic, over-crowdedness, overuse, conditions of road.

Several Employees spoke in support of Adirondack Adventure and Dane in regards to his concern for safety, integrity and willingness to hire shy teenagers and teach them forever life skills. Those who spoke in support were;

- o Kevin Sebastian
- o Ryan
- o Olivia Ortiz
- o Kerrigan Millis
- o Kylie Lebarron
- o Lori Collins

Sue Hoffman thanked the students for speaking and Dane for providing the opportunity to the students.

She stated that she is also a business owner but is concerned regarding the proposed sale of the property on Stony Creek Road.

- Asked if it was 1 parcel or a 5 acre parcel
 - o Supervisor Wright confirmed it is a 23 acre parcel
- She believes Hadley should retain the property and does not see the benefits of selling.
- She disagrees with Dane being able to purchase and believes it would hurt his competition
- She stated that it would bring more problems on the river – more commercial tubing to take away from the beauty of the area.

Sue Wilder spoke and stated in the past she worked for Dane's grandfather at Papa's Ice Cream Parlor as a bouncer. She commended Dane for his efforts and willingness to take risks. She stated Business brings Business.

Kathy Trackey spoke in support of Dane stating that youth are more valuable than a sand pit and that it is a perfect opportunity for the youth in our area and it just makes sense.

Cecil Hayes asked why we were giving away land, how did it come for sale, what are the mining permit specifics, road details and what about the Adirondack Park Agency.

- Dane requested to respond;
 - o The mining is not on APA wetlands
 - o His intent is to have an access road along the tracks
- Highway Superintendent Gilbert stated that the mining would not be affected by rafters.
- Supervisor Wright added that it's a very lengthy process and could a long time possibly 3 years. He also stated that he is insulted at the misinformation that is being spread. He reiterated that everything that has done to this point has been done right, at public meetings and the board is doing its due diligence;
 - o Dane approached the board, the board supported him proceeding for a **potential** sale, Dane obtained an appraisal, the town is in the process of obtaining an appraisal, and that is as far as it has gone.
There are no back door deals.
- He also stated that this is a lengthy process that may require public hearings, permissive referendums, going out to bids and could go as far as public auctions. And after all that, at any time the board could decide not to sell.
- Supervisor Wright also stated that he is offended at the accusations towards himself and the town board. Everything is done at public meetings.
- Cecil asked how this came about and Dane again reiterated again the facts of how the process started as stated above.

Cecil also asked why the public notice of Local Law 1 of 2024 regarding solar was not published.

- Town Clerk DeMarsh & Attorney Johnson confirmed that it was and everything was done according to the law and at public meetings.
 - o **Town Clerk's Response 8/12/24 – Notice of Public Hearing for the Town of Hadley Proposed Local Law 1 of 2024 – An Ordinance Regulating the Siting of Solar Generation Facilities in the town of Hadley was published on April 20, 2024 in the Post Star.**

Paul Krueger asked Dane about where his take out is and Dane responded.

Councilman Charles Ovitt thanked everyone for their comments and opinions and stated that the town board would take everything into consideration and that the town board will make a decision based on what is best for the town of Hadley.

Colin Hagadorn stated his concern regarding liability over the railroad tracks with town trucks and rafting buses crossing them. He also stated that the concerns will not go away.

Acceptance of 7/11/24 Town Board Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Hadley-Luzerne Historical Society Report

- Sue Wilder from the Hadley-Luzerne Historical Society presented information regarding the Daughters of American Revolution Traveling Display. It is an **American Revolution Interactive Experience that will be at the Kinnear Museum located in Lake Luzerne from September 12th through September 27th.** She also stated that there will be a **Reception on September 14th and she would like the Town Supervisor's to be present.**
- Kathy Trackey recommended that they invite school groups.
- Sue Wilder thought that was a great idea.

Highway Superintendent's Report

- Superintendent Gilbert reported that the crews will be paving Riverview Drive and Midiron Road next week.
- He also requested that he receive permission to purchase a lawn mower for the Sewer District from Sewer Capital Project. He received 3 quotes:
 - o Toro **\$ 4,399.99**
 - o Toro **\$ 5,699.00**
 - o Ferris **\$ 6,469.00**

He recommended and requested permission to purchase the Toro at **\$4,399.00.**

Resolution # 46

Be it resolved that the town board of Hadley hereby approves the Highway Superintendent purchasing a Toro Lawn Mower 50 23 HP KAW FAB DECK for the price of \$4,399.99 from Emerich Sales and Service 1369 Rt. 9 Saratoga Road, South Glens Falls, NY 12828.

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Supervisor's Report

- Supervisor Wright asked the board to adopt a Resolution from the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors proclaiming October 17th as Surrender Day.

Resolution #47

Be it resolved that the town board of Hadley hereby adopts Resolution 256-2023 from the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors naming October 17th as Surrender Day – a commemoration to a countywide holiday to commemorate the Battles of Saratoga, the siege of the British Army, and its ultimate surrender to the Patriot Army on October 17th, 1777.

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Supervisor Wright also added Stephanie Lansburg to 250th Anniversary/225th Birthday Committee.

Supervisor Wright also reported that the health insurance for town employees was increasing 20% so the board shopped around and found compatible insurance with less expensive rates.

He recommended that the town board change health insurance from Highmark to MVP.

Resolution #48

Be it resolved that the town board of Hadley hereby approves changing the health insurance from Highmark to MVP beginning September 1st, 2024.

Motion made by Charles Ovitt. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Supervisor Wright also reported that on **September 17th, Deceased Veteran Ed Kenna from the town of Hadley will be honored at Saratoga County in a 2:00 p.m. ceremony at 40 McMaster Street, Ballston Spa, NY.** All are invited.

He also reported that the budget process is beginning. Requests will be mailed out this week and due by September 1st. He will be scheduling budget workshops at the September 12th town board meeting.

Youth Director Report

- Youth Director Jean Cieslik reported on the Youth Program for the town of Hadley.
 - o Today was last day 8/8/24
 - o 125 Children registered
 - o 57 Children daily
 - o Activities included; mini golf, wrestling, horseback, swimming, hiking, archery, pickleball, & self-defense.
- She also reported as a youth director and Proud Military Mom that her son and a former classmate met up in Guam. Both are serving in the United States Navy.

Historian Report

- Kathy Trackey reported that a committee has been formed to organize the celebrations for 250th Anniversary of America & 225th Hadley Birthday.
- Supervisor Wright stated that he should have an idea if there will be any money available from the county by the September meeting.

Town Clerk DeMarsh is also the secretary of the committee and these are the minutes from the first meeting;

Town of Hadley 225th Birthday Celebration (Founders Day) Committee Meeting Monday, August 5th 4:00 p.m.

Members Present: Kathy Trackey
Midge Reib
Colleen DeMarsh - Secretary
Stephanie Lansburg
Sue Wilder

Members Absent: Maureen Lanfear

This was the first meeting of the committee and its purpose was to present ideas. Some ideas were:

Piggyback with Hadley's Annual Fireworks in July and name it FOUNDER'S DAY.

Have it on Saturday, July 11th 2026 instead of a Friday.

- Food Trucks, Birthday Cake, Music, Events that honor Hadley's History, Fireworks, Hadley Song (Gary Gazaille & Colleen)

Ask Supervisor Wright if there is any county money available for the celebration

Have a formal recognition of Hadley's 225th Birthday at the February 2026 Town Board Meeting with Proclamations (town, county, state, federal?)

Fire Hydrant Painting Contest (Youth Program?)

Quilt – (Colleen will reach out to Edith Westerman)

Reach out to Lauren Roberts (Saratoga County Historian)

Town Clerk's Report

- Town Clerk DeMarsh reported that a vacancy for the Planning Board is posted on the website and the Wall of Info at the Town Hall. The post reads:

8/1/24

The town of Hadley has a vacancy for a member on the Planning Board.

Planning Board Members attend a 7:00 p.m. meeting the first Monday of every month unless it is a holiday.

The rate of pay is \$63.27 per meeting.

Planning Board Members are required to attend required training.

Letters of interest will be accepted until September 6th, 2024.

Please send letters of interest to:

Colleen DeMarsh

Hadley Town Clerk

PO Box 323

Hadley, NY 12835

She also reported that the Transition to paper Sportsmen Licenses has begun and so far the transition has been smooth. There are Question & Answer packets available at the Town Clerk's office for additional information.

Other Business:

Councilman Tim Hilker & Councilman Charles Ovitt thanked the young people for attending the meeting.

8:39 p.m. Supervisor Wright entertained a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by James Brewster. Seconded by Tim Hilker. All Ayes. Approved.

Upcoming meeting; Regular Town Board Meeting September 12th at 7:00 p.m.