

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

April 5, 2010

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 5, 2010.

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  
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Police Chief Peter Miller  
Fire Captain, John Rush (6:49pm)  
Fire Chief, William Lee (7:00pm)  
Resident – Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Tim Doherty –32 Roe Ave. (6:40pm), Fred Brennan- 28 Lake Street (6:45pm)

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to approve the below listed minutes as follows:

- a) Regular Meeting – March 15, 2010
- b) Special Meeting – March 16, 2010 - budget

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Code Enforcement Report for March 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

On the eve of the Fire Department elections, a message from the Fire Chief, William Lee, was read to the Board. Chief Lee thanked the Mayor and the Village Board for their support of the Fire Department and also the administrative staff of the Village Hall for their support during his term as Chief. Chief Lee praised the Volunteer Fire Fighters who give so much time and do so much training to ensure we all live in a safe community. Chief Lee reported that it has been his honor and privilege to serve the Fire Department and the residents of this community.

The Building Department Report for March 2010 was presented to the Board for review. Building Inspector John Hager updated the Board on the Unsafe Building Violations extension that was given to Mr. Eddie Ryan, of 140 Mountain Ave, at the the Village Board meeting on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Hager informed the Board that Mr. Ryan had complied with the necessary corrections and that a certificate of occupancy had been issued.

The Community Development Report for March 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

The Police Department Report for March 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee to hold a Street Fair on June 12, 2010, from 8am to 7pm, on Main Street, between Purple Heart Way and Chase Bank, provided all necessary paperwork and a certificate of liability insurance, naming the Village as additionally insured, are received in the Village Clerk's office prior to the event.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the resignation of James Patterson, Heavy Equipment Operator, effective March 18, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to accept the resignation of Timothy Doherty, Code Enforcement Officer, effective March 28, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the Mayor signing the DPWSA contract that will be in effect from June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2013.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A letter was received from Occupations, Inc. requesting approval to sell raffle tickets in our municipality. A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to table the request. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the training request from Street Superintendent Gary Boyce to attend an "OSHA 10- Hour Training for Roadway Construction" course on May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> in Stony Point, NY at a cost of \$20.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Children's Angel Network requested the use of Municipal Lot # 2 on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to hold the Family Fun Day for St. Jude, from 10am – 6pm. Trustee McCormick responded that this is West Point's graduation day and he would prefer that they find another date for this event.

Trustee McCormick motioned to deny the request from The Children's Angel Network the use of Municipal Lot # 2 on May 22<sup>nd</sup> to hold the Family Fun Day for St. Jude, from 10am – 6pm.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$112,210.03 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$39,575.84
Community Development	\$ 2,175.00
Section 8	\$51,056.70
Water Fund	\$ 6,200.17
Sewer Fund	\$12,240.19
Capital Fund	\$ 962.13

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Mayor reported that the first recipient of the monthly recognition award for community involvement, that the Mayor will present at the second Board meeting of the month, will be Philip Galu. The Mayor will acknowledge Mr. Galu for his contributions to the Christmas Parade, 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and many other community events by providing floats and volunteering his time to make these events more special for everyone.

The Mayor reported that he was very upset that the distribution of the Census Form to be mailed back to the government, was not done effectively. Anyone in Highland Falls or Fort Montgomery that has a PO Box as a mailing address did not receive one and the mailing addresses used were from 2000 and many of these are not good addresses. He is disappointed that the count for our area might be severely miscalculated.

The Mayor spoke about the "hanging out" problem that currently exists on Main Street and the problems that go along with this behavior, ie. litter, verbal trash and spitting. The Mayor forewarned those that exhibit this type of behavior that the Village will not tolerate it and has asked Chief Miller to be watchful of this type of behavior.

The Mayor also commented that he is very unhappy with Central Hudson for not having the sidewalks repaired in a timely manner or properly after they have dug to make repairs. He does not want them doing anymore work until this situation is resolved.

The Mayor would like the Village Board to meet with the Planning Board to discuss the 6-month moratorium that is currently in place for conversion of single family homes into two family or more, and new apartments. He has set a date of April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm before the 7:00pm scheduled planning board meeting and will confirm with the Planning Board. He will inform the Village Board when this date and time is confirmed.

The Mayor thanked two employees, John Jones and Pat Patterson, who will volunteer their time to paint some fence at the Little League field.

Finally, the Mayor pointed out that in a recent edition of the Hudson Valley Magazine, Highland Falls was listed as one of the ten best places to live. The Mayor said he is very proud of that recognition for the Village.

Trustee McCormick was concerned about a sewer lateral that was broke from the main on north Church St. to a lateral on Cozzens Ave of the property owned by John Fitzsimmons. The Mayor said this was going to be repaired starting tomorrow.

Trustee McCormick said he would like to discuss the possibility of contracting out for grass cutting and increasing water rates to assist in funding necessary repairs in both the water plant and sewer plant.

He was also concerned with the many street repairs needed, ie potholes, and the Mayor said that we should look at splitting up the crew to start repairing these potholes.

Trustee Gunza reported that the employee handbook final draft is almost complete and also reported concerns over the beams at the Pavilion in Roe Park. They appear to be coming apart or splitting in some areas. Trustee Gunza also reported that the truss that faces the south side and is exposed to the most sunlight, has faded and needs maintenance before it gets worse.

Trustee DiSalvo reported that he has spoken to the Town Building Inspector about the possibility of the Town hiring a part-time Code Enforcement Officer to help with the Village property maintenance issues. He said the initial response was positive, but that the Building Inspector would discuss with the liason to the Building Department, Councilman Edsell and get back to the Village Board.

A resident of Roe Park, Tim Doherty, came before the Board and again mentioned about unleashed dogs in the playground and field in Roe Park. He said something needs to be done before someone gets hurt. Trustee McCormick suggested that no dogs be allowed in the fenced in area of the park. The Mayor commented that there is an unleashed dog law on the books and we need to enforce our laws. Most agreed that at least a sign should be posted in the playground area that it is for children only and no pets allowed.

Trustee Brown motioned to enter executive session to discuss a particular employee and a union contract grievance.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried. The Board entered executive session at 7:45pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:00pm

The Mayor reported to the Board that he had heard back from West Point's Planning Board regarding the request to have land given back between Thayer Gate and McDonald's Restaurant, for the purpose of building a Senior Community Center, and that they approved the project.

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

The meeting closed at 8:05pm.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk