

Hoosick Falls & Surrounding Area News

HOOSICK

New Hoosick Code Enforcement Officer Appointed

by Alex Brooks

The Hoosick Town Board held a Special Meeting on Friday March 19 for the sole purpose of appointing a Code Enforcement Officer. At that meeting the Board appointed Lloyd Moses, who lives in Buskirk, as Building Inspector and CEO. Moses has 18 months to complete the required NYS training to become certified as a CEO.

At its regular meeting on April 12, the Board approved purchase of code enforcement software from Edmunds GovTech. Supervisor Surdam said it would cost about \$5,000, and he told the Board the Town has to have this software to run the building department efficiently. He also noted that he uses this software in his job as the Village's Building Inspector, so he will be able to help Mr. Moses learn how to use it.

Recreation Programs

The Board set pool and summer camp prices and approved a schedule of staff wage levels. Both pool and summer camp prices were raised slightly to cover increases in wages for staff driven by the State-mandated minimum wage increase. Swim lessons for residents will increase from \$40 to \$45 per child with a maximum charge of \$100 per family. Pool memberships for Town residents for the summer will be \$120 for a family and \$100 for a single person, both up \$10 from last year's prices. The Summer Camp for residents is up \$5 from last year's price of \$110 per camper per week to \$115 this year. Non-resident prices are slightly higher for all of the above; contact the Town Clerk for full information.

The pool will open the weekend of June 25 and swim lessons will start July 5. The pool will probably start the season with reduced numbers because of COVID, but the Board expressed optimism that the pool can go back to full operation some time during the season, depending on State guidance. The Board authorized Pool Manager Kim Brownell to try some new programming initiatives for the pool at her discretion. She mentioned lap-swimming in the evening and evening programs for "tweens" as her first ideas in this regard.

Surdam said the new lighting at the rink is just about finished, and Bill Hanselman said he is trying to set a date for installation of the turf in the rink, so the facility will soon be ready for its first season as a warm-

weather recreational facility.

A company from New Jersey came up to assess the state of the Town's Zamboni and its prospects for repair and rehabilitation, and found it to be too old and deteriorated to be worth fixing up. Their ballpark guess was that it would take \$25,000 to \$30,000 to renovate it, but they didn't do a detailed estimate because it clearly would not be a good idea to put that much money into such an old machine. Surdam said the Town may be able to nurse the old Zamboni through another season, but basically they need to start looking for a used Zamboni to buy to replace this one.

Berle Farm

Chris Krahling of the Agricultural Stewardship Association, a non-profit based in Greenwich which works on preservation of agricultural lands in Rensselaer and Washington counties, asked the Board for a letter of support for a project to purchase the development rights for the Berle Farm in East Hoosick. The project cannot go forward without a letter of support from the Town, and the Board voted to approve the letter of support. The farm comprises 604 acres, of which 563 are to be protected. After the purchase of development rights, the farm remains in private ownership and continues to pay property taxes, but the protected land may not be used for commercial, residential, or industrial uses. The idea is to preserve the land for agricultural use in perpetuity.

Supervisor Surdam said the new phone system in

the Town offices at the Armory has been completed, and is now up and running. The system now runs on voice over IP (VOIP) technology.

Marijuana Opt-Out

Supervisor Surdam said the new marijuana legalization law allows for local opt-out which would ban retail sales and "marijuana bars" from the municipality. He said he doesn't yet have a feeling about local sentiment on this issue, but he wanted to let the Board know that there is a provision for local opt-out in the law, and if the Town wants to opt out, it must act before the end of the year. Town attorney Jon Schopf said if the Town wants to opt out, it would have to hold a public referendum, and also that the Town should probably coordinate with the Village on this issue if possible.

In Other News

- A Village Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday April 24, to meet at 9 am at the gazebo in Wood Park
- Paula Kamperman was appointed to the Board of Assessment Review through September 30, 2025; Michael Bailey was re-appointed to the Town Zoning Board through April 30, 2026.
- The Board accepted the Service Credit List provided by North Hoosick Fire Chief Alan Bornt under the Penflex Service Rewards Program. This is a pension-like program intended to help recruit and retain volunteer firefighters, in which firefighters are financially rewarded based upon the number of years they serve.

HOOSICK FALLS AND SURROUNDING AREA NEWS AND NOTES

Petersburgh Couple Perish In Bennington Accident

On Thursday, April 8 shortly before 7 pm, Bennington Police were dispatched to a report of a serious motor vehicle crash in the area of 1638 West Road (VT Route 9). Bennington Rescue and Bennington Rural Fire Department were also dispatched to the scene.

Responders located a 1998 Toyota Camry wedged under the rear of a large farming vehicle. Both occupants of the Camry were unresponsive. Life Net was called to the scene, but was canceled prior to them arriving. Both occupants were pronounced deceased.

They were identified as Charles Schichtl, 85, and Lorraine Schichtl, 82, of Petersburgh. Charles was the operator of the Camry and Lorraine was a passenger.

The farming vehicle is a New Leader Dry Hauler and was being operated by Matthew Williams, 29, of Bennington. Williams wasn't injured.

The Dry Hauler farming vehicle was heading west

on West Road when the Camry struck the rear of it. The Dry Hauler vehicle continued westbound with the Camry wedged underneath the frame. Williams told investigators that he thought he had blown a tire and didn't know a vehicle had struck him. Williams pulled into the next field to check his vehicle and saw the Camry wedged underneath.

West Road/Route 9 was closed for several hours while the scene was being investigated. The Vermont State Police assisted with the crash. The Assistant Medical Examiner assisted on scene with the investigation and both Charles and Lorraine were transported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner for autopsy.

Cheney Library Updates

April take-home craft kits are available at Cheney Library. Participants of all ages can paint their own wind chimes and create DIY pinwheels for breezy spring days! Kits are limited! Call 518-686-9401 during open hours to request a kit. If your kit is not picked up within 3 days of your request, please note that the kit may go to another registrant.

Disability Rights New York will be presenting information to individuals who may be seeking employment or are interested in educational services leading to employment. This event will be held on April 22 at 2 pm. Please contact the library to register. You will be provided a Zoom link the day before the event. If you have any questions about this program, please contact Sarah Hulbert at Sarah.Hulbert@dmny.org.

A virtual digital literacy workshop in "Email Marketing with Mailchimp" will be held Thursday, April 29 at 7 pm. Learn how to create email marketing campaigns for your business, organization or cause with a free MailChimp account. The

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