

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

April 6, 2015

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 April 6, 2015.

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

Members present were:

Mayor Patrick Flynn  
Trustee Brian Aylward  
Trustee Robert Mellon  
Trustee Barbara Murphy

Member Absent was:

Trustee Anthony Farina

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Treasurer, Ed Magryta  
Village Attorney, William Florence  
Fire Chief, Steve Suarez  
Planning Bd Chairman, James Ramus  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Camera Operator, Kevin Coffey  
Approximately 4 community members

Mayor Flynn opened the meeting at 7:05pm with a moment of silence for all our fallen soldiers and community members since the last meeting.

Mayor Flynn swore in the Trustees elected at the March 18<sup>th</sup> General Village Election. Newcomer to the Board, Brian Aylward took his seat on the Board. Trustee Murphy retained her seat.

Trustee Mellon motioned to open the Annual Reorganization of the Village. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried. Reorganization opened at 7:10PM (see attached)

Trustee Mellon motioned to adjourn reorganization. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried. The reorganization closed at 7:19pm.

Trustee Mellon motioned to open the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget for FY 2015-2016. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried. The public hearing opened at 7:20pm.

Mayor Flynn introduced Treasurer Edward Magryta to present the tentative budget and to answer any questions that the public had regarding the contents of the budget. Treasurer Magryta stated that the tentative budget showed an spending plan of \$6,810,806.30 and with it was a tax rate of \$9.90 per thousand dollars. The Treasurer remarked that fund balance is being utilized and in subsequent budget meetings he will make his recommendations as to how much fund balance to utilize. The Treasurer mentioned he would like to hear feedback from the public on this tentative budget.

James Ramus asked why the engineers line in the water fund increased from \$1,000 in the requested budget to \$10,000 in the tentative. Treasurer Magryta explained that this budget is being done using activity based costing and the water department is looking to do more projects and this will enable the costs to be properly charged to the water fund.

Jim Titolo, 95 Mountain Ave. asked if there was any change to the compensation of the Planning Board members. The Mayor responded that the Planning Board requested budget did not ask for an increase in the salary of its members and the Village Board approved the Planning Boards requests. James Ramus commented that he polled the planning board members and they did not want an increase in salary. They do it as a community service.

The Police Department Report for March 2015 was read by Trustee Aylward.

The Fire Department Report for March 2015 was presented by Trustee Murphy. Trustee Murphy introduced Chief Suarez who invited community residents to a "Recruit NY" event to be held at the Firehouse on April 26<sup>th</sup> between 10:00am -2:00pm. Chief Suarez explained that the purpose of the event is to invite prospective members into the firehouse, men and women, to see what being a firefighter is all about and an opportunity to talk to any member about joining. Chief Suarez also promoted the junior firefighters program which is an opportunity for teens 16-17 years old to learn about firefighting

and the "Recruit NY" open house is an opportunity for their questions to be answered. Trustee Murphy also reminded the community residents of the Auxiliary's Penny Social on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00pm in the firehouse.

Mayor Flynn reported that Earth Day will be held April 22<sup>nd</sup> and he is asking groups to let him know if they are doing any activities to celebrate that day. Mayor Flynn reminded residents to report any street light outages that they are aware of by calling the information of the pole number into the police station or letting the police know where the pole is located.

Mayor Flynn reminded the Board that they need to establish a safety review board.

Discussion was held on the new round of CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funding for 2016. The Mayor suggested that the Village Hall building be an area to look at for an elevator and other renovations to aid with handicap accessibility. The Mayor said he would speak with the Village Engineer.

A letter from Access: Support for Living Foundation was acknowledged. No Board action taken.

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

- a) Regular Meeting – March 16, 2015
- b) Budget Meeting – March 16, 2015
- c) Budget Meeting – March 17, 2015

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

The Village Attorney introduced a local law to the Village Board that would allow the Board to broaden its tax base. The law will allow for taxing of charitable organizations under the regulations provided for in New York Real Property Tax law. The Board agreed to hold a public hearing on April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm and asked the Clerk to publish the notice.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorized the Mayor to sign the Developers Agreement with the Old Guard Hotel. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the resignation of Part Time Dispatcher Michael Murphy, effective March 20, 2015, with regret. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the resignation of Account Clerk, Zunelia Pratts, effective April 3, 2015. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to complete the probationary period of Sergeant Paul Troy, Jr, effective April 10, 2015. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve a budget amendment to increase A5990 (Appropriated Fund Balance) \$16,212.79 and increase A5142.04 (Snow Removal Contractual) \$16,212.79, to cover the cost of overruns due to extreme winter, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve a budget transfer of \$6,000 from A7110.04 (Parks Contractual) and \$3,000 from A7110.041 (Parks mowing) to increase A5110.04 (street maintenance) \$9,000, to cover Street Maintenance overruns, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve a budget amendment to increase A5990 (Appropriated Fund Balance) \$4,500 and increase A9040.8 (Workers Compensation) \$4,500, to pay for tail claims, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve a budget transfer of \$20,000 from A1440.04 (Village Engineer) to A1420.04 (Village Attorney) to cover addition attorney costs, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve the budget transfer of \$2,500 from A1325.041 (Treasurer Contractual Audit) to 1325.04 (Treasurer Contractual) to correct a posting error, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve a budget amendment to increase A5990 (Appropriated Fund Balance) \$4,200 and increase A3620.04 (Safety Inspection) \$4,200, to pay for property maintenance relevies, per the recommendation of the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve Alyssa Gervasi-Bell a member in the HFFD pending the results of the physical exam. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Murphy to approve the bills and claims for \$138,406.51 from the following listed funds:

FY 14-15	General Fund	\$73,231.43
	Section 8	\$57,848.79
	Water Fund	\$ 94.98
	Sewer Fund	\$ 7,231.31

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Martha Aylward, 13 Church St, asked the Board who is the group Access that sent the letter to the Board. The Mayor responded that they were a group wishing to sell raffle tickets in the Village. Mrs. Aylward commented to the Board her support for a cell tower.

James Titolo, 95 Mountain Ave, advised the Board and the public that he was there to promote the upcoming Art Walk. Mr. Titolo informed everyone that the walk would be held May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> and that there would be 17 sculptures along the walk. Mr. Titolo asked everyone to support the event financially or by cleaning up the storefronts and sidewalks. Mr. Titolo thanked Dr. Shea from the Eisenhower Leadership Group for all her efforts in creating this event and following up with the details.

The Mayor commented that these pieces of sculpture will be rotated and that there are world renowned artists that will be participating in this event.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss a specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:05P.M.

Trustee Murphy motioned to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:02P.M.

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

The meeting closed 9:02P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk