

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

March 16, 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 March 16, 2009.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:00 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee Michael Bosch
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Robert Mellon

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
2nd Asst Fire Chief, Steve Suarez
Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Doherty
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Police Officer, Ken Scott
Town Councilman, Mervin Livsey
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
News of the Highlands Editor Emeritus, Fred Brennan
Planning Board Member- Jim DiSalvo
Sacred Heart School Representative, Maureen Arias-Wolfe
Village Residents: Mr. Malik (son)- 41 Main Street, David Love- 25 Walker Rd
Dr. Perry-58 Ondaora Pkwy, Michael Lewis -1 Annaouri
Pellwood Lake Homeowners Association-Barbara Fallon-25 Main St, Norman DeYoung-11 Walker Rd, Richard Branigan-2 Walker Rd.

The Mayor opened the meeting by publicly thanking Trustee Bosch and Trustee Mellon for their service to the Village. This will be their last regular scheduled Board meeting.

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

- a) Regular Meeting – February 17, 2009
- b) Special Meeting – February 23, 2009
- c) Special Meeting – March 3, 2009
- d) Special Meeting – March 9, 2009

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Fire Department report for February 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

The Code Enforcement Report for February 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

Tim Doherty, Code Enforcement Officer, presented his report and noted that the Violations reported have been complied with and that for the most part, he is getting very good compliance from residents when asked.

Trustee Brown asked Mr. Doherty to check on a resident complaint at 6 Prospect Street that cars are parking on the street when there is parking available off street for the residents of the property in question. The cars parked on the street are causing concern if emergency vehicles are needed in that area. Mr. Doherty said he would check out the complaint.

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

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

There is still façade money available in Main Street Enhancements. The deadline to use this money is September. Trustee Gunza asked if it might be possible to get an amendment that would allow the money to be used elsewhere. The Mayor will ask Eileen Koppental, Community Development Director, to check into the matter.

The Building Department Report for February 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

A motion was made by Trustee Bosch to approve the request from the Town of Highlands Recreation Department to use Roe Park field and pavilion to host a Softball Tournament on Saturday, April 18th and Saturday, April 25th to benefit the Fight for Phia Fundraising Campaign upon the license agreement and certificate of insurance being provided and with the provision that the Recreation Department be responsible to clean-up the pavilion area, and Roe Park field from trash upon completion of the event.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mayor D'Onofrio to approve the request from Sacred Heart School to use Municipal lot #2 on Sunday, May 31st from 9:00am to 5:00pm to hold a Touch-A-Truck Family/Community Event, upon the license agreement and certificate of insurance being provided.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to accept the resignation of Joseph Galu from the Village Planning Board. The Motion was seconded by Trustee Bosch and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that during the last snowstorm a mailbox on Walker Rd was knocked down and according to the local law #2-2008, the Village will reimburse the property owner up to fifty dollars the cost to replace the mailbox.

A letter was acknowledged from the Orange County Industrial Development Agency in reference to the Agency's intention to supplement its uniform tax exemption policy. The Mayor reported that he would have the Village attorney review this supplement and report on the implications for the Village, if any.

A letter was acknowledged from Occupations, Inc. requesting approval from the Village Board to sell raffle tickets within our municipality. No action was taken.

The Pellwood Lake Homeowners Association came to address the Village Board. Bobbie Fallon, 25 Main Street, spoke on behalf of the Association. She said they have come before the Board to again reiterate their objection to rezone the property located at 41 Main Street to a B2, commercial area. She asked the Board-"is there a rezone request for this service area?" They also wanted to know who sent the plan to Orange County.

The Mayor responded that the plan was sent to Orange County by Saccardi & Schiff, the consultants for the Village. There is no request in the plan to change the zone from R3 to B2. This has been suggested, but not put into the plan. The Mayor asked Ms. Fallon to meet him at 9:00am tomorrow to call Saccardi & Schiff with him so she can get the answer to her question.

Trustee Gunza commented that recommendations went back & forth with Saccardi & Schiff on what would best serve the Village. She also commented that it is only a plan, recommendations. Only when the plan is adopted could any zone changes be made, and that would require separate action. More public hearings would have to be held.

Trustee Bosch wanted on record that he knows that three parcels were still being discussed in the Comprehensive Plan that was sent to the County.

A motion was made by Trustee Mellon to approve the bills and claims for \$110,554.56 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$56,577.54
Water Fund	\$ 2,479.12
Sewer Fund	\$ 8,817.31
Capital Fund	\$42,680.59

The motion was seconded by Trustee Bosch and unanimously carried

Trustee Gunza motioned that the Village Labor Attorney move forward with a Stipulation of Settlement for a grievance filed by Officer Might against the Village of Highland Falls that in essence says the Board agrees to return two vacations days to Officer Might and Officer Might and the PBA will withdraw the grievance.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The Mayor asked the Board for permission to revise the Local Law on Dogs in Parks to include only Memorial Park and Ladycliff Park and again introduce the law. The Board agreed to have the Mayor look into another revision of this law.

The Mayor spoke about the recent article in the News of the Highlands on the Town's plan to terminate Communication dispatch services with the Village and have 911 as their dispatch service. He said the Town should investigate all avenues of what we currently have and don't have.

He objected to a statement in the News of the Highlands' article that said "our coverage is not up to snuff". He reported the plan was to use a Putnam County Tower and West Point's Bull Hill Tower. The Mayor said he spoke to a West Point Colonel who was in charge of that Tower and he said he was not aware of this plan. He also commented that the Bull Hill Tower has no electric. The Mayor reported that the Village did receive a letter this week from the Town giving notice that as of June 1, 2009, they will be opting out of the Communications Agreement with the Village. The Mayor said it was reported at the Town Board meeting that although the new system is to benefit the Town, outside the Village only, the Village residents will contribute to the cost.

The Mayor also apologized to Chief Miller for the rude way in which he was treated by the Town Board at their meeting. He also thanked Councilman Livsey for his phone call the next morning to apologize on the treatment of Chief Miller by the Town Board.

Councilman Livsey apologized to the Village Board for not being properly approached regarding this communications issue. He acknowledged that this decision will involve Village residents. He apologized

that they were not represented properly. Mr. Livsey reported that he was the lone descension vote regarding the communications matter. He has not been approached by anyone professional as to the success of this plan. He recommended to the Village Board that if they were to consider using 911 as a dispatch service, that they investigate or research it 100%.

The Mayor asked Mr. Livsey if the Town Board as a group, discussed 911 with the Fire Chief ,Police Chief or our Police Chief. Mr. Livsey responded no.

The Mayor also pointed out a Cost Analysis, which he had a copy of, was done by Officer in Charge, Randy Bailey of the Town of Highlands Police. The numbers in the analysis conflict with the numbers in the News of the Highlands. The Mayor reported that Officer Bailey also makes statements about Village finances that he cannot and did not verify.

Chief Miller added that he does not agree with the Town's assessment of the use of 911. The Mayor mentioned that under the Freedom of Information Law, he asked for a copy of the study that was reported as paid for with a \$100,000.00 grant the Town received. He was told that no study was done.

Councilman Livsey responded to the Village Board that he is willing to sit down with them anytime to discuss this situation.

The Mayor and the Village Board thanked Mr. Livsey for coming to this meeting and his comments.

The Mayor reported that the Village had been given a Certificate of Designation for the upcoming New York State Quadcentennial Celebration.

The Mayor reported that an Industry Forum for potential development of the 248 acres is to be held on April 22nd at Nicole's Restaurant in Highland Falls and will cost \$100.00 for those wishing to attend.

Mr. Malik from 41 Main Street asked the Board about a sign for Children at Play in that neighborhood. Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce indicated that the State frowns upon these signs because they provide for a false sense of security. Children will still play in or near the streets thinking the sign will slow motorists down. Mr. Malik said he would rethink whether he still would like a sign in the area.

A motion was made by Trustee Bosch to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7:00 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk