

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

May 16, 2016

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on May 16, 2016.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:05P.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, Alyse Terhune  
Police Chief, Kenneth Scott  
Detective, Jason Torpey  
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones  
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus  
Orange County Legislator, James DiSalvo  
School Superintendent, Dr. Sheboy  
School Board Member, Gus Koutsourades  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Camera Operator, Tierney Scott  
Approximately 7 community members

Mayor Flynn introduced Danielle Cross and her parents to present Danielle an Outstanding Citizen Award in recognition of her receiving the Girl Scout's highest honor, the Gold Award, for her renovation of the playground at Sacred Heart Church.

Mayor Flynn introduced Dr. Sheboy, School Superintendent and Gus Koutsourades, School Board member to inform the public on the upcoming school budget vote. Dr. Sheboy highlighted the changes in the budget and reminded everyone that two Board member seats were also on the ballot. Dr. Sheboy thanked the Mayor and Village Board for the opportunity to speak.

A public hearing was opened at 7:17pm to receive comments on the proposed Resolution Establishing a Separate Board of Police Commissioners.

The Village Attorney read the entire Resolution into the minutes. Mayor Flynn opened up the hearing to public comment.

Mr. Keith Byron, Esq. Counsel for NYSUPA (Police Union) asked the following questions:

1. How would the establishment of this Board impact current negotiations?
2. Has the Board determined what the compensation would be for the Chairman of the Board and what the stipend would be for the other members?
3. How often would the Board meet & would the meetings be subject to the open meetings law. Would minutes be taken at meetings?
4. Who is authorizing the authority of the Board?
5. What is the role of the office of the Mayor? Can the Mayor vote? Does he get a stipend?
6. Who supervises the Police Department?

Frank Schmidt, 1 Hudson Dr., asked questions and commented as follows:

1. At reorganization, the Mayor was appointed Police Commissioner and Trustee Farina was appointed a liaison to the Department and Trustee Aylward was appointed a Deputy Commissioner.
2. Why do we need a separate Board of Police Commissioners after 110 years?
3. Is there compensations planned for the new position?
4. Residency requirement should be limited to the Town of Highlands
5. Mr. Schmidt invited Chief Scott to share his thoughts on the matter.

James Ramus, 28 Liberty Street, commented that he would submit questions in writing also:

1. When was it first discussed to have a Police Commission?
2. Are you looking to do this for other departments, i.e. water, sewer, dpw, fire?
3. Does not see any funding for a Police Commission in the new budget. Where will the funds come from?
4. Why now when a study is being done to dissolve the department? What work is not being done?
5. Do you know of any other Villages in New York State with a commission? If so, how big is the population of these Villages and how many employees do they oversee?

6. What happens to the commission if and when the Police Department is dissolved? Would this commission have any say over the Town Department, should they decide to take it over?
7. What is meant by the line in the resolution that the commission would justify the continuation of a Police Department operated by the Village?
8. Mr. Ramus commented that he would like the Board to give verbal or written response to these and any other questions that will come up tonight before any decision is made.

James DiSalvo, 20 Villa Parkway, asked questions and commented as follows:

1. What is the selection process for these commissioners?
2. You are spending approximately \$20,000 on a consolidation study. Shouldn't results be received before adding another layer of bureaucracy to this government?
3. The Town of Woodbury has a local law for a Board of Police Commissioners and all the members are the members of the Town Council.
4. NYCOM told him this was not common among Villages.

Chief Scott commented that he is in the dark about this and that he has the same questions. Chief Scott commented that he is curious to hear the answers to the questions.

After everyone had the opportunity to ask questions and was heard, Mayor Flynn responded that questions will be answered at the next regular Village Board meeting.

Trustee Murphy motioned to close the Public Hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Mayor Flynn closed the public hearing at 7:41pm.

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.
- b. FY 2015/16 year end bills and claims submission deadline is 5/23/16.
- c. DPW contract negotiations –management is requesting a resumption of negotiations.
- d. 2016/2017 Annual budget is complete. OSC filings are in process.
- e. Fiscal Audit- awaiting report.
- f. NY Class Account statements(reserve funds) are available for review.

Barbara Mennite, HFEDC representative, came before the Board to present a grant opportunity and asked for Board support in submitting the application as well as permission for the EDC to write it and administer it.

