

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

February 1, 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 February 1, 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 James DiSalvo
Trustee June L. Gunza

Member absent was:

Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Code Enforcement Officer – Tim Doherty
Asst Fire Chief – Steve Suarez
Fire Captain – John Rush
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Village Residents- Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Frank Lilos- 1594 Rt 9W

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

- a) Regular Meeting – January 19, 2010
- b) Special Meeting – January 27, 2010

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

3 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Absent

motion carried.

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

The Fire Department Report for January 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to approve the request from the Chief to send Fire Captain Bill Solan to annual Fire Police Seminar for \$400.00 and also to approve the request for \$12,000.00 out of current budget, to replace extrication cutters and power unit.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Mayor D'Onofrio to approve the request from the Chief for \$400.00, out of current budget, for awards to recognize firefighters and community members for dedication and lifesaving actions during the year.

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

Mayor D'Onofrio – Aye
Trustee DiSalvo - Aye
Trustee Gunza - Abstain
Trustee McCormick – Absent
Trustee Brown - Absent

motion did not carry.

Assistant Fire Chief Suarez asked Trustee Gunza why she abstained and Trustee Gunza said she was not comfortable voting on this matter because she is a member of the Fire Department and did not have enough information on it. Mayor D'Onofrio suggested to the Chief that the request be presented again at the next board meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to declare the following items surplus: hand tools, stokes basket, 2 light bars, water extinguisher, hose fittings, spanner wrenches, hose clamps and pike poles.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

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

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the resignation of Michael Biagini as a Part Time Dispatcher effective February 1, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint John Seymour a Part Time Dispatcher at the rate of \$12.71 per hour.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint Phillip Boyd a Part Time Police Officer at the rate of \$22.30 per hour. Effective start date to be determined by Civil Service.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the request for training for Deputy Clerk/Treasurer, Ana Sierra to attend a basic municipal accounting course in Cornwall-on Hudson, NY from June 15-17, 2010 at the cost of \$85.00 and that all necessary expenses incurred be approved.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to reappoint William Baran, Randy Meche, James Ramus, Angelo Tosolini and Fred Herman as volunteer caretakers of Bog Meadow, for the calendar year 2010, to keep an eye on the area, to report any violations of local policies and provide them a key, free of charge, and identification tags.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution For Final Notice and Termination
of Service for Unpaid Water Bills
For May & November 2009

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

3 Ayes 0 Noes 2 Absent

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

A letter was read into the minutes by Mayor D'Onofrio, from Mr. Jose Sierra, regarding his property at 65 Schneider Avenue. He is frustrated by past letters being sent about the condition of the sidewalk and wall in front of his house and that so far nothing has been done by the Village to correct the situation and this past weekend a bigger issue has developed with sewer and water entering his house. (A copy of this letter is appended to the minutes)

The Mayor commented that much of the letter is factual. It appears that under the sidewalk is hollow. The Mayor commended both the sewer and water departments for responding to Mr. Sierra's problem this past weekend. The Mayor reported that it appears a blockage of some type has caused the backup into Mr. Sierra's property. The Mayor reported that he had Kevin Hurst camera the situation to see if it could be determined where a blockage might be. The Mayor concluded that there are three issues right now, the sewer line, the storm drain and the wall & sidewalk. He said Jet-Vac needs to come and make the determination of where, if any blockage is, and then the Village will respond accordingly.

The Mayor set a meeting for tomorrow morning at 8:30am for Gary Boyce, Street Superintendent, John Jones, WWTP Operator and himself, at the location to devise a plan for any work that needs to be done.

A letter was acknowledged from Barbara Mennite regarding her view on recent discussions to ban dogs from Roe Park. She does not agree with banning dogs from Roe Park and expressed her reasons to the Board in this letter. (a copy of this letter is appended to the minutes)

Discussion was held that the next scheduled Board meeting falls on Monday, February 15th which is President's Day, a Federal Holiday.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned that the next regular Board meeting be held on Tuesday, February 16th at 6:00pm, due to the holiday on Monday the 15th.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to approve the bills and claims for \$88,941.12 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$25,033.75
Community Development	\$51,738.25
Water Fund	\$ 3,882.41
Sewer Fund	\$ 8,212.48
Capital Fund	\$ 74.23

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor provided some updates to the community. The Navy Federal Credit Union has rented space on North Main Street and will be opening up a branch very soon. Chief Miller asked the Mayor the status of Key Food and the Mayor responded that he has spoken to the owner and the business is for sale, however it will not be closing before that. The Mayor commented that he is ashamed to have such a low caliber store for our community. He is embarrassed for our people to have to shop in a place in such bad condition. He hopes it will sell quickly.

Mr. Lilos asked if any violations are on the property. The Mayor responded that there are violations from the entrance way to the back door, however, he is not sure how we should proceed because a lot of seniors and others depend on this store and he would not want to jeopardize the owner closing it down entirely. Mr. Lilos asked the Mayor if the terrorist trials would be held at West Point. The Mayor responded that he had a meeting at West Point today and no, the trials would not be held on West Point.

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

The meeting closed at 8:00P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk