

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

August 3, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on August 3, 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 June L. Gunza  
Trustee Jams DiSalvo  
Trustee Harold Brown

Members Absent:

Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Deputy Clerk, Ana I. Sierra  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Police Chief, Peter Miller  
SGT Kenneth Scott  
PO Anthony Kuhn  
Dispatcher, Gwen Cunningham  
PO Michael Lewis, Jr.  
Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Doherty  
Fire Captain, John Rush  
Village Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce  
Residents- Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Ian & Laura Milsom – 105 Center St.,  
Jose Sierra – 65 Schneider Ave., Nick Camporeale – Catherine St., Michael Lewis, Sr.,  
Margaret Lewis, Roger Lewis – 1 Ananouri Rd., Toni Lewis – 8 Laurel Lane

The Mayor opened the meeting asking for a moment of silence for John Bourke, Village Clerk-Treasurer of the Village of Highland Falls from June 1970 to December 1996, as well as our fallen soldiers overseas.

Mayor D'Onofrio read a Commendation for Police Officer Michael Lewis, Jr. and Police Officer James LaVelle (not present). He thanked Police Officer Lewis for his heroism and credited him with saving the lives of the residents at 6 Brennans Way on May 18, 2009. Officer Lewis with his quick response working with Officer James LaVelle got all the residents out to safety. Mayor D'Onofrio then read letters to the public from fire victims, Chief Mickey Lee and the Village Board also thanked him. Mayor D'Onofrio along with Chief Peter Miller presented Officer Lewis with the Life-Saving Award which is presented to an Officer who, while in the line of duty, is credited with saving the life of another person.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the below listed minutes as written:

a.) Regular Meeting – July 20, 2009

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Fire Department report for July 2009 was presented to the Board for review. Permission was requested by Fire Chief William Lee to take Engine 428 to Fort Montgomery on August 8, 2009 for a wet down.

A motion was made to approve by Trustee James DiSalvo.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Code Enforcement Report for July 2009 was presented to the Board for review. Trustee Brown asked Code Enforcement Officer Tim Doherty to check on 83 Center Street as grass is overgrown. Owner of 105 Center St., Ian Milsom advised Mr. Doherty that he had helped a neighbor clean the property. Mayor D'Onofrio asked Mr. Doherty if he would accompany him on a walk from one side of Center Street to the other to locate where any problems exist. Mr. Doherty will be in contact with the Mayor to set up a time.

The Community Development Report for July 2009 was presented to Board for review.

The Police Department Report for July 2009 was presented to Board for review. Chief Miller spoke briefly about the National Night Out planned for August 4, 2009 from 7 to 10 P.M. in the municipal parking lot across from Sacred Heart.

A memo was received from Police Chief Miller requesting that a new law be created prohibiting the use of Center St. Park and Roe Park after dark. There are signs posted stating the park is closed 10 P.M. to 6 A.M. however with no ordinance in our code book it makes it hard for Police Officers to cite anyone for being there after hours. Mayor D'Onofrio said he would contact the Village Attorney to work on this.

Resident, Jean Sharp of 11 Homestead Avenue felt that closing parks from sundown to sunup would be a problem as sunup is too early during summer hours and asked if we could specify a time instead.

A public hearing on the Notice of Failure to Remedy Violations for property location 103-20-3, 117 Center Street was opened at 7:35 pm. There was no one present representing the owner of the property. The Code Enforcement Officer reported that the property remains in violation. The hearing closed at 7:40 pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the following:

Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Resolution  
Concerning Violation of Property Maintenance

The motion was seconded Trustee DiSalvo and on a roll call vote, the results which follows:

4 Ayes                      1 Absent                      0 Noes

The resolution was adopted. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes).

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the following :

Resolution  
Vehicle and Traffic  
Village of Highland Falls

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.  
(A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes).

Trustee Brown motioned to approve the request for the Water Department and Wastewater Department to attend a Seminar in Harriman, NY on August 13, 2009 from 8:00 am. to 3:00 pm and that all necessary expenses incurred be approved.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Mr. Jose Sierra, from 65 Schneider Avenue sent a letter and came before the board once again to inquire if a decision had been made on the condition of his sidewalk and wall in front of his home and presented the Village Board with pictures. He advised the Village Board that he has been waiting patiently since 2006 and notified his Homeowners Insurance about the problems as he does not want to be held responsible should anyone injure themselves on the sidewalk or in his yard should the wall cave in.

The Village Superintendent Gary Boyce advised Mr. Sierra that he and Trustee Joseph McCormick did go to his residence to assess the problem, however, they would wait until Trustee McCormick returned from vacation to discuss further actions. Mr. Boyce then advised the Village Board that the Village Engineer, Todd Atkinson, would be here meeting with him on August 10, 2009 and that it would be a good time for them to go back up to Mr. Sierra's residence. Mr. Sierra was pleased and said he would be home to meet with them. At that time the wall and draining problem can be looked at further.

Mayor D'Onofrio read a letter that Chief Peter Miller received from Senator Larkin's office in which the Village of Highland Falls Police Department will be receiving a \$30,000.00 grant to be used towards the purchase of a live scan fingerprint system. This grant requires no match.

United Methodist Church of The Highlands requested permission to set up a table at Roe Park on August 22, 2009 from 12:00 to 3:00 in order to hand out school supplies.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio discussed the request for more water to the Town of Highlands. The Village currently supplies water to properties located outside the Village and within the Districts in the amount of 75,000 per day. Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator Kevin Hurst had advised Mayor D'Onofrio that we have enough water and that it would not be a problem. Mayor D'Onofrio said he would have the Village Attorney make the necessary changes to the Water Supply Agreement to District 2 in order to increase the supply to 100,000 per day.

Trustee Gunza requested that she and the other Board members have the opportunity to review the amendment before any changes are made.

Trustee James DiSalvo asked Police Chief Peter Miller if he would clarify 911 in the Village. Chief Miller responded that any Police or Fire calls should be made to 4911 and that any Ambulance calls be made to 911. He also remarked that if residents call 4911 for an ambulance, an ambulance would be dispatched immediately and the caller would not be told to hang up and call 911.

Jean Sharp, 11 Homestead Avenue had questions about the Landlord Registry and felt that responsible Landlords are being punished. She did not understand why a Homeowner who lives out of the area has to hire a property manager when this

would be costly. She asked Mayor D'Onofrio if maybe an exception could be made to individuals who live near the Village but, not in it. The Mayor advised her that the Village cannot start making exceptions. Ms. Sharp wanted an explanation on why there were two different laws. Mayor D'Onofrio advised her that he would contact the Village attorney to review her questions and he would have an answer either verbally or on paper for her within the next couple weeks.

Nick Camporeale, Catherine Street, felt that Ms. Sharp had a valid point when she asked why this law is needed if the mail goes to the homeowner and not agent. Chief Peter Miller explained that this law is more for emergency reasons.

Owners of 105 Center Street, Ian & Laura Milsom had several questions for the Village Board. She asked about crosswalk laws and whether anything could be done so that drivers will obey. Chief Miller told her that this law was very hard to enforce but he would work on more monitoring. They also wanted to know what could be done about the conditions surrounding their home. If more signage could be posted by the sharp turn on Muller Avenue and Center Street and asked about a stop sign coming down from Schneider Avenue to Center Street. Mayor D'Onofrio asked Chief Miller to look into the sign. They asked about the possibility of putting in security cameras. They also wanted to know if the village could look into a drug dog. Mayor asked Chief Miller to look into possibly having a drug dog brought in a few times a year. The Milsom's were interested in setting up a Neighborhood Watch group and Mayor D'Onofrio asked her to speak with the neighbors and get back to Chief Miller who would help them set it up.

Motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to used the \$7,500.00 received from the Town for communications to be used for the purchase of security cameras.

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee James DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$105,977.82 from the following listed funds:

|                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| General Fund          | \$23,988.92 |
| Community Development | \$57,572.45 |
| Water Fund            | \$ 2,791.16 |
| Sewer Fund            | \$ 5,509.93 |
| Capital Fund          | \$16,115.36 |

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 8:45 pm.

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Ana Sierra, Deputy Clerk