

REGULAR MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF THE HANCOCK VILLAGE BOARD,
MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2024 AT 7:00 P.M.
HANCOCK VILLAGE HALL, 85 EAST FRONT STREET, HANCOCK, NEW YORK

The public hearing to consider No Parking on the north side Vestal Avenue between Wheeler Street and Crowe Street was called to order by Mayor Shannon at 7:00 P.M.

The floor was opened for public comment. No comment.

The public hearing for No Parking on the north side Vestal Avenue was closed at 7:02 P.M.

The public hearing to consider adding Article III Feral Cats was called to order by Mayor Shannon at 7:02 P.M.

The floor was opened for public comment.

William Pokon - People really like cats. He spoke about how his wife has worked with feral cats in the past and that it's not right to starve these cats.

Carol Lohndorf – The TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) Program have done amazing at helping the true problem. The problem is being solved by fixing the cats not by starving them.

Jeannie Tan – Her concern is when everyone stops feeding the feral cats what happens when they start getting in to all food sources like garbage and other things. She wants to know what the Village would do if that attracts other animals.

Shannon Dermody – She wanted to speak on the fee that is being proposed. She believes that is a shot in the dark number because people who park in a handicap spot is only charged \$50 instead of \$250. She believes that people are trying to be humane and feed these cats they shouldn't have to face an insane fine. She thinks there is a better solution out there.

Leonard Sienko Jr – He wanted to voice his strong opposition to the proposed local law. He believes that not feeding the cats will not solve the cat problem. He believes that it is against the NYS Law because it would be removing food from cats that are used to humans providing food. He stated that it will cause more problems than help.

Kathleen Ingalls – She is part of the TNR Program that is working with the Village and the Town of Hancock. She stated that this law will make their process of trapping illegal because they use food to lure cats to the trap. She stated if we remove the food source that these cat colonies will travel farther and farther to look for a food supply and make the TNR even harder. She would like to see a more detailed law written rather than the vague law that is proposed.

Richard Lowe – He understands that the Village is caught in the mix of the situation. He thinks that something needs to be done but he is not in favor of this law being the solution. He thinks that the TNR is the best solution to the problem but he understands that may take years to see results.

Patricia Pokon – She has domesticated many feral cats over the years. She has fed kittens and brought them in her house and essentially adopted them. She would have been unable to do that without using food to lure them in. She stated that this law is not the way to go.

Sarah Nero – This is not a one size fits all situation. She does not think the proposed law will work but there should be something that will hold people accountable to taking care of the cats properly. She

would like to see a law that cats get licensed and watched for shots.

William Pokon wanted to know what problems these cats are causing. Richard Lowe stated that they are destroying private property and that he receives many complaints through the partners about the cats.

Patricia Pokon wanted to say that no one should poison the cats because that could lead to many of new problems.

Lori Nelson who is another person that is part of the TNR Program wanted everyone to know that they have responded to every problem area that has been brought to their attention.

Kevin McCarthy said that there was a major problem on Leonard Street and that has been addressed and will continue to be watched. He is nervous that this proposed law will turn neighbors against each other and that may cause more problems.

Brandie Lee – She spoke how she has taken many cats and re-homed them at her own expense. She stated that even feral cats are considered companion animals and is against the law not to feed them. She stated that volunteers would be willing to do things to help shelter and feed cats in a regulated way. She thinks the board needs to rethink the law and find a better solution.

Donna Torch – She thinks the Village Board and residents need to come together and come up with a better law that will help the cat problem without taking the food away. She believes there are more ways of finding a solution. She knows that other places took months to come up with a law that would work with everyone.

Leonard Sienko Jr – offered his time to sit with the Village Attorney to come up with a better law.

Dawn Dermody – She would like to see the cats have proper warm shelters to get through the winter months.

Lori Nelson – Would like to thank the Village for working with the TNR Program and providing the \$5000.00.

The public hearing for adding Article III Feral Cats was closed at 7:45 P.M.

The Regular Meeting was called to order at 7:46 P.M. by Mayor Shaun Shannon.

Roll call was taken by Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Shannon.

Present: Mayor Shaun Shannon
Deputy Mayor Jason Mead
Trustee Ricky Kuehn - Absent
Trustee Shane Mielke
Trustee Dorothy Picozzi

Also Present: Demi Shannon, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
See List attached

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Picozzi, voted and carried to approve the minutes of the September 09, 2024 Regular Board Meeting. 2024-105
Minutes Approval

A MOTION was made by Trustee Mielke, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mead, voted and carried to approve the Abstract of Vouchers #06 in the amount of \$245,333.33. 2024-106
Abstract of Vouchers

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Picozzi, voted and carried to approve Local Law No. 1 of 2024 regarding No Parking on Vestal Avenue From Wheeler Street to Crowe Street. 2024-107
Local Law 1 Vestal Parking

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Shannon -	Yes
Deputy Mayor Mead –	Yes
Trustee Kuehn –	Absent
Trustee Mielke –	Yes
Trustee Picozzi -	Yes

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and denied Local Law No. 2 of 2024 Amendment to Chapter 29 Feral Cats. 2024-108
Local Law 2 Feral Cats

Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Shannon -	No
Deputy Mayor Mead –	No
Trustee Kuehn –	Absent
Trustee Mielke –	No
Trustee Picozzi -	No

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried to approve the quote from Koester for repairs to the bar screen at the Waste Water Treatment Plant for \$24,553.00 to be paid with Sewer Savings. 2024-109
Repair Quote Bar Screen

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Picozzi, voted and carried to approve the quote from AAA Emergency for 10 SCBA Bottles at \$800.00 each totaling \$8,000.00. and a quote for one (1) turnout gear set for \$2,684.00 from Fire End Croker. 2024-110
HFD Quotes

A MOTION was made by Trustee Picozzi, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mead, voted and carried to forgive the sewer portion of \$100.96 for a leak under the trailer at 4 Riverview Park per letter submitted the board. 2024-111
Sewer Forgiveness

A MOTION was made by Trustee Picozzi, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mead, voted and carried to approve Wreaths Across America using the Hancock Fire House on December 14, 2024 at 1 PM for a ceremony. 2024-112
Fire House Use

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried to accept the department reports. 2024-113
Department Reports

Public Comment:

William Pokon expressed his concerns over the speeding on East Front Street. He has seen signs in smaller towns that state watch your speed. He would like to see if the Board may see what it takes to get one of those. He also stated that the sidewalks on that end of town are in poor shape.

Bill Brown stated that work is moving forward on the Sewer Grant Project. The generators are in and placed and they are working on getting the gas lines laid to hook them up. They are waiting on blowers that will be installed in the WWTP.

Richard Lowe stated that after the winter season he will be stepping down from the Hancock Partners. The Board thanked him for his time and he said he's not leaving just taking some time.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried at 8:00 P.M. to enter into executive session to discuss: **2024- 114**
Executive Session

- **The medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation**

The meeting was reconvened at 9:15 P.M. with no action taken.

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried to schedule a Special Meeting October 29, 2024 at 9 am at the Village Hall. **2024-115**
Special Meeting

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried to accept the application of Ashton Amaya to join the Hancock Fire Department. **2024-116**
HFD Member App

A MOTION was made by Deputy Mayor Mead, seconded by Trustee Mielke, voted and carried to accept the application of Ernie Thomas to join the Hancock Fire Department. **2024-117**
HFD Member App

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Demi Shannon, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer