

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

April 27, 2009

A special 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 April 27, 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 James DiSalvo
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Member Absent was:

Trustee Harold Brown

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Police Officer, Steven Bookstein
News of the Highlands Editor Emeritus, Fred Brennan

The Mayor opened the workshop by stating that the items left to decide on, as far as he knows, are the following:

1. to keep the dispatcher on the midnight shift or have an officer man the desk,
2. office staff raises and
3. supervisor's overtime

Discussion was held on whether to keep the dispatcher on the midnight shift or use a Police Officer for this shift. Discussion included implications on unemployment insurance and health insurance. The question came up whether to layoff a Police Officer and keep the dispatcher instead. Chief Miller reiterated his concerns for the safety of his department if a dispatcher or Police Officer is removed.

Trustee McCormick agreed not to eliminate either a Police Officer or a Dispatcher, however, he would like to see a report in three months from 911 in Orange County and see how the Town is doing under the County dispatching.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss salaries and union contracts. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:38pm.

The special meeting reconvened at 7:10pm.

The Board directed the Treasurer to reinstate overtime for the Supervisor in the general fund, to add in 2% raises for all non-union employees, including the office staff who initially offered to forego a raise. The Board also directed the treasurer to keep the \$20,000.00 additional that was put into sales tax revenue at the prior meeting.

The Treasurer responded that he will compile the final budget and stated that it appears it will be a percentage increase of approximately 15.97% and a tax rate of approximately \$15.03.

The Mayor set Thursday morning, April 30th at 8:00am for a special meeting to adopt the budget for 2009-2010.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7:45 pm

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk