

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

November 16, 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 November 16, 2015.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:02 P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ed Magryta
Police Chief, Kenneth Scott
Fire Chief, Steve Suarez
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune (8:10pm)
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Town Councilwoman, June Gunza
Approximately 7 community members

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

Trustee Aylward motioned to open a public hearing on the Introductory Local Law “Waterfront Overlay District”. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

A public hearing was opened at 7:04 for the purpose of hearing comments on the Introductory Local Law “Waterfront Overlay District”. The Mayor reported that the hearing had been properly noticed and asked for any comments.

Mr. James Ramus, Planning Board Chairman, asked if the hearing could remain open until the Village Attorney could be present to answer any questions that may come up. Mayor Flynn responded that the hearing will remain open.

Trustee Mellon asked Mr. Ramus if this law would have the possibility of reaching the B1 zone? Mr. Ramus indicated that it could. Trustee Murphy asked if an option such as a health & day spa could be added as an approved use.

Mr. Jack Jannarone, 44 Ondaora Parkway, commented that he has concerns that this local law could have unintended consequences if adopted. Mr. Jannarone urged the Board to consider this before any action is taken.

Mr. Ray Deveraux, 48 Ondaora Parkway, asked the Board what happens when they are no longer in office. Mr. Deveraux commented that only Boards have the power to change the code.

No further questions were asked or comments heard at this time. The hearing remains open.

Trustee Mellon motioned to open a public hearing on the Introductory Local Law “Amendment to Zoning Law to Remove ‘Condominium’ As A Use”. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

A public hearing was opened at 7:05 for the purpose of hearing comments on the Introductory Local Law “Amendment to Zoning Law to Remove ‘Condominium’ As A Use”. The Mayor reported that the hearing had been properly noticed and asked for any comments.

Mr. James Ramus, Planning Board Chairman, commented that the Planning Board had not had a chance to review this law and would request the hearing remain open until they could provide comments. Mayor Flynn responded that the hearing will remain open.

No further questions were asked or comments heard at this time. The hearing remains open.

Trustee Murphy presented the Fire Department Report for October 2015 and reminded everyone of the auxiliary vendor fair on December 12th.

The Treasurer’s report was presented by Village Treasurer Ed Magryta and included the following updates:

- a. Monthly Financial Update-Revenue and Expense Control Reports available for review. Treasurer Magryta explained that the revenue seems to be on target.
- b. Continues to monitor energy rates with M&R for a potential fixed contract for 2016.
- c. The fiscal audit for May 31, 2015 started today.
- d. NY Class Account statements are available for review.
- e. OT rates are greater than 5% in some departments, which are above budget.

Treasurer Magryta asked the Board for guidance on what funds to use to pay the vendor who completed property maintenance clean-ups in October. Trustee Magryta recommended to make a budget transfer from the contingency fund to the safety inspection contractual line to cover the cost of the expense. The Village Board agreed that the Treasurer should prepare the budget transfer for approval at the next Board meeting.

Treasurer Magryta asked the Board for approval to sign a letter that the Village's auditor of gross utility payments asked to be sent to Central Hudson. The Treasurer remarked that upon receipt of any revenues, the auditor receives half of the revenue received. The Treasurer remarked that he would make the necessary budget adjustments for the Board's approval when the revenue is received.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the Treasurer to sign the letter to Central Hudson as recommended by the Village's auditor of gross utility payments. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon presented the Wastewater Treatment Plant report for October 2015.

Trustee Aylward reported that the Village is still waiting for CDBG funds for rehabilitation of the Senior Center. Trustee Aylward mentioned that the volunteer should be given a key to the senior center because she has had to wait long periods of time for the Police to come and open the door. Trustee Aylward recommended that the key be issued with the stipulation that the key will not be transferred to anyone else or a copy of the key will not be made.

Trustee Mellon asked if the Recreation Department can get involved with the Senior Center. The Mayor asked Councilwoman Gunza if she could bring that back to her Board, the possibility of office space in the Senior Center for the Recreation Department. The Mayor stated the Village will request this to Town Board officially in a letter.

The Mayor reported on upcoming community events. In response to an article in the local newspaper, the Mayor reported that consolidation is a top priority of this Board. The Mayor commented on the Planning Board consolidation and explained that the Village Board would like to see a seven member Planning Board with one alternate, would like to see the Village Planning Board finish current projects they are working on. The Mayor commented that the Department Heads of each Planning Board should be in charge of working out the details.

Susan Wicks, a representative of Vision, came before the Board to present a proposal from Vision on re-purposing the trash bins on Main Street to planters and asking for funding to replace other trash bins that cannot be re-purposed.

The Village Board explained that they would look at funding during the budget sessions and asked Ms. Wicks to come back in January or February to see how much the Village can contribute to the project.

Discussion was held on the property located at 23 Sweezy Avenue regarding a request to extend the road so that the property owner can access the driveway to the property. The Planning Board's recommendation to the Village Board was that a curb cut already exists and the Street Superintendent needs to make the recommendation as to whether the street can be extended.

The Mayor told Mr. Zzie, the property owner, that there is no money in the current budget for this project. The Mayor told Mr. Zzie that it would be put into next year's budget.

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

- a) Regular Meeting –November 3, 2015

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the Contract from the Department of State for the funding of the Reorganization Study. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize the RFP for the Reorganization Study be released and published. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorized the Mayor to sign the Stipulation of Settlement for Police Officer Adam Bruce in a form acceptable to counsel for the Village.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve Colin Doepner a member of the HFFD pending the results of his physical. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve Nicholas Rush a junior member of the HFFD pending the results of his physical. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve the request from Vision, Town of Highlands, for support from the HFPD, to block Main Street from the Wallkill Federal Savings Bank to Mountain Avenue and Veteran's Way, to support Winterfest to be held December 5, 2015 from 2:30pm-5:00pm in Memorial Park.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the travel of Trustee Murphy to Albany, NY on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 to attend a meeting on grant funding opportunities and that all actual and necessary expenses be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Murphy to approve the bills and claims for \$70,377.30 from the following listed funds:

FY 15-16	General Fund	\$36,821.94
	Water Fund	\$6,902.82
	Sewer Fund	\$26,652.54

The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Public Comment:

June Gunza, Town Councilwoman, asked the Board why an 18' ductile pipe is necessary from Bog Meadow to the water plant. The Mayor explained that it is to protect the water source from pesticides that may runoff from the Golf Course and if a hazardous spill occurs on Rt 293 or Rt 9W and for the possibility of hydro-electric power.

The Mayor also commented that the Village has a grant in the State to pay for this project and if the grant does not come in, the project will not be done.

Ms. Gunza commented that she has no questions regarding the project for upgrades to the Water Plant or Ondaora & Satterlee Grove.

Ms. Gunza also asked how many attorneys the Village employs. The Mayor responded that the Village has three attorneys.

James Ramus, Planning Board Chairman, commented to the Board that he would like to see alternatives to consolidation include a super Village. Mr. Ramus also updated the Board that he is trying to get recommendations from David Church, Chairman of the Orange County Planning Board, on consolidation of the Boards.

David Hampton, 44 Church Street, approached the Board for an easement behind his house and the Senior Center so that he can access his backyard to park his car there during the winter months.

The Mayor responded that the Board will look into it.

Sharon Guy, 13 Pellwood Lake, commented to the Board on various concerns she had including how she is dealt with by the Police when she calls them and also property maintenance issues of surrounding properties near her home.

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

The Board entered executive session at 9:16.P.M.

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

The Regular meeting reconvened at 9:24P.M.

Trustee Mellon motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried. No Board action was taken.

The meeting closed at 9:24P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk