

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

July 6, 2009

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on July 6, 2009.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:00 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
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Code Enforcement Officer, Tim Doherty
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Fire Captain, John Rush
News of the Highlands Editor Emeritus, Fred Brennan
Residents- Nick Camporeale- Kleitz Ave.- Jean Sharp- 11 Homestead Ave,
Merv Livsey , Town Councilman, Village resident – 107 Mountain Avenue.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the below listed minutes as written:

- a) Regular Meeting – June 15, 2009
- b) Special Meeting – June 23, 2009

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Resolution Introducing Local Law
And Providing for Public Notice and Hearing
“Landlord Registry”

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

 5 Ayes 0 Noes

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

The Fire Department report for June 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

The Code Enforcement Report for June 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

The Community Development Report for June 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

The Police Department Report for May 2009 was presented to the Board for review. The Chief presented a list of special events that the Police Department covered for the month of June. Chief Miller read a response, in defense of his departments overtime in 2007, to the Village Board regarding Trustee McCormick's inquiry last meeting about overtime in the Police Department in 2007. (A copy of this memo is appended to the minutes.)

The Building Department Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Larry Marshall gave a written update report to the Board on Property Violation Notices issued on the property of 20 Schneider Ave, 293 Main Street and 4 Fostoria Street. He reported that no progress had been done on 20 Schneider Ave. or 293 Main Street, but that work has been progressing at 4 Fostoria St.

Trustee McCormick motioned to have the Village Clerk inform the Building Department to issue appearance tickets for Failure to Remedy Property Maintenance Violations to the property owners of 20 Schneider Ave. and 293 Main Street.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on the property at 109 Mountain Ave. The house was declared unsafe after a recent fire and found to have multiple violations regarding the structure and property. Tim Doherty, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that these violations will have to be corrected before anyone can occupy the property.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Mayor signing Addendum#3 to the agreement between the Village of Highland Falls and Corporate Services, Inc. to continue the Employee Assistance Program benefit for the Village employees for the fiscal year June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2010 at the same cost as last year of \$1,700.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the Village Clerk signing the agreement with General Code Publishers to have the Village Code put online through E-Code, that will be linked through the Village's official website, at a cost of \$995.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the request for the Village Clerk and the Deputy Clerk to attend a seminar on Workplace Violence Prevention on Tuesday July 14th from 10:45am – 12 noon in Newburgh, NY and that all necessary expenses incurred be approved.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on the conditions in the Police Locker room. Trustee Gunza pointed out that the locker room is an enclosed area with no ventilation therefore heat builds up and the room becomes hot and stuffy. There was a stand alone air conditioner that was purchased and installed, however, the air conditioner forces hot air back down into the room because of poor circulation of the air due to the room being enclosed. Trustee Gunza has recommended that an air conditioner be installed that will improve the air quality and vent out through the third floor to the roof. A small wall unit similar to the one in the meeting room would be acceptable, however, electric work would need to be installed as well. Trustee Gunza reported that there is money available through the capital funds that the Village has already secured to do repairs to the building.

The Mayor responded that he remembered being told that this locker room was not going to cost the Village any money. The Mayor also recommended to the Village Board that all quotes, for any job, be turned into the Village Clerk. Police Chief Miller reminded the Mayor and the Board that the locker room was built with no expense to the Village taxpayer. He told them the officers themselves donated their time and labor to build this locker room and now all they ask for is an air conditioner to be installed.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve the quote from DNK, HVAC Contracting for \$2,800.00 to supply and install an air conditioner in the police locker room and the quote from R.J. Mellon for \$725.00 to do the electric work associated with the installation of an air conditioner in the police locker room.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$267,394.64 from the following listed funds:

FY 08-09	General Fund	\$2,258.87
	Water Fund	\$2,201.90
	Sewer Fund	\$5,326.99
	Capital Fund	<u>\$1,672.83</u>
		\$11,460.59
FY 09-10	General Fund	\$172,321.65
	Community Development	\$ 55,337.35
	Water Fund	\$ 8,863.59
	Sewer Fund	\$ 16,742.70
	Capital Fund	<u>\$ 2,668.76</u>
		\$255,934.05

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Mayor reported to the Board that this week the Village switched their supplier of electricity on the Orange and Rockland bill to Direct Energy. Indications were that this will save the Village each month on the electric bills.

Trustee McCormick reported that he would like to see that Recreation be a town-wide responsibility. He would like the Recreation Commission, the Recreation Director, Town and Village representatives get together soon to renew the Recreation Agreement and get these issues worked out. The Mayor responded he believes the pool at Roe Park should also fall under town-wide expenses. Mr. McCormick reported that many Village streets need to be put in shape, however, he's not sure where the money will come from. Trustee McCormick would like to see a light or camera be installed on Ladycliff Park and would like to investigate the cost for this. He also reported that he believes consolidation needs to be seriously looked at.

Village resident, Nick Camporeale asked the question-Why doesn't consolidation get looked at? If studies have been done to indicate one Village would be best, why doesn't the Town want to move in that direction? He asked is it because the supervisor doesn't want to relinquish power or the mayor? If that is the reason, then say so. Mr. Camporeale said he thinks the residents should be given more information. They shouldn't be told it won't work or it will work, they should be given facts and figures to back up either recommendation and then let the people decide. He suggested a committee be put together to analysis the data.

The Mayor responded that he has 5 studies in his office that Mr. Camporeale is welcomed to look at and they all say one Village is the best way to go. The Mayor added that he does not believe consolidation will save a lot of money. You will still need the Police Department and now because of the area to cover, the union dictates that in addition to a Chief, you will need a Lieutenant and a Desk Sergeant, in addition to enough officers for patrol. He said in the highway department, you could eliminate one supervisor, however, you would need a foreman, in addition to enough men to cover the Town. The Village Hall offices are not over loaded in employees. There is bare minimum now to get the required work done. He acknowledged that one Board is all that would be needed, but this is not where a lot of money is spent.

Chief Miller commented that he disagrees with the Mayor and he thinks consolidation could save money. He proved it when he did the numbers to show how sharing Police Services would save. The Mayor asked him why it didn't happen then. The Chief said, he did not know why the Town Supervisor did not put the matter before a permissive referendum like was promised during her campaign for Supervisor. He commented that the matter was left to dry up on the vine.

Trustee DiSalvo thanked all Village and Town Highway Departments, Police Departments and Emergency Services Departments for helping in the success of the 4th of July holiday celebrations.

Trustee Gunza reiterated Trustee DiSalvo and also thanked the Village DPW for their assistance with the recent R-Day reception.

Merv Livsey, Village resident, 107 Mountain Ave. came before the Board again to see if the Village Attorney had gotten back to the Board yet about the pipe in his yard that is causing water problems on his property.

He just wants to know whose pipe it is? Mr. Livsey has said the State told him that it is not their pipe. He would just like an answer because he has been advised by his attorney not to do anything until it's determined who owns the pipe.

The Mayor responded that the Attorney had not gotten back to them yet. They will notify him as soon as they hear something.

Trustee McCormick motioned to enter executive session to discuss the DPWEA negotiations and two individual personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:15p.m.

The Regular meeting reconvened at 8:53p.m.

Trustee McCormick made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 8:53p.m.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk