

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

April 19, 2010

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 April 19, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:05 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  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Fire Chief – Erik Smith  
2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief- John Rush  
Garden Club Representatives – Pat Riedel, Elaine McConnell  
Village Residents: Philp Galu- 38 Cedar Lane, Lee LaFurge -17 Center St., Mary Boyle-20 Center Street, John Sydor- 21 Center St.

The Mayor opened the meeting by presenting Mr. Galu with the first monthly Community Service Award for his spirit, caring & commitment to the community, especially through his participation and involvement with his floats in the Christmas Parade and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade. The Mayor commented that it is people like Mr. Galu who are the reason Highland Falls was selected as one of the top ten places to live in the Hudson Valley Region, as reported in the Hudson Valley Magazine April edition.

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

- a) Regular Meeting – April 5, 2010
- b) Special Meeting – April 5, 2010 Reorganization
- c) Special Meeting – April 15, 2010 budget

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Mrs. Pat Riedel, representative of the Garden Club presented the Board with a project to replace the two-tiered garden with a one –tier garden and the means for accomplishing that. The Garden Club will hire a local contractor to install the interlocking block as the base for the garden. The color will be red flash, a brick muted color. The block weigh 80 lbs and the caps weigh 50lbs. The cost of this project will be approximately \$8,000. She explained that the garden club will diligently raise funds to complete this project. Mrs. Riedel said that on behalf of the garden club, which has been in existence for 30 years, she requested that the Village Board approve this project and include in the Village Budget for 2010-2011, \$1500 in funds for the garden club, as it has in the past. They would use this money towards the completion of the one tier garden. Mrs. Riedel thanked the Board for their time and attentiveness to their ideas.

The Mayor responded to Mrs. Riedel by saying the \$1500 is included in the Tentative Budget and will remain so. He also said he is looking to secure a grant that might possibly help the Garden Club with this project or other garden restoration projects. The Mayor concluded by saying it is members of the Garden Club that also selflessly give of their time to help beautify the Village, that contribute to the Village's distinction of being a top ten place to live in the Hudson Valley.

Trustee McCormick motioned that the draft employee handbook and introduction letter, signed by the Village Board, be sent to each Union President for comments and responses within thirty days.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to accept the retirement of Police Officer John Might, effective April 21, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve taking Officer Adam Bruce's off probation, as recommended by Chief Miller, effective April 20, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to table the request from Police Chief Peter Miller to attend the Association of Chiefs of Police conference from July 18-21, in Rochester, N.Y.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request from the Highland Falls Elementary School to hold a field day at Roe Park, on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:30am -3:30pm (raindate of June 11<sup>th</sup>) provided all the necessary licenses and insurance paperwork is turned into the Village Clerk prior to the event, and to inform the principal that the Village Board has no jurisdiction over Fickens Field.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$41,146.66 from the following listed funds:

FY 09-10 General Fund	\$ 19,213.95
Water Fund	\$ 2,610.48
Sewer Fund	\$ 14,561.88
Capital Fund	\$ 4,760.35

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor reported that he had checked out the timber at the Roe Park Pavilion and was told that this is normal weathering of the poles. He was also advised that they should be treated or stained like a wood deck. Trustee Gunza said she would be contacting the manufacturer of the Pavilion for suggestions or recommendations.

The Mayor reminded the Board that bids for the Cozzens Ave. wall are to be turned in by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Mayor also told the Board that he has asked the Village Engineer to look into the necessary Roe Park pool repairs and estimated costs of the work needing to be done.

The Mayor informed the Village Board that the insurance company handling the claim for the damages sustained to the clock, plaque and surrounding landscape, in Memorial Park by a motor vehicle, called to confirm that a check should be received by the end of the week. The Mayor would like to order a new clock as soon as possible because of delivery concerns.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve replacing the clock for Memorial Park and starting the necessary paperwork.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to send a letter to West Point asking for a calibration of the meters at South Post.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor updated the Village Board on a meeting held with Central Hudson representatives regarding the condition of the roads after they have completed a job. Central Hudson representatives explained that they have a subcontractor who repairs the roads and they have two weeks to complete the restoration and six months to address any issues about the repairs. The Mayor said by May 8<sup>th</sup> the Village should have a list of projects that are to be completed.

Discussion was held on the property location at 109 Center Street. The Mayor commented that this is owned by an absentee landlord and that the Village needs to get stricter with absentee landlords to make sure they comply with property maintenance issues.

Trustee DiSalvo reported that he talked with the Building Inspector, John Hager about the Code Enforcement position and he was still waiting to discuss the issue with Councilman Edsell. Trustee DiSalvo asked if a meeting could be set with the Town Supervisor so that this matter can move forward.

Newly elected Fire Chief Erik Smith, came before the Board to ask, that by law, the Village Board acknowledge the elections recently held.

Trustee McCormick motioned to recognize that the position of Fire Chief is held by Erik Smith, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief is held by Steve Suarez and 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief is held by John Rush, from April 2010 to April 2011.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Fire Chief Smith also informed the Board that the department would be participating in some community events that will be coming up soon, ie Little League Parade and Touch –A- Truck sponsored by Sacred Heart School.

The Mayor thanked the outgoing officers of the Fire Department and wished success to the Fire Chief and the newly elected officers of the Department.

Discussion was held with Village residents, Lee Lafurge, 15 Center Street, Mary Boyle, 20 Center Street and John Sydor, 21 Center Street, regarding activity on the street, the night before, involving the Village Police and unruly residents in the street physically and verbally abusing the officer, and spouting obscenities, for over two hours. They did not understand why the officer took the abuse and did nothing about the problem. Mr. Sydor commented that the Police cannot handle the area. He stated that they are not doing their jobs.

The Mayor asked the residents to please contact him or a Board member about these types of complaints before coming to a meeting when no one has been informed about the incident. The Mayor said he will get a copy of the Police report and speak to the Chief about it. He said he will contact back with Mr. Sydor as soon as possible.

Trustee McCormick motioned to enter executive session to discuss a particular employee. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:50pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:05 p.m.

Trustee Gunza motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7:05 p.m.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk