

**VILLAGE OF HEUVELTON**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**October 10, 2018**

At 6:00 pm, Mayor Lashua called the meeting to order. Mayor Lashua opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance. Trustees in attendance were W. Knowlton; C. Basford; A. Guardino and E. Wood. Also in attendance were T. Murray, DPW Superintendent; S. McConnell, DANC; T. Wood, HVFD Chief; C. Prior, EDR and M. Tamblin, EDR. Mr. J. Lightfoot, SLC Legislator arrived at 6:24pm.

**HVFD Report** The chief stated they are still waiting on the new truck. The Mayor discussed the requirements of the new law for cancer coverage for volunteer firefighters. The cost should be about \$225 per person. The Chief will provide the Clerk with a list of eligible members. The Chief left at 6:08pm.

**Public Forum** Mr. Lightfoot announced that the new County budget will be voted on in November and there will be a decrease in the tax rate of 8 cents. The raise the age law went into effect on October 1st and currently there isn't a facility in the County to accommodate the youths. They hope to do home monitoring or they will have to pay to send out of the County. There was a discussion about the workers compensation refund from the County to the Village and it was decided that Mr. Lightfoot would set up a meeting with Joe Peckham, Steve Button and the Mayor to get clarification. Mr. Lightfoot left at 7:22pm.

**Sewer/Water** Mr. McConnell stated he is currently working on manhole inspections. He is also working on the repair of a return pump. Land applying samples are done. He is waiting on results. The Fields are ready to apply. Water is good. No violations. Mr. Tamblin updated the Board on the repairs to the lagoon liner. They located two tears and put pea stone in to hold the liner in place today. They will be adding five bags of aquablock to seal the tears. They expect to be done by Friday. The liner is approaching the end of its life. The WWTP well was tested and there is no contamination. Mr. Prior from EDR gave a presentation on their proposal to do the WWTP consolidation feasibility study. The Village has a \$50,000.00 grant from the DOS to pay for the study. They will produce a preliminary report on converting the WWTP to a pump station conveying wastewater to the City of Ogdensburg along State Route 812. Some of the issues the study will cover are environmental impact, estimated project costs, impact of sewer user rates and potential funding sources. The report should be completed by June 2019. Mr. Prior and Mr. Tamblin left at 6:48pm.

**RESOLUTION 18-084****WWTP CONSOLIDATION STUDY**

Offered by Tr. Guardino, seconded by Tr. Basford, Tr. Knowlton, Tr. Wood and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to hire EDR to proceed with the WWTP consolidation feasibility study at a cost not to exceed \$30,000.00.**

The Mayor updated the Board on the progress of the Water Tower Project. She also discussed the new water rates in effect for the next billing.

**RESOLUTION 18-085****LEGAL COUNSEL**

Offered by Tr. Knowlton, seconded by Tr. Guardino, Tr. Basford, Tr. Wood and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to hire Barclay Damon as legal counsel for services relating to the Water Tower Project at a cost not to exceed \$2,500.00.**

**RESOLUTION 18-086**

**2018 WATER RATES**

Offered by Tr. Basford, seconded by Tr. Wood. Tr. Knowlton, Tr. Guardino and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to adopt the following water rates effective August 1, 2018:**

| <b>Water rates:</b>      | <b><u>Current- Effective 8/1/18</u></b> |                        |                     |                         |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
|                          | <b><u>Fixed</u></b>                     | <b><u>Variable</u></b> | <b><u>Total</u></b> | <b><u>Quarterly</u></b> |
| <b>Unmetered Per EDU</b> |                                         |                        |                     |                         |
| <b>Inside Village</b>    | <b>\$190</b>                            | <b>\$ 90</b>           | <b>\$280</b>        | <b>\$70.00</b>          |
| <b>Outside Village</b>   | <b>\$190</b>                            | <b>\$105</b>           | <b>\$295</b>        | <b>\$73.75</b>          |
| <b>Metered Users</b>     |                                         |                        |                     |                         |
| <b>Inside Village</b>    | <b>\$190</b>                            | <b>\$1.50/1000 gal</b> |                     |                         |
| <b>Outside Village</b>   | <b>\$190</b>                            | <b>\$1.75/1000 gal</b> |                     |                         |