The Village Attorney asked if it was a matching grant. Ms. Mennite explained it is a \$10 million dollar grant through the Downtown Revitalization Initiative and there is no match associated with it. Ms. Mennite reported that it is a very competitive grant and the EDC will be reaching out to the Board and the public for letters of support.

Trustee Mellon motioned the following:

Resolution  
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Supporting and Concurring in the Application of a \$10 Million Dollar grant from the  
Mid-Hudson Region of the NYS Economic Development Council (MHREDC)

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

  4   Ayes        0   Nays        1   Absent (Farina)

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

The Fire Department Report for April was presented by Trustee Murphy. Trustee Murphy reported that she did not yet have a report from the Street Superintendent regarding the vehicle request for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief. Trustee Murphy reminded the public that the Firemen's Carnival will run from June 1 – June 4<sup>th</sup> on Fickens Field in Roe Park. Trustee Murphy reported that members of the department would be attending the Hudson Valley Volunteer Firemen's Convention and Parade on June 16-19, 2016 in Lake George, NY.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the request from the Fire Chief to bring Utility 430 and Car 2 to the parade in Lake George, NY on June 16-19, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Mayor Flynn and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on the Building Inspector's recommendation regarding the housing of chickens and ducks at 110 Mearns Avenue. After review of the Building Inspectors comments and Village Code, the Village Attorney concluded that the property owner would need a variance from the ZBA to have a coup erected on the property.

Mayor Flynn thanked the Deputy Garrison Commander for his assistance in allowing local delivery trucks on West Point and also his assistance with getting a master meter for the water to South Post. Mayor Flynn updated the community on some upcoming events to be held in the Village in the month of June.

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

- a) Regular Meeting –May 3, 2016
- b) Special meeting-May 3, 2016

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned the following:

Resolution To Relevy  
Unpaid Sewer Bills  
For: June & December 2015

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and the resolution was adopted on a roll call vote, the results which follow:                   4 Ayes    0 Nays   1 Absent (Farina)

The Mayor declared this resolution adopted. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee Mellon motioned the following:

Resolution  
Board of Trustees  
Resolution Ratifying Name Change  
Highland Falls Local Development Corporation  
To  
Highland Falls Economic Development Corporation

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

4 Ayes   0 Nays   1 Absent

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

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the request from the Street Superintendent to surplus extra speedbumps in the street department and to be resold if the opportunity presents itself.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to accept the resignation of Purchasing Clerk Sue Bunte, with regret, effective June 1, 2016.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to transfer the reserve funds totaling \$65,000.00 to the NY Class Accounts, as recommended by the Village Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to transfer \$2,250.00 from A.1325.0120 (Treasurer Salary/OT) to A.1325.0100 (Treasurer Salary) to balance payroll accounts for the Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to transfer \$1,000.00 from A.1325.0410 (Treasurer cont. audit) to A.1325.0100 (Treasurer Salary) to balance payroll accounts for the Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to transfer \$7,300.00 from A.1990.1990 (General Contingency) to A.5010.0100 (Street Admin Salary) to balance payroll account for the DPW Supervisor.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to set the end of year bills and claims meeting for Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am in Village Hall.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for \$44,245.96 from the following listed funds:

FY 15-16	General Fund	\$28,662.58
	Water Fund	\$5,500.30
	Sewer Fund	\$10,083.08

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy reported that she and Chief Scott attended a meeting last week sponsored by O&R Electric that dealt with municipality handling of emergency situations. Trustee Murphy reported discussion was held on the importance of getting cell towers in our area. Chief Scott remarked that a CRT(Community Response Team) is stationed in our Police Department during major events because of the unreliable cell service this area experiences.

Joan Cronin, Eagle Valley Rd, asked the Board what they are doing about the Senior Center. Mrs. Cronin commented on many things she feels are not being done regarding the senior center.

Mayor Flynn responded and directed Mrs. Cronin to attend Town meetings to suggest the Town Recreation Department be involved with programming for the seniors.

Jim DiSalvo, 20 Villa Parkway, wished Sue Bunte well in her retirement and wished Mrs. Mennite success in the grant application that the HFEDC would be going after.

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

The Board entered executive session at 8:40 P.M.

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

The Regular meeting reconvened at 10:40 P.M. No Board action was taken.

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

The meeting closed at 10:40 P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk