

Hoosick Falls New Drinking Water Source ... Continued from page 1

applicable water supply requirements; and

- Retaining the existing GAC treatment system to ensure removal of ambient organic compounds.

These recommendations follow many years of study with input from the public as well as the Village and the Town of Hoosick. Slightly more than a year ago, DEC came out with five possible solutions, ranging from pumping water in from the Tomhannock Reservoir in Pittstown to doing nothing, other than maintaining the GAC filter system. The DEC has opened a 45 day public comment period, after which it will make its final decision.

Reactions

As one might expect, reaction to DEC’s proposal was quick. Mayor Rob Allen called it a “big milestone, years in the making.” He also said that making the GAC system a permanent component is a key part of the proposal. While he is reserving further comment until he, the Village Board, its environmental experts and attorneys have had a chance to look it over, he did say “it’s a good day.”

Deputy Mayor Bob Ryan echoed much of Mayor Allen’s sentiments, particularly about the patience the community of Hoosick Falls has shown waiting for this day.

Rensselaer County Executive Steve McLaughlin sent the following statement to *The Eastwick Press*: “This is the best option presented to the public to ensure clean water. Dating back to my time as an Assemblyman, I have advocated for a safe, clean source of drinking water and protection of health and quality of life in the areas affected by PFOA. I still believe the best long-term solution is extension of public water to the area and hope that gets more consideration.

We appreciate the state informing us of its decision on this issue. Residents can be assured my administration will continue to be their advocate and work to ensure health and property values are safeguarded in the coming years.”

Village Resident Mike Hickey is the person credited with doing the research and discovering the PFOA contamination. He says “It’s not a big surprise. I think many of us would have felt more confident with the Tomhannock option but the current system has given consistent non-detect results from our current wells. Moving the wells to the Wysocki/LaCroix location, along with keeping the current filtration system in place, adds another level of safety.

Real estate is selling again and our community has seemed to flourish under Mayor Allen and the current leadership. We have come a long way in six years. Work still needs to be done, but it truly feels like

Hoosick is Rising!”

Rensselaer County Legislator Jeff Wysocki, whose land one of the two new production wells will be drilled on, says he believes “it is the best option for all in the community.” The district’s other legislator, Bruce Patire, says “the local wells in my mind would be the best way, along with maintaining the filter system in the village. Yes, it is the best decision after a joint State and DEC prolonged study and I am extremely happy after a very long wait it has come to a logical and truly workable solution.”

The President of the Tri State Area Federal Credit Union, based in Hoosick Falls, is also very pleased with the proposal. Jim Martinez has said before he believes Hoosick Falls should keep control of its own water source (the City of Troy would control that source if the Tomhannock Reservoir had been chosen). He also feels a quality, PFOA free drinking water can help rebuild the Village economically.

Public Comment Period

DEC will be accepting public comments on the PRAP through June 4. Comments can be submitted by mail to Ian Beilby, Project Engineer, NYS DEC, 625 Broadway, Albany NY, 12233-7013, or by email to hoosickwatersupply@dec.ny.gov. In addition, DEC is holding a virtual public meeting/presentation on May 13 to provide the public with an opportunity to learn more about the PRAP, ask questions and provide comments.

There will be much more to report on this as the PRAP is dissected. The complete release by DEC is rather lengthy so the *The Eastwick Press* will put it up on its website in the open viewing section, for those who want to read more.

Capital Funding For Touring Road Improvements ... Continued from page 9

increased and permanent funding stream for arterial road maintenance.”

“With over 17 miles of state touring routes within City limits, the City of Troy is appreciative to receive additional funds to address roadway conditions impacted by vehicle traffic and winter conditions,” said City of Troy Mayor Patrick Madden. “This assistance will alleviate the financial burden to maintain these state routes and ensure safe travel for Troy families and local motorists. We thank Assemblymember McDonald and our representatives in the State Legislature for including new capital funds in the 2021-22 State Budget for municipalities tasked with road maintenance for state traffic routes.”

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to go ahead with the rest of the drainage work called for by the engineers. Berry said completing the drainage project is a significant amount of work, so it will be put out to bid. He said Jim Wynn is a candidate to do the work, and he expects that Winn will be one of the bidders. He expects that work to be completed this summer.

Town Hall Renovation

The Board held a special meeting by Zoom a week earlier to talk about possible renovations to the Town Hall building. Heinz Noeding said they want to take on the project in stages, and they felt the first thing is to do a survey of hazardous materials in the building. They would like to hire a contractor to identify any asbestos, mold, radon, lead paint, or any other hazardous materials that may be present in the building and outline abatement options and costs of mitigation measures. They were talking to a company called InterTech recommended by Tom Suozzo to undertake the project, but they did not yet have an estimate from that company or any other. Noeding said he thought it would cost about \$4,000 to do the hazardous materials survey.

Tom Berry commented that the Town has been seeking to repave the municipal parking area for quite a few years now, and it is getting worse all the time, and he would like to see that become a priority for Town Hall spending.

Planning Board Law

The Board held a public hearing prior to the regular meeting on a proposed amendment to the law empowering the Planning Board to enforce various laws. It adds Local Law #5 of 2015 concerning manufactured homes and recreational vehicles to the Planning Board’s portfolio of laws that it acts upon. The law was not included originally because The Board at that time expected it to be revised imminently, but because of the pandemic the revisions were not completed. There were no comments offered at the Public Hearing, and the Board approved the amendment at the regular meeting a little later on.

Dog Kennel

Dog Control Officer Molly Smith said she housed a dog in the basement of the Town Hall for five days and there were complaints about the noise, because the dog would hear people moving about upstairs and start barking. She said a shed behind the Town Hall that had been designated as the Town’s dog shelter could not be used because it was too cold and the shed is falling off the blocks that it sits on. She asked the Board for advice on where to shelter dogs that she picks up. Heinz Noeding said he has a kennel that he bought at Tractor Supply that he would be willing to donate to the Town. The Board agreed to look into that as a solution.

Mowing Bids

The Board accepted a bid from Burdick Building and Landscaping to mow the lawns around the Town buildings for \$2,495 for the season and to mow the Town Park for \$1,000 for the season. Peter Schaaphok asked why there were no bids to mow the cemeteries. Town Clerk Deidra Michaels replied that no bids have been sought because the Town has not decided yet which cemeteries it will have mowed. Schaaphok said he thought that had been settled years ago. She said it was, but that was then and this is now. She said Alan Webster is working on the list of cemeteries to be mowed. Schaaphok said he would get together with Webster to try to resolve the matter, as the grass is growing and the mowing needs to start soon.

Gravel Bids

The Board accepted bids from Sean O’Donovan for bank run gravel and processed road gravel. Bank run will be \$6 per cubic yard plus \$1 per yard to deliver, and processed gravel will be \$10 per cubic yard plus \$1 per yard to deliver. The Town also received bids from Polero Sand & Gravel from Poestenkill and from R.J. Valente. Bids were also submitted from all three bidders for ice control sand, but the Board did not accept any of the bids for that item, saying it needed more information. It is also considering using the County bid for ice control sand, but it did not have full information on that.

PFOA Presentation

Members of the C-8 Committee said Barbara Firebaugh of DEC, who is overseeing the PFOA cleanup in Petersburg, has agreed to hold another information session with people from DOH and DEC who are involved in the project about the progress of the investigation, but a date has not yet been set. It will be held by Zoom, and the group is seeking to schedule it in the second week of May.

Hoosick Rescue Squad Fundraiser

In order to offset the high cost of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) the squad is doing a fundraiser. Creative Custom Woodcraft in Hoosick donated two composite foldable Adirondack chairs and they are being offered through a raffle. The tickets are obtained through squad members for a donation of \$20 per ticket to be drawn on Memorial Day, May 31.

The chairs are blue in color and can be seen in the accompanying photo below the new flagpole with its American Flag and EMS flag. The squad provides 24/7/365 emergency care through the 911 system. During this time of the pandemic the cost of PPE (masks, face shields, gowns and goggles) has increased dramatically causing stress on the squad’s financial status.



A town of Hoosick Rescue Squad Ambulance sits next to the two chairs donated for the raffle by Creative Custom Woodwork. Photo provided.

The community support of the raffle and other fundraising activities is greatly appreciated.