**Mayor’s Report** Mayor Lashua reviewed with the Board the proposed changes to the employee handbook.

**RESOLUTION 18-087**

**AMEND EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK**

Offered by Tr. Guardino, seconded by Tr. Wood. Tr. Basford, Tr. Knowlton and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to amend the Employee Handbook regarding Holiday, Vacation and Insurance Buyout effective October 10, 2018. Amend Holiday Article 12.4 to add requirements needed to be met in order to receive Holiday pay. Amend Vacation to add Article 13.6 to address payout of remaining vacation time when an employee leaves. Amend Personal Time Article 15.1 to add that it will be granted at the beginning of the fiscal year and prorated for new hires and address forfeiture when an employee leaves. Amend Article 19.2 to add proration of insurance buyout when an employee leaves.**

The Mayor informed the Board that the proposed sign law has been sent to the County Planning Board for a final review and should be ready to present to the Board at the next meeting. She reviewed the unpaid taxes that are being sent to the County to be re-levied.

**RESOLUTION 18-088**

**RE-LEVY VILLAGE TAXES 2019**

Offered by Tr. Wood, seconded by Tr. Basford. Tr. Knowlton, Tr. Guardino and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution authorizing the Village Clerk to re-levy unpaid Village taxes of \$20,120.33 plus second notice fees of \$42.00 and interest of \$1,411.39 for a total of \$21,573.72 to the January 2019 Town & County Tax Roll.**

The Mayor discussed a request from the Assessor regarding changing the amounts of the Veterans real property tax exemption.

**RESOLUTION 18-089**

**VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

Offered by Tr. Wood, seconded by Tr. Basford. Tr. Guardino, Tr. Knowlton and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to schedule a public hearing on the Real Property Tax Exemption for Veterans on Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 6:00 pm.**

Anyone wishing to put anything in the Village newsletter needs to get the information to the Clerk by October 22nd.

The Mayor advised the Board that a new law requires that the Village put in place a Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy.

**RESOLUTION 18-090**

**SEXUAL HARRASSMENT POLICY**

Offered by Tr. Wood, seconded by Tr. Basford. Tr. Knowlton, Tr. Guardino and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to adopt the Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy for the Village of Heuvelton as follows: see attached policy**

The Board reviewed the Workplace Violence Training handout and signed and returned the sheets. Trustee Wood has been unable to contact Mr. Martin regarding the drawings for the pavilion.

**Streets/Sidewalks** Mr. Murray stated that the paving has been done on the boat launch road. There was a water main break on Clinton Street. The DPW crews made temporary repairs and he is getting quotes on materials and labor for replacement of the water line. The decision to replace the line was tabled for the next meeting.

**RESOLUTION 18-091**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Offered by Tr. Knowlton, seconded by Tr. Wood. Tr. Basford, Tr. Wood and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Resolution to accept the minutes of the 9/12/18 meeting.**

**RESOLUTION 18-092**

**VOUCHER APPROVALS**

Offered by Tr. Wood, seconded by Tr. Guardino. Tr. Knowlton, Tr. Basford and Mayor Lashua - Aye.

**Approval of Vouchers**

|                   |                |                           |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| <b>General</b>    | <b>119-153</b> | <b>\$ 22,002.62</b>       |
| <b>Sewer</b>      | <b>119-153</b> | <b>\$ 27,778.35</b>       |
| <b>Water</b>      | <b>119-153</b> | <b>\$ 5,639.31</b>        |
| <b>EQ Project</b> | <b>119-153</b> | <b><u>\$ 2,039.00</u></b> |
| <b>Total</b>      |                | <b>\$ 57,459.28</b>       |

**Other Disbursements: \$19,123.25**

At 8:47pm, with no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Tr. Wood. All were in agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele Smithers  
Village Clerk

## VILLAGE OF HEUVELTON SEXUAL HARRASSMENT PREVENTION POLICY

The Village of Heuvelton is committed to maintaining a workplace free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is a form of workplace discrimination. All employees are required to work in a manner that prevents sexual harassment in the workplace. This Policy is one component of the Village of Heuvelton's commitment to a discrimination-free work environment. Sexual harassment is against the law<sup>1</sup> and all employees have a legal right to a workplace free from sexual harassment and employees are urged to report sexual harassment by filing a complaint internally with the Village of Heuvelton. Employees can also file a complaint with a government agency or in court under federal, state or local antidiscrimination laws.

### **Policy:**

1. The Village of Heuvelton's policy applies to all employees, applicants for employment, interns, whether paid or unpaid, contractors and persons conducting business, regardless of immigration status, with the Village of Heuvelton. In the remainder of this document, the term "employees" refers to this collective group.
2. Sexual harassment will not be tolerated. Any employee or individual covered by this policy who engages in sexual harassment or retaliation will be subject to remedial and/or disciplinary action (e.g., counseling, suspension, termination).
3. Retaliation Prohibition: No person covered by this Policy shall be subject to adverse action because the employee reports an incident of sexual harassment, provides information, or otherwise assists in any investigation of a sexual harassment complaint. The Village of Heuvelton will not tolerate such retaliation against anyone who, in good faith, reports or provides information about suspected sexual harassment. Any employee of the Village of Heuvelton who retaliates against anyone involved in a sexual harassment investigation will be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. All employees, paid or unpaid interns, or non-employees<sup>2</sup> working in the workplace who believe they have been subject to such retaliation should inform a supervisor, manager, or the Mayor. All employees, paid or unpaid interns or non-employees who believe they have been a target of such retaliation may also seek relief in other available forums, as explained below in the section on Legal Protections.
4. Sexual harassment is offensive, is a violation of our policies, is unlawful, and may subject the Village of Heuvelton to liability for harm to targets of sexual harassment. Harassers may also be individually subject to liability. Employees of every level who engage in sexual harassment, including managers and supervisors who engage in sexual harassment or who allow such behavior to continue, will be penalized for such misconduct.

---

<sup>1</sup> While this policy specifically addresses sexual harassment, harassment because of and discrimination against persons of all protected classes is prohibited. In New York State, such classes include age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, military status, sex, disability, marital status, domestic violence victim status, gender identity and criminal history.

<sup>2</sup> A non-employee is someone who is (or is employed by) a contractor, subcontractor, vendor, consultant, or anyone providing services in the workplace. Protected non-employees include persons commonly referred to as independent contractors, "gig" workers and temporary workers. Also included are persons providing equipment repair, cleaning services or any other services provided pursuant to a contract with the employer.

5. The Village of Heuvelton will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation that ensures due process for all parties, whenever management receives a complaint about sexual harassment, or otherwise knows of possible sexual harassment occurring. The Village of Heuvelton will keep the investigation confidential to the extent possible. Effective corrective action will be taken whenever sexual harassment is found to have occurred. All employees, including managers and supervisors, are required to cooperate with any internal investigation of sexual harassment.
6. All employees are encouraged to report any harassment or behaviors that violate this policy. The Village of Heuvelton will provide all employees a complaint form for employees to report harassment and file complaints.
7. Managers and supervisors are **required** to report any complaint that they receive, or any harassment that they observe or become aware of, to the Mayor.
8. This policy applies to all employees, paid or unpaid interns, and non-employees and all must follow and uphold this policy. This policy must be provided to all employees and should be posted prominently in all work locations to the extent practicable (for example, in a main office, not an offsite work location) and be provided to employees upon hiring.

### **What Is “Sexual Harassment”?**

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful under federal, state, and (where applicable) local law. Sexual harassment includes harassment on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, self-identified or perceived sex, gender expression, gender identity and the status of being transgender.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome conduct which is either of a sexual nature, or which is directed at an individual because of that individual's sex when:

- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive work environment, even if the reporting individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment;
- Such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of employment; or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting an individual's employment.

A sexually harassing hostile work environment includes, but is not limited to, words, signs, jokes, pranks, intimidation or physical violence which are of a sexual nature, or which are directed at an individual because of that individual's sex. Sexual harassment also consists of any unwanted verbal or physical advances, sexually explicit derogatory statements or sexually discriminatory remarks made by someone which are offensive or objectionable to the recipient, which cause the recipient discomfort or humiliation, which interfere with the recipient's job performance.

Sexual harassment also occurs when a person in authority tries to trade job benefits for sexual favors. This can include hiring, promotion, continued employment or any other terms, conditions or privileges of employment. This is also called “quid pro quo” harassment.

Any employee who feels harassed should report so that any violation of this policy can be corrected promptly. Any harassing conduct, even a single incident, can be addressed under this policy.

### **Examples of sexual harassment**

The following describes some of the types of acts that may be unlawful sexual harassment and that are strictly prohibited:

- Physical acts of a sexual nature, such as:
  - Touching, pinching, patting, kissing, hugging, grabbing, brushing against another employee’s body or poking another employee’s body;
  - Rape, sexual battery, molestation or attempts to commit these assaults.
- Unwanted sexual advances or propositions, such as:
  - Requests for sexual favors accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning the target’s job performance evaluation, a promotion or other job benefits or detriments;
  - Subtle or obvious pressure for unwelcome sexual activities.
- Sexually oriented gestures, noises, remarks or jokes, or comments about a person’s sexuality or sexual experience, which create a hostile work environment.
- Sex stereotyping occurs when conduct or personality traits are considered inappropriate simply because they may not conform to other people’s ideas or perceptions about how individuals of a particular sex should act or look.
- Sexual or discriminatory displays or publications anywhere in the workplace, such as:
  - Displaying pictures, posters, calendars, graffiti, objects, promotional material, reading materials or other materials that are sexually demeaning or pornographic. This includes such sexual displays on workplace computers or cell phones and sharing such displays while in the workplace.
- Hostile actions taken against an individual because of that individual’s sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and the status of being transgender, such as:
  - Interfering with, destroying or damaging a person’s workstation, tools or equipment, or otherwise interfering with the individual’s ability to perform the job;
  - Sabotaging an individual’s work;
  - Bullying, yelling, name-calling.

### **Who can be a target of sexual harassment?**

Sexual harassment can occur between any individuals, regardless of their sex or gender. New York Law protects employees, paid or unpaid interns, and non-employees, including independent contractors, and those employed by companies contracting to provide services in the workplace. Harassers can be a superior, a subordinate, a coworker or anyone in the workplace including an independent contractor, contract worker, vendor, client, customer or visitor.

### **Where can sexual harassment occur?**

Unlawful sexual harassment is not limited to the physical workplace itself. It can occur while employees are traveling for business or at employer sponsored events or parties. Calls, texts, emails, and social media usage by employees can constitute unlawful workplace harassment, even if they occur away from the workplace premises, on personal devices or during non-work hours.

## **Retaliation**

Unlawful retaliation can be any action that could discourage a worker from coming forward to make or support a sexual harassment claim. Adverse action need not be job-related or occur in the workplace to constitute unlawful retaliation (e.g., threats of physical violence outside of work hours).

Such retaliation is unlawful under federal, state, and (where applicable) local law. The New York State Human Rights Law protects any individual who has engaged in "protected activity."

Protected activity occurs when a person has:

- made a complaint of sexual harassment, either internally or with any anti-discrimination agency;
- testified or assisted in a proceeding involving sexual harassment under the Human Rights Law or other anti-discrimination law;
- opposed sexual harassment by making a verbal or informal complaint to management, or by simply informing a supervisor or manager of harassment;
- reported that another employee has been sexually harassed; or
- encouraged a fellow employee to report harassment.

Even if the alleged harassment does not turn out to rise to the level of a violation of law, the individual is protected from retaliation if the person had a good faith belief that the practices were unlawful. However, the retaliation provision is not intended to protect persons making intentionally false charges of harassment.

## **Reporting Sexual Harassment**

**Preventing sexual harassment is everyone's responsibility.** The Village of Heuvelton cannot prevent or remedy sexual harassment unless it knows about it. Any employee, paid or unpaid intern or non-employee who has been subjected to behavior that may constitute sexual harassment is encouraged to report such behavior to a supervisor, manager or the Mayor. Anyone who witnesses or becomes aware of potential instances of sexual harassment should report such behavior to a supervisor, manager or The Mayor.

Reports of sexual harassment may be made verbally or in writing. A form for submission of a written complaint is attached to this Policy, and all employees are encouraged to use this complaint form. Employees who are reporting sexual harassment on behalf of other employees should use the complaint form and note that it is on another employee's behalf.

Employees, paid or unpaid interns or non-employees who believe they have been a target of sexual harassment may also seek assistance in other available forums, as explained below in the section on Legal Protections.

## **Supervisory Responsibilities**

All supervisors and managers who receive a complaint or information about suspected sexual harassment, observe what may be sexually harassing behavior or for any reason suspect that sexual harassment is occurring, **are required** to report such suspected sexual harassment to the Mayor.

In addition to being subject to discipline if they engaged in sexually harassing conduct themselves, supervisors and managers will be subject to discipline for failing to report suspected sexual harassment or otherwise knowingly allowing sexual harassment to continue.

Supervisors and managers will also be subject to discipline for engaging in any retaliation.

## **Complaint and Investigation of Sexual Harassment**

**All** complaints or information about sexual harassment will be investigated, whether that information was reported in verbal or written form. Investigations will be conducted in a timely manner, and will be confidential to the extent possible.

An investigation of any complaint, information or knowledge of suspected sexual harassment will be prompt and thorough, commenced immediately and completed as soon as possible. The investigation will be kept confidential to the extent possible. All persons involved, including complainants, witnesses and alleged harassers will be accorded due process, as outlined below, to protect their rights to a fair and impartial investigation.

Any employee may be required to cooperate as needed in an investigation of suspected sexual harassment. The Village of Heuvelton will not tolerate retaliation against employees who file complaints, support another's complaint or participate in an investigation regarding a violation of this policy.



While the process may vary from case to case, investigations should be done in accordance with the following steps:

- Upon receipt of complaint, the Mayor will conduct an immediate review of the allegations, and take any interim actions (e.g., instructing the respondent to refrain from communications with the complainant), as appropriate. If complaint is verbal, encourage the individual to complete the “Complaint Form” in writing. If he or she refuses, prepare a Complaint Form based on the verbal reporting.
- If documents, emails or phone records are relevant to the investigation, take steps to obtain and preserve them.
- Request and review all relevant documents, including all electronic communications.
- Interview all parties involved, including any relevant witnesses;
- Create a written documentation of the investigation (such as a letter, memo or email), which contains the following:
  - A list of all documents reviewed, along with a detailed summary of relevant documents;
  - A list of names of those interviewed, along with a detailed summary of their statements;
  - A timeline of events;
  - A summary of prior relevant incidents, reported or unreported; and
  - The basis for the decision and final resolution of the complaint, together with any corrective action(s).
- Keep the written documentation and associated documents in a secure and confidential location.
- Promptly notify the individual who reported and the individual(s) about whom the complaint was made of the final determination and implement any corrective actions identified in the written document.
- Inform the individual who reported of the right to file a complaint or charge externally as outlined in the next section.

### **Legal Protections And External Remedies**

Sexual harassment is not only prohibited by the Village of Heuvelton but is also prohibited by state, federal, and, where applicable, local law.

Aside from the internal process at the Village of Heuvelton, employees may also choose to pursue legal remedies with the following governmental entities. While a private attorney is not required to file a complaint with a governmental agency, you may seek the legal advice of an attorney.

In addition to those outlined below, employees in certain industries may have additional legal protections.

### **State Human Rights Law (HRL)**

The Human Rights Law (HRL), codified as N.Y. Executive Law, art. 15, § 290 et seq., applies to all employers in New York State with regard to sexual harassment, and protects employees, paid or unpaid interns and non-employees, regardless of immigration status. A complaint alleging violation of the Human Rights Law may be filed either with the Division of Human Rights (DHR) or in New York State Supreme Court.

Complaints with DHR may be filed any time **within one year** of the harassment. If an individual did not file at DHR, they can sue directly in state court under the HRL, **within three years** of the alleged sexual harassment. An individual may not file with DHR if they have already filed a HRL complaint in state court.

Complaining internally to the Village of Heuvelton does not extend your time to file with DHR or in court. The one year or three years is counted from date of the most recent incident of harassment.

You do not need an attorney to file a complaint with DHR, and there is no cost to file with DHR.

DHR will investigate your complaint and determine whether there is probable cause to believe that sexual harassment has occurred. Probable cause cases are forwarded to a public hearing before an administrative law judge. If sexual harassment is found after a hearing, DHR has the power to award relief, which varies but may include requiring your employer to take action to stop the harassment, or redress the damage caused, including paying of monetary damages, attorney's fees and civil fines.

DHR's main office contact information is: NYS Division of Human Rights, One Fordham Plaza, Fourth Floor, Bronx, New York 10458. You may call (718) 741-8400 or visit: [www.dhr.ny.gov](http://www.dhr.ny.gov).

Contact DHR at (888) 392-3644 or visit [dhr.ny.gov/complaint](http://dhr.ny.gov/complaint) for more information about filing a complaint. The website has a complaint form that can be downloaded, filled out, notarized and mailed to DHR. The website also contains contact information for DHR's regional offices across New York State.

### **Civil Rights Act of 1964**

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) enforces federal anti-discrimination laws, including Title VII of the 1964 federal Civil Rights Act (codified as 42 U.S.C. § 2000e et seq.). An individual can file a complaint with the EEOC anytime within 300 days from the harassment. There is no cost to file a complaint with the EEOC. The EEOC will investigate the complaint, and determine whether there is reasonable cause to believe that discrimination has occurred, at which point the EEOC will issue a Right to Sue letter permitting the individual to file a complaint in federal court.

The EEOC does not hold hearings or award relief, but may take other action including pursuing cases in federal court on behalf of complaining parties. Federal courts may award remedies if discrimination is found to have occurred. In general, private employers must have at least 15 employees to come within the jurisdiction of the EEOC.

An employee alleging discrimination at work can file a "Charge of Discrimination." The EEOC has district, area, and field offices where complaints can be filed. Contact the EEOC by calling 1-800-669-4000 (TTY: 1-800-669-6820), visiting their website at [www.eeoc.gov](http://www.eeoc.gov) or via email at [info@eeoc.gov](mailto:info@eeoc.gov).

If an individual filed an administrative complaint with DHR, DHR will file the complaint with the EEOC to preserve the right to proceed in federal court.

### **Local Protections**

Many localities enforce laws protecting individuals from sexual harassment and discrimination. An individual should contact the county, city or town in which they live to find out if such a law exists. For example, employees who work in New York City may file complaints of sexual harassment with the New York City Commission on Human Rights. Contact their main office at Law Enforcement Bureau of the NYC Commission on Human Rights, 40 Rector Street, 10th Floor, New York, New York; call 311 or (212) 306-7450; or visit [www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/home/home.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/cchr/html/home/home.shtml).

### **Contact the Local Police Department**

**If the harassment involves unwanted physical touching, coerced physical confinement or coerced sex acts, the conduct may constitute a crime. Contact the local police department**