

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

February 16, 2010

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 February 16, 2010.

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 James DiSalvo  
Trustee June L. Gunza  
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Chief WWTP Operator, John Jones  
Heavy Equipment Operator, James Patterson  
Fire Chief, William Lee

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

a) Regular Meeting – February 1, 2010

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Building Department Report for January 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

A Fire Department Report was presented to the Board for review. Chief Lee requested that the Department be allowed to take Engine 429 to the O.C. Fire Training Center on March 21<sup>st</sup> to support a member who is in Firefighter I training.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to approve the Fire Department taking Engine 429 to the O.C. Fire Training Center on March 21<sup>st</sup> in support of the member in Firefighter I training.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS EXPRESSING ITS FERVENT AND STEADFAST OPPOSITION TO HOLDING THE TRIAL OF THE ALLEGED SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 TERRORISTS ANYWHERE WITHIN ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK AND URGING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL TO DESIGNATE THE PLACE OF TRIAL OUTSIDE THE COUNTY OF ORANGE.

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

5 Ayes    0 Nays

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

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

Resolution  
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
In Support of Application for 2009-2010  
Local Government Efficiency Grant Program

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint Anthony Daugherty a Part Time Laborer in the DPW at the starting salary of \$14.00/hr and hours not to exceed 20 per week, with maximum probationary time, effective 2/17/10.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint John McCarthy a Part Time Laborer in the DPW at the starting salary of \$14.00/hr and hours not to exceed 20 per week, with maximum probationary time, effective 2/17/10.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on hiring James Patterson in the WWTP as a Maintenance Worker at a salary of \$24.00/hr. Trustee Gunza commented that she thought the general public would be better served to hire at the starting salary of \$15.00/hr . She commented further that the sewer plant faces may repairs and this would be the opportunity to lower salary costs in the WWTP. Trustee McCormick agreed saying the difference in starting salaries would be approximately \$20,000/yr. He commented further that there is approximately \$600,000 of work needed at the WWTP. He said it is strictly a financial reason.

The Mayor commented that Trustee McCormick was inaccurate on the cost of repairs. He encouraged Trustee McCormick to speak to the Village Engineer about the repairs needed. The Mayor reported to the Board the dollar amount in savings if James were to go to the WWTP with the current personnel in place. He emphasized that James’ mechanical skills would further save the Village money down the road.

Trustee Gunza commented that the amount of savings could be even higher if the starting salary was \$15.00/hr. Trustee DiSalvo commented that overall a savings will be realized because now the Village can hire a Maintenance Worker in the DPW for the lower salary to replace James transferring to the WWTP. The savings would be realized in the General Fund.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to appoint James Patterson a WWTP Maintenance Worker at \$24.00/hr and his start date in the WWTP to be determined upon hiring a replacement in the DPW.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and on a roll call vote of 3 Ayes, 2 Nays, the results which follow:

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Trustee Harold Brown	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Trustee James DiSalvo	<u>  x  </u>	<u>      </u>
Trustee June L. Gunza	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>
Trustee Joseph McCormick	<u>      </u>	<u>  x  </u>

the motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to award the WWTP Sludge Digester Pumps Replacement Project to JAT Contracting Corp for the total bid price of \$76,028., to include replacement of pumps and electric control panel, as recommended by the Village Engineer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to approve the Village Hall KVS computer software upgrade for the cost of \$4,743.00, to improve the maintenance of financial record keeping.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to accept the bid of M& D Home Improvements for \$2,175.00 for the repairs of a chimney under the CDBG Home Rehabilitation Program as recommended by Eileen Koppenal, Community Development Director.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$31,982.92 from the following listed funds:

FY 09-10 General Fund	\$12,588.68
Community Development	\$ 500.00
Water Fund	\$ 1,065.22
Sewer Fund	\$ 15,180.86
Capital Fund	\$ 2,648.16

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Mayor thanked the Community for their support of any of the Haiti Relief venues that have been ongoing in the community and congratulated the 18 students of Sacred Heart School recently inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

The Mayor asked Mr. Patterson to take back to the Street Superintendent and the employees in the DPW a thank you for their efforts in the clean-up of the recent snowstorms.

The Mayor read a letter that was sent from the Building Department to the property owners of Key Food with an attached Violation Notice of many property maintenance codes. The letter is asking for immediate compliance with the many safety issues there and possibly having to declare the building unsafe if they do not take immediate steps to comply.

Trustee DiSalvo concurred that the situation is very bad and needs to be addressed immediately.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the proposed Planning Board Approval-Signature Application as recommended by Building Inspector, John Hager, for applicants requesting final acceptance of their plans with signatures.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Board prioritized ranking the applications that the Village Engineer will submit for the John Hall Appropriations for FY 2011 as follows:

1. Street Paving
2. WWTP projects
3. Sidewalks to the High School, including over the bridge
4. Satterlee Grove drainage

The Mayor reported that the Department of Health has changed their trigger levels and the Village Water Department will not have to incur \$12,000 in additional testing for Cryptosporidium as previously required.

The Mayor reported that Gary Boyce, Street Superintendent and Kevin Hurst, Chief Water Plant Operator should meet with Ron Broas, Roads & Grounds Superintendent of the School District to discuss a drainage problem that runs through the Middle School parking lot and concerns from the school district that the problem originates on the Village Streets above the school, ie Schneider Ave, West Street and Sweezy Ave. The Mayor commented that the Village does not have any easements with the School District so any drainage work on that property is the responsibility of the school district.

The Mayor reminded everyone in the community to fill out and send back the Census 2010 information as soon as possible upon completion. These numbers are very important to the government for deciding district boundaries and aid eligibility.

The Board reviewed the budget dates and times and set a new schedule as follows: February 23<sup>rd</sup> the meeting will begin at 7:00pm and on February 24<sup>th</sup> the meeting will begin at 8:00pm. The dates scheduled for March 4<sup>th</sup> and the 16<sup>th</sup> will remain, however the starting times are to be determined.

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

The meeting closed at 7:25pm.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk