

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS

December 7, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on December 7, 2009.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:00 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Fire Captain, John Rush
Asst. Fire Chief, Steve Suarez
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Code Enforcement Officer – Tim Doherty
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Village Residents- Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Paul Yehl -51 Cozzens Ave.
Sallie Ann Dorsch – 5 Autumn Leaf Court

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the below listed minutes as follows:

- a) Regular Meeting – November 16, 2009
- b) Special Meeting – November 16, 2009

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
2009-2010 Budget Transfers

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and on a roll call vote the results which follow:

5 Ayes 0 Noes
motion carried. (A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to the minutes)

The Fire Department Report for November 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

The Code Enforcement Report for November 2009 was presented to the Board for review. Mr. Tim Doherty, Code Enforcement Officer verbally added to his report that the court date for the Sweezy Avenue property had been changed from December 15th to the 16th. He also asked permission to ask the court that the maximum fine allowable be applied.

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to have the Code Enforcement Officer ask that the maximum fine allowable under the Property Maintenance section of the Village Code, be applied to the violations on the Sweezy Avenue Property.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Community Development Report for November 2009 was presented to the Board for review. Eileen Koppenal, Community Development Director, presented a memo to Board outlining a request from an applicant for emergency repair of a chimney under the CDBG Program.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to table this matter until more information could be obtained and to also get an opinion from the Village Attorney before any decisions are made.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Police Department Report for November 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

Chief Miller presented a memo to the Board referencing a memo from April of 2007 and the donation of two AR-15 rifles to the Police Department. The Chief has had the benefactor come forward with a donation of \$1,000. to purchase a AR-15 rifle at a cost of \$994.00 and would like to proceed with the

acquisition of one rifle. The Chief reiterated to the Board that the Officer's Training on this weapon is incorporated into their annual training cycle and so is the ammunition cost.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the \$1,000.00 donation and that it be used to purchase one AR-15 rifle as requested by Police Chief Miller.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Building Department Reports for October & November 2009 were presented to the Board for review.

Trustee Gunza motioned to accept the retirement of Stella Root, Deputy Treasurer, effective December 30, 2009, with regret.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to appoint both, Ana I. Sierra, Deputy Clerk, to the position of Registrar, and Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk, to the position of Deputy Registrar, both effective January 1, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the retirement of Joseph Murphy as the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, effective June 29, 2009, and to appoint Joseph Murphy as the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, with reduced hours, effective June 30, 2009.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A letter from Mrs. Sallie Dorsch was acknowledged by the Board. Mrs. Dorsch lives at 5 Autumn Leaf Court and has a rooster living on the premises. Mrs. Dorsch was present at the meeting and she submitted a petition to the Board from neighbors who have no objection to the rooster. A complaint was filed with the Building Department and the Inspector told Mrs. Dorsch that she needed permission from the Village Board to be able to keep the rooster. Trustee DiSalvo said he would speak further to the Building Inspector. Jean Sharp, Village resident, asked the Board to consider this matter very carefully, that laws were instituted for a reason and they should consider the residential neighborhood. The Mayor thanked Ms. Sharp for her comments and Mrs. Dorsch for her letter.

Trustee Gunza motioned to table this matter until the next Village Board meeting.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A discussion was held on the delinquent status of sewer bills for Mr. Christopher Bernicker, 1368 Route 9W. Mr. Bernicker is currently delinquent with his December 2008 bill & June 2009 bill. His current December 2009 bill remains unpaid. All charges to the property amount to \$2,246.47. On January 1, a penalty of 10% will be added to the December 2009 charges and .5% will be added to the past charges. Mr. Bernicker's property is located in the Town, therefore a relevy to Village Property Taxes is not possible. The Village Clerk provided a copy to the Village Board of a resolution dated June 7, 2006 that was passed to allow for termination of service to Bernicker (Premier Realty, LLC) Property, if any sewer rents charged to the property or any other charges or fees related to the sewer service to the property are not promptly paid.

Trustee McCormick motioned that the Village Clerk issue a delinquent notice and subsequent termination of service notice to Christopher Bernicker, property owner of 1368 RT 9W, on January 1st, for a termination date of January 20th, if payment is not received by 4:00pm on January 19th, for all outstanding charges to the property at 1368 RT 9W.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Kevin Hurst, Chief Water Plant Operator, presented a memo to the Board outlining a change in the water leak repair project that resulted in an additional cost of \$2,000 to Hydrovac, the contractor on the approved water leak repair project, due to an additional excavation that was needed to repair a leak on Liberty Street.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the additional cost of \$2,000.00 needed to repair a leak on Liberty Street during the water leak repair project.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to cancel the December 21st meeting due to the holiday season.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$123,430.15 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$35,342.85
Community Development	\$55,666.70
Water Fund	\$18,507.11
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,384.37
Capital Fund	\$ 6,529.12

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio updated the Board on some issues and congratulated John Jones on passing the examination for the licensing needed to operate the wastewater treatment plant as the Chief. He thanked Vision and the Chamber of Commerce, the schools and the Village Departments that helped make the past Hudson Highlands Holiday weekend a success.

The Mayor also said he would be asking all the Unions to give back during these hard economic times. He said he has met with the Town Supervisor-Elect on a few occasions and they have plans for the New Year that they are excited about and looking forward to sharing with the community. The Mayor also said the meeting this past week at the school, for all local municipal government officials, was informative. One suggestion that came out of it was looking into the possibility of a centralized purchasing department.

Trustee DiSalvo and Trustee Gunza also added their thanks to all departments and Phil Galu and his holiday float.

Trustee McCormick updated the Board on some issues in the Water Department that will need to be looked at during budget talks, specifically the cost of tests that need to be run as directed by the Department of Health. He also mentioned some items that he would like the Board to discuss in the new year, for example, eliminating the option of turning single family homes into multiple dwellings, health insurance, union buybacks, the Village taking over the Town water system, 911 and dispatch, the wastewater treatment plant in the Town, the Recreation Department and Town operations.

Mr. Yehl, owner of property at 8 Schneider Ave, asked the Board if the no parking signs on Schneider Avenue could be looked at and perhaps better placed for people to observe the sign. The Mayor said he will have the Police Chief check it out and make recommendations if needed.

Trustee Brown motioned to enter executive session to discuss particular employees. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 7:45pm. Trustee DiSalvo motioned to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Regular meeting reconvened at 8:20pm.

Trustee McCormick motioned that Jose Muino be allowed to change his Village retiree health plan from Individual to Family and that Jose pay the difference in the premium amount.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to appoint John Jones, Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator at the rate of \$31.89, effective December 8, 2009.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to appoint Joseph Murphy, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, nte 20 hours week, at the rate of \$29.53, effective December 8, 2009.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned that Ana I. Sierra be given the title Deputy Clerk/Treasurer effective 12/31/09 and that \$1.50/hr stipend be added to her salary from January –May 2010, increasing her hourly rate to \$24.08, effective 12/24/09 and that Ana be offered a health insurance buyout at 30% of the premium rate for the family plan, as is offered in the current DPW contact.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk