

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

November 17, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY on November 17, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:05 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Patrick Flynn  
Trustee Robert Mellon  
Trustee Barbara Murphy

Members Absent were:

Trustee Anthony Farina  
Trustee Harold Brown

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Treasurer, Ed Magryta  
Police Chief, Ken Scott  
Police Officer, Paul Troy  
Village Attorney, William Florence  
Camera Operator, Kevin Coffey  
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Approximately 8 Community Residents

Mayor Flynn welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a moment of silence for all our fallen soldiers and community members who have passed away since our last meeting.

The October 2014 WWTP report was presented by Trustee Mellon.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Ed Magryta. The topics discussed included the following:

1. Monthly financial updates-revenue and expense control reports
2. FY May 31, 2014 audit in progress
3. Receivables due and loan repayment for Water Fund
4. Budget Considerations-various departments

The Treasurer alerted the Board that he is concerned with overtime numbers and is looking to the Board for guidance for the Department Heads on this matter. The Treasurer informed the Board that the Village has not received the \$90,000 from the Town to set up the escrow for costs related to Water Plant improvements that was part of the Water Supply Agreement #7 that the Village signed with the Town. The Treasurer reminded the Board that the Department Heads should continue on an austerity budget for the time being. The Treasurer recommended that because the Fire Department is over budget in their contractual line, the Board should approve a transfer from the reserve lines set up in the budget to their contractual line because the reserve lines have not been officially set up yet and the money is technically still part of fund balance. The Treasurer reminded the Board that he is still waiting for the Interim Street Superintendent to follow-up with the loader invoice so that the insurance claim can be settled.

Mayor Flynn stated that he would report on the consolidation efforts at the Board meetings since this is a primary goal of this Board. Mayor Flynn explained the reason for consolidation is to have a more efficient government and that the State will provide funds after a full consolidation is achieved. The Mayor reported that he believes any concerns about losing amenities is unfounded because he sees an opportunity for increased supervisory staffing and more efficient government. Mayor Flynn reported that after Thanksgiving he would like to hold the first Community Forum and start getting out information on consolidation efforts and clean up misconceptions. The Mayor reported that the Village will be putting in for a \$25,000 grant to do a study on these matters. The Mayor reported that the

Orange County Planning Board has offered to help do a consolidation of Village and Town codes.

Mayor Flynn thanked the American Legion for hosting the Veterans Day Ceremony. The Mayor reported that a Toy Box will be placed in Village Hall, however, The Center will be distributing the gifts.

Trustee Murphy reported that the Fire Department Ladies Auxillary would be holding their vendor fair on December 6<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged the community to support the event. Trustee Murphy reported that she would still like the Board to consider lowering the sewer rate and would like the Board to set a public hearing date at the December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. Trustee Murphy reported that there have been concerns from people on Berard Place regarding pedestrian traffic and little maneuvering room when cars come along. Chief Scott responded that he would be bringing a vehicle & traffic resolution to the Board to extend the no parking area which should allow for more room for the pedestrians.

Trustee Mellon reported that a six foot fence is needed at the Senior Center to separate the Village property from an adjacent homeowner's property and that there is some final clean-up inside the building, but then it should be able to be opened once the Board determines how the building will operate.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve the below listed minutes as follows:

- a) Regular Meeting – November 3, 2014

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to amend the October 20<sup>th</sup> minutes as follows:

Trustee Murphy motioned to appoint Kyle Kreuzscher, PT Police Officer at \$21.35 (step 1 of the PT PBA contract) with maximum probation, contingent on Civil Service approval of transcript records *and verification of police certifications*. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to accept the resignation of PT Parking Enforcement Officer, Joseph Mesaris effective 11/14/14.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign POTW (publicly owned treatment works) Notification Application for Sewage Pollution Right To Know Act.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to surplus one of the replaced computers from Village Hall to the Historical Society.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the recommendation of the Building Inspector to hire Neighbors Landscaping with a bid of \$3,950.00 to clean up the 5 property maintenance issues approved at the November 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve a budget transfer of \$10,000.00 from the General Fund to replenish the Workers Compensation fund. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve a budget transfer of \$50,000.00 from the Water Fund to the Sewer Fund to repay a borrowing.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Mayor Flynn motioned to approve the request from the Orange County Ballet Theatre to hold a fundraiser on Main Street, Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00am-1:00pm.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned the following:

Resolution  
General Village Election

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and on a roll call vote, the results which follow: 3 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Absent

Motion carried. ( a true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support for “Hudson Valley Urban Action Agenda” ( the UAA) proposed by Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve a 2014-2015 Budget Amendment, as recommended by the Village Treasurer, to increase A.0000.05990 (fund balance) \$20,000.00 and increase A.3410.0400 (Fire Department Contractual) \$20,000.00 to cover unanticipated expenses in the fire department with the understanding the anticipated fire department reserve funds would be established accordingly.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize the Village Treasurer to establish a Village bank account and be custodian of it, for the Art Walk to be held in the Spring, sponsored by the Eisenhower Leadership Center, similar to the way the Independence Day Committee bank account was established.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the promotion of Officer Paul Troy to Sergeant, effective 11/20/14 with maximum probation and a \$85,839/yr salary as determined by the police contract.

A motion was made by Trustee Murphy to approve the bills and claims for \$37,006.41 from the following listed funds:

FY 13-14	General Fund	\$20,457.47
	Water Fund	\$ 863.19
	Sewer Fund	\$15,513.75
	Capital Fund	\$ 172.00

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Public Comment: included comments requesting the Board, or Treasurer, to provide more information to the public, in writing, regarding the finances of the Village. Also questions regarding consolidation were asked.

Trustee Mellon motioned to enter executive session to a discuss specific employee in a personnel matter.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:43p.m.

Trustee Murphy motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:48p.m.

Trustee Murphy motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 9:48 P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor,  
Village Clerk