

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

May 16, 2011

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 May 16, 2011.

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 Joseph McCormick

Member Absent was :

Trustee June L. Gunza

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters  
Officer in Charge, Sergeant Ken Scott  
Fire Chief, Erik Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief, John Rush  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Village residents – Gus Koutsourades – 156 West Point Motel, Ray Deveraux-48 Ondaora Pkwy, Bonnie Snow – 41 Ft. Putnam, Laura Milsom – 105 Center Street, Merv Livsey – Town Councilman and Village resident – 107 Mountain Avenue, Nicole Lawtone- 56 Center Street  
Town Residents – Ann Marie & Sal Fiducia

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

- a) Regular Meeting – May 2, 2011
- b) Special Meeting – May 3, 2011
- c) Special Meeting – May 9, 2011

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor opened the meeting by recognizing and welcoming Town Councilman, Merv Livsey.

A public hearing, as duly advertised, for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed sewer rate increase from 181% to 185% , for the June 2011 sewer bills, was opened at 7:01pm.

Mr. Ralph Walters, Village Treasurer, recommended to the Board that an increase to 184% would be the lowest increase and 187% the highest increase that he would be comfortable with.

Village resident Bonnie Snow commented that no increase should be implemented. She said people cannot afford the constant increases. She asked if money could be cut somewhere else.

The Mayor & Trustee McCormick responded that the budgets are at bare bones now and also explained how municipal accounting works, in that, sewer rents are used only for the maintenance and operation of the Sewer Facilities. General Funds cannot be used for water or sewer operations.

Ray Deveraux asked about the legal timeframe to notice this hearing. The Clerk responded that the Village followed the law in publication of the Notice.

Gus Koutsourades asked if anyone could get a copy of what expenses make up the budget lines, because the contractual line in the budget encompasses everything, and also asked if the Village has a purchasing agent. The Mayor responded that the department head budgets can be obtained for the cost of copying and that the Village has had a purchasing clerk for a long time.

Laura Milsom asked for clarification on public comment. The Mayor responded that his meetings have always had public comment throughout the meeting, not just before or after the regular business.

No more questions being asked and no more comments to be heard, Trustee DiSalvo motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The public hearing closed at 7:19pm.

Trustee McCormick made a motion to increase the June 2011 Bill Sewer Rate from 181% to 185% for the Village residents and proportionately for the Town outside Village users rate.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Trustee Brown	x		
Trustee DiSalvo	x		
Trustee Gunza			x
Trustee McCormick	x		
Mayor D'Onofrio	x		

motion carried. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes)

A public hearing, as duly advertised, for the purpose of presenting the draft Annual MS4 Report for March 09, 2010 to March 10, 2011 was opened at 7:19pm. Todd Atkinson, PE, representative from J. Robert Folchetti & Associates, the Village Engineers, presented the report. Mr. Atkinson reported that the Village has met all goals we set out to obtain this year. Mr. Atkinson remarked that the Village is in total compliance with MS4 requirements to date. If no written public comments are received by May 31st, Mr. Atkinson asked for the Board to approve the Mayor signing the report to be sent to the DEC.

Mr. Koutsourades asked why the report needed to be done and the Mayor responded that NYSDEC mandates that municipalities comply with storm water runoff.

No more questions being asked or comments to be heard, Trustee Brown motioned to close the public hearing, however written comments can be sent to the Village Clerk until May 31<sup>st</sup>. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Public hearing closed at 7:25pm.

Trustee Brown made a motion to approve the Mayor to sign the final report after May 31, 2011 as long as there are no written comments received.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Fire Department Report for April 2011 was presented to the Board for review.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve Sheri LaFurge a member of the Fire Department upon paperwork on her physical being turned in to the Village Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Building Department report for April 2011 was presented to the Board for review.

Trustee Brown motioned to set a meeting for May 31, 2011 at 8:30am for the Board to approve end of fiscal year bills and claims and for any other items which may come before the Board.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to reappoint William Baran, Randy Meche, James Ramus, Angelo Tosolini and Fred Herman as volunteer caretakers of Bog Meadow, for the calendar year 2011, to keep an eye on the area, to report any violations of local policies and provide them a key, free of charge, and identification tags.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Automechanic, Walter Ford, to attend an Automotive Diagnostic Training Seminar, June 6, 2011 in Fishkill, NY at a cost of \$60.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the bid from Complete Property Contracting, Inc. for \$13,592.00 for Grass Cutting Services for Fiscal Year 2011-2012.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Sergeant Scott completing his probationary period as of May 1, 2011. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$73, 387.95 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$38,113.34
Water Fund	\$ 8,977.79
Sewer Fund	\$12,529.30
Capital Fund	\$13,767.52

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve Mayor D'Onofrio's request to contact the Village Attorney about drafting a local law that no trucks are allowed on Main Street unless they are making a delivery to a Main Street address.

Discussion was held on whether an ethics Board was in place to oversee conduct of Board members. The Mayor responded that there is a chapter in our code book regarding ethics.

Trustee McCormick asked if Central Hudson could possibly stop work on Mountain Ave on Thursday and Friday for West Point visitors to graduation. Mayor D'Onofrio said the contractor is the one that may have issues regarding this. Fire Chief Erik Smith said he was upset that there was no pre-construction meeting with local officials regarding this work, especially since the Fire Trucks would need to be accessible.

Nicole Lawtone, 56 Center Street addressed the Board about property maintenance concerns with properties near hers. She said she had been to the Town Building Department was not getting satisfactory answers. Trustee DiSalvo responded that he would talk to the Code Enforcement Officer.

Laura Milsom, 105 Center Street, asked the Board if the camera on Schneider and Center was operational yet, if there was an update on 109 Center Street and mentioned that the Center Street playground was still not posted for no dogs allowed.

The Mayor responded that the Village is still waiting on Orange and Rockland to supply the power for the camera, there is no update to 109 Center Street and he would make sure the sign gets posted.

Merv Livsey, 107 Mountain Ave., asked what would happen if this petition that is going around for signatures, regarding Village dissolution, does get on a ballot, who is responsible to carry out the results.

Mrs. Milsom responded, since she is the holder of the petition, that the petition only asks if you would like to have the opportunity to vote on the issue, not to vote on dissolution.

Mr. Deveraux mentioned that information is available on State websites regarding dissolution and the process.

The Mayor responded that people are not informed now, but they will be soon.

Trustee McCormick updates included; pothole repairs are ongoing, water meter repairs have been done and informed the Board that after speaking to the Village Engineer, the water tank painting project should be out for bid on May 27<sup>th</sup> with a June 13<sup>th</sup> opening.

Trustee DiSalvo thanked the Police Department for a service he recently found out that they provide. He happened to witness an early morning check on the doors of businesses and when one was found open, the officer called the business owner who immediately came to check out the situation and thanked the Officer for calling.

Trustee McCormick motioned to enter executive session to discuss specific individuals on employment matters. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:55pm The Regular meeting reconvened at 8:09pm.

Trustee McCormick made a motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 8:09pm.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk