

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

April 26, 2011

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 26, 2011.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 5:30 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee James DiSalvo (5:40P.M.)
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Chief WWTP Operator, John Jones
Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator, Kevin Hurst
Village residents – Bonnie Snow -41 Fort Putnam Street

The purpose of this meeting was to conduct a budget workshop to set water and sewer rates for new billing periods.

Ralph Walters, Treasurer, reported that after making the requested changes from the April 18th meeting, the tax rate would increase to 1.96 % or \$15.36 from 1.79% or \$15.30. He also reported that after review of the parking meter position, he would need to increase A3320.01 another \$600.00 to \$8,302.00 total. Mr. Walters suggested that the few increases from the last meeting and this additional increase, the total of \$11,400 could be handled by increasing the surplus to be used from \$115,000 to \$126,400 and keeping the tax rate at the original calculated rate of \$15.30 or a 1.7964% tax rate increase.

The Village Board agreed with Mr. Walters and there will be no change in the Tentative Budget tax rate that was presented at the public hearing.

Discussion was held on positions in the highway department. No action was taken at this time.

Mr. Walters recommended a 7-10%, across the board, (base and additional usage) increase to the water rates for the upcoming May billing. He indicated that a 5% increase now would not eliminate the need for another 5% or more in November. He also reported that if water is not increased, the sewer rate would need to be looked at and possibly increased.

Ms. Bonnie Snow addressed the Board and pleaded for no increases. She indicated that everyone she has spoken to has had enough of increases. She said the people can't take it anymore. Trustee McCormick responded by asking her if the Village should down the plant. He reminded her that chemicals, fuel and operating costs are also increasing.

Trustee McCormick motioned to increase water rates 5% across the board, base and additional usage, and look at usage amounts in November to determine if additional increase is warranted then.

No second to the motion. The motion failed.

The Mayor set a meeting for Friday morning, 4/29 at 8:00am to discuss and set water and sewer rates.

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

The meeting closed at 6:50p.m.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk