

**TOWN OF DEERPARK  
TOWN BOARD REGULAR MEETING**

**September 16, 2024**

Meeting was held at Town Hall, 420 Route 209, Huguenot, New York 12746

**Invocation: Art Trovei**

**Pledge of Allegiance: Christa Hoovler**

*Moment of silence for ZBA Member Robert Zeller, who recently passed away.*

**Call to Order: 7:34pm**

**Attendance:**

**Supervisor:** Gary Spears

**Councilpersons:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler

**Town Clerk:** Flo Santini

**Attorney:** Glen Plotsky

*Additions/Deletions to Agenda:*

*Supervisor Spears states that the town needs to add a full-time laborer position to the Highway Department. He also states that Flo Santini received a petition regarding the Ethics Policy, discussion for that will need to be added under New Business.*

**Motion to Add Items to Agenda**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Presentations/Communications:*

*Supervisor Spears states that there are cleanup permits available in the Town Clerk's Office and they can be used during the month of October.*

*Public Comments:*

*David Ofshinsky speaks on the petition to update the Ethics Policy. He states that he was at the Neversink River Festival his past weekend and this petition was signed there by many residents and non-residents.*

*Department Head Report:*

*Police Chief Szyndor gives report for Police Department. [Attached to Minutes]*

*Highway Superintendent Ray Cirulli gives report for Highway Department [Attached to Minutes]*

**Motion to Approve August 5, 2024**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

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**Motion to Convert a F/T Highway Department Laborer with Reduced Hours to a F/T laborer with Full Time Hours**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art Trovei

**VOTES: 5 AYES: Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears**

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Old Business:*

*Supervisor Spears opens up discussion for the Petition to Address the Board of Ethics.*

*Art Trovei says he doesn't want to change anything and that he thinks everything is fine the way it is and there shouldn't be any more time spent on this.*

*Al Schock says that the board has just spent 6 months giving thought to this and considering it and that at this point he believes nothing needs to change.*

*Christa Hoovler says that the fact that residents have taken the time to create this position, that the Town Board should consider this more. She believes that it's not so much that the policy needs to be changed, but rather it needs to just be updated. She says that the residents don't have the trust in the Board that they should have. She says the process did not need to take 6 months and could have been take care of much more quickly than it did.*

*Art Trovei says that if the residents don't like the way the Town is run or if they believe there are ethical issues that are not being addressed, they can vote new Board members onto the Town Board, but each term they have ran unopposed so they must be doing a satisfactory job if the residents keep voting them onto the board each year.*

*Christa Hoovler says that is not what she heard when she went door to door.*

*Art Trovei says that they don't vote as if they are unhappy with the town leadership.*

*Gary Spears says the only complaint that he has heard is that the current Ethics Law is 50 years old. But he says that 50 years ago ethics were a lot better than they are now. He says that he and the rest of the board is not in favor of making new laws because every time a law is made, there is a winner and there are about a thousand losers. He says a lot of times, the ones passing new laws are wanting to do it in order to persecute or harass another class of citizens in the town, and then it in turn affects everyone and people lose their rights. He says that is what is happening in the federal government right now.*

*Christa Hoovler says that this is just an update, not a new law. She thinks the citizens deserve to have the Board at least look at it and consider it.*

*Al Schock says that the Board already did that and decided to not move forward. He says that the principles that are in the current law still stand true.*

*Christa Hoovler says that if that is the case and there are no issues, then why not update it.*

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*New Business:*

*Supervisor Spears reads Proposal for Legal Services 2025 Labor Matter Stewart Waxman & Assoc.*

**Motion to Execute Legal Services Contract if Needed**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art Trovei

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Supervisor Spears reads letter of resignation from Deputy Town Clerk Grace Ellsworth.

**Motion to Accept Letter of Resignation from Grace Ellsworth**

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Re-Appoint William Williams to the Board of Assessment Review**

Motion by Art Trovei 2<sup>nd</sup> by Al Schock

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Accept Email Vote for New Police Officers Jack Decker from Canvas List and Matthew Rohner as P/T Patrolman**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**

*Supervisor Spears reads Resolution #23 of 2024- JCAP Grant, Town Justice Court [Attached to Minutes]*

**Motion to Authorize Supervisor to Sign Resolution #23 of 2024**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES (ROLL CALL):** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Approve Space Park Use to PJ School Modified Soccer Practice**

Motion by Art Trovei 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**

*Supervisor Spears lists off surplus equipment. Said equipment either needs to be sold or thrown in the trash.*

**Motion to Put Surplus Items out for Auction**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Art Trovei

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Alan Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears  
**MOTION CARRIED**



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*Al Schock says it is because it is not necessary. He also says that the people he talks to say that they don't see any need to change the Ethics Law.*

*Christa Hoovler says that she thinks that people are not comfortable coming forward to voice their opinions.*

*Al Schock says that is what they need to do if they have something to say. He says it is not always comfortable to be a councilman but that is what it takes for him to serve and help his town. If other people want to voice their opinions, they may have to step out of their comfort zones too.*

*Gary Spears says they should table this and the Board of Ethics members Discussion until the next meeting to give residents a chance to vocalize their concerns on this Ethics Policy and the changes they believe should be made.*

**Motion to Table Ethics Board Members and Policy Discussion Until Next Town Board Meeting**

Motion by Gary Spears 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Robert Whitney, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**Abstain:** Al Schock, Art Trovei

**MOTION CARRIED**

Bills to pay:

September 3, 2024

General Fund Abstract #13	\$248,830.91
Highway Fund Abstract #13	\$105,100.87

Total	\$353,931.78
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September 16, 2024

General Fund Abstract #14	\$68,030.50
Highway Fund Abstract #14	\$31,291.20
Street Lighting Abstract #5	\$324.76
Engineering Abstract #5	\$4,932.50

Total	\$104,578.96
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**Motion to Pay the Bills for September 3, 2024**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Pay the Bills for September 16, 2024**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Supervisor Spears says that the Mobile DMV will be at the Senior Center on Tuesday, September 24, 2024 from 10am-12pm and 1-3:30pm.*

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**Closing Comments:**

*Art Trovei- Sad to hear the news of Bob Zeller, says that he devoted a lot of time to the Town of Deerpark.*

*Al Schock- Shares sadness at news of Bob Zeller, says he was his neighbor for 20 years.*

*Rob Whitney- None*

*Christa Hoovler- Says that the Moon Festival was a huge draw to people from all over the county. She says there was also the Neversink River Festival this weekend, both had beautiful weather.*

*Gary Spears- Shares condolences to Bob Zeller's family, sad to hear of his loss.*

**Motion to Advertise to Fill Open Position on Zoning Board of Appeals**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Christa Hoovler

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Enter Executive Session After 15 Minute Recess, and Invite in Town Board and Town Attorney to Discuss Legal Matters Facing the Town**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

*Executive Session:*

**Motion to Authorize Payment to Attorney for O&R in the Amount of \$49,643.15**

Motion by Al Schock 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES (ROLL CALL):** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Re-Enter Regular Session at 9:24pm**

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rob Whitney

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Motion to Adjourn at 9:26pm**

Motion by Christa Hoovler 2<sup>nd</sup> by Gary Spears

**VOTES: 5 AYES:** Arthur Trovei, Robert Whitney, Al Schock, Christa Hoovler, Gary Spears

**MOTION CARRIED**

Respectfully Submitted,

*Flo Santini*

Florence T. Santini, Town Clerk



# TOWN OF DEERPARK HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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Raymond Cirulli, Highway Superintendent

## August 2024 monthly report

The month began with continued preparations for paving.

True and leveling continued on Peenpack Trail, West Peenpack Trail, Old Forestburg Road, Old Greenville Tpke, Hidden Valley Road, and Guymard Tpke.

On Guymard Tpke, we obtained permission from a land owner to remove a rock wall and an earth embankment which severely limited the sight distance for motor vehicle operators using the road.

Later in the month, paving was completed on all of the previously mentioned roads. We also striped Peenpack Trail and Guyard Tpke. I know this was a topic mentioned at a previous board meeting so I wanted to take a moment and dig into the topic of road striping. The Cornell Local Roads Program provides training, technical assistance and information to municipal agencies responsible for the maintenance, construction and management of local highways and bridges in New York State. In simple terms, they determine the industry standards and make recommendations on all issues pertaining to highways. When it comes to pavement marking (road stripping) they say this. *“Center line markings should be placed on paved urban arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 20 feet or more in width and an ADT of 4,000 vehicles per day or greater. Center line markings should also be placed on all rural arterials and collectors that have a traveled way of 18 feet or more in width and an ADT of 3,000 vehicles per day or greater.”*



With that being said, there are other factors that I have to take into consideration prior to lining roadways; such as pedestrian usage and budgeting to name a few. Also, once a road is lined; by law we have to maintain those markings so while I'm not opposed to lining roads, we don't have the budget, manpower, or traffic volume to line the majority of our roadways. Questions on that before I move on

Flail mowing and sickle bar mowing continued. Throughout the summer, the sickle bar mower broke down several times so it took much longer than usual to get roadway edges mowed. I will explore other options prior to next mowing season to see if we can come up with a better option.

A few street signs were replaced when scheduling permitted. As long the weather holds up, we plan to continue replacing the old signs with new. This will remain an annual occurrence providing our sign budget remains the same.

Mowing has continued in the parks along with field grooming and edging. Edging is the process where we cut the grass back along the infields and baselines to keep a neat, clean, playing surface which allows for better play.

The PJYFL season is under way. After several sewer issues at the first weekend of games, we exposed the septic tank and discovered a blockage in the line. The tank was pumped and the blockage was removed. They've had they're second game everything seems to be working well. At the recommendation of the board, porta johns were added for convenience and to take some pressure off our septic system.

Additional ropes were placed on the field to prevent spectators from erecting tents and obstructing the view of others. This also helped prevent attendees from parking on our fields.

Recently, we began installing shoulders on the roadways we've paved and Will continue throughout the month of September.

Moving onto to winter preparations:

The equipment for our new single axel is still not in. I'm am in contact with the retailer on a weekly basis. This has become very frustrating for all involved. Basically, our cab and chassis have been sitting there since spring waiting for the arrival on the dump body, plow, and controls. All of which were supposed to be here in early spring. The retailer has also become frustrated with his supplier so he has order bodies from another manufacture with similar specifications. He's assured me the truck will be ready for winter but I'm not very optimistic.

Also, our 2006 tandem plow/wing plow truck is no longer fit for service. I've been looking for a used truck since winter. I've found a couple and most recently, thought I was going to be awarded the bid but it didn't work out. Obviously, each truck is different but just as a reference point, the truck I had hoped to bring to you for a vote to purchase was a 2016 tandem already equipped with everything we need as far as plow/sander/wing etc. and it was going to be around 100k. The cost for new truck outfitted the same was \$364,000. While I feel a fleet rotation is a good idea and we should explore it the future, a new wheel loader is going to have to be our top priority for 2025. I will continue to look for a good quality used truck so please monitor your emails because when the list, the window is very short and due to the cost of new, quality used tandems are in high demand.