

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

February 24, 2010

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 February 24, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 8:00 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
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Chief Water Plant Operator, Kevin Hurst
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Police Officers -Jim LaVelle & Jason Torpey
Full Time Dispatchers- Gina Borra, Gwen Cunningham, Laura O'Dell & Tanya Allen

Chief Water Plant Operator, Kevin Hurst, presented the 2010-2011 Water Department requested budget to the Board for review. The Mayor thanked Mr. Hurst and Mr. Sibley for their work at the plant.

Mr. Hurst pointed out the following:

Under code F8330.2 Equipment, a new request for \$850.00 for containment pallets for florida.

Under code F8330.4 Contractual Purification & Filtration, \$4,000 was added for the cost of the annual service agreement for the new laptop and handheld computers for electronic water reading and the software necessary to process readings. \$12,000 was removed for State Required water testing. The Department of Health notified the Village recently that the additional testing for Cryptosporidium would not be necessary. Mr. Hurst explained that the request for \$8000.00 to replace exterior doors and windows in the plant, along with insulation of the steam pipes could reduce heating costs by 10-15%. He also pointed out to the Board video taping of the interior of tanks has not been done since 2002, therefore a request for \$4000 has been put in for this.

Under code F8340.2 Equipment a pick-up truck to replace the Jeep that was handed down from the Police Department to the Sewer Department to the Water Department. The Mayor reminded Mr. Hurst that when the jeep went to the water department, it was to be understood that it would run until it dropped and not to expect a replacement. The Treasurer will remove the truck from this line. The water map cabinet for \$300.00 will be removed and the Village will research possibly getting a grant for this item.

Under code F8340.4 Mr. Hurst pointed out that \$15,000 was added for replacement of 3 hydrants in Ondaora Park.

Discussion was held on whether the doors and windows could be replaced but hold up on insulating the pipes. No action taken. The Mayor asked the Treasurer why the revenue for metered sales was increased when yesterday the Treasurer mentioned that sales this year haven't been what we expected. The Treasurer pointed out that this number is the number needed to balance the budget. It will change depending on what is removed or added before this budget is adopted. The Mayor asked when a bond payment would be due if they decide to bond to have the tanks painted. The Treasurer said any money borrowed after June 1st would not have a payment budgeted for until the 2011-2012 budget. Mr. Walters told the Board that he put in \$100,000, from surplus, to pay down the water meter ban to assist in the plan to have this ban paid off in 5 years. This number could be reduced if the Board decides not to apply that much to the repayment. The Treasurer again reminded the Board that the Village is paying taxes on the Bog Meadow property to the School District and \$35,000 has been allocated for that. The Mayor told the Treasurer to reduce the salary line for Kevin by the 2% added for an increase since the supervisors have decided to forgo an increase this year.

The Board thanked Kevin for his work on this budget. No other action was taken at this time.

Police Chief Peter Miller presented his 2010-2011 requested budget to the Board for review. Chief Miller pointed out to the Board that five officers this year will be receiving a step increase this year for as much as \$5,000 each. It was again pointed out that salaries, night differential, longevity, vacation days, chart, sick, holidays, clothing allowances are all determined by Union Contracts. Chief Miller explained that each officer should, at a minimum, have firearms training annually and he has budgeted only for the minimum. The Chief pointed out that he had \$3,145 in budgeted funds from 2009-2010 for transmitting equipment for car computers, that he would like to transfer to the 2010-2011 budget. The Treasurer explained that if he is not going to use these funds in the 2009-2010 fiscal year for this item, he should resubmit it for the 2010-2011 budget and his 09-10 should show that amount as surplus. The Treasurer will add \$3,145 to Police Equipment for 2010-2011.

Mr. Walters explained to the Chief and the Board, that he had already removed \$15,000 that the Chief had under Police Contractual for insurance and added it to the General Fund under unallocated insurance since the Chief has no control over this amount.

Chief Miller concluded by saying he worked hard to keep the Police Budget at 2% increase from 09-10 if the car is removed, and the Communication Budget at 3%. He reminded the Board most of the Communication budget is contractual and he has no control over it. The Chief also commented on the Treasurer's remark that meter money was down by informing him and the Board that many meters had been repaired and he is going to institute weekly collection of the money and this should help with the revenues.

The Board thanked Chief Miller for his work on the budget. No other action was taken at this time.

The Mayor thanked the Dispatchers for coming to the meeting and for all the unseen work that they do. He and the Board understand theirs is a 24/7 department and they appreciate their hard work and dedication.

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

The meeting closed at 9:15 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk