

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

January 4, 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 January 4, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:05 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Member absent was:

Trustee James DiSalvo

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Police Chief, Peter Miller
Code Enforcement Officer – Tim Doherty
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Village Residents- Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Ray Deveraux- 20 Ondaora Pkwy.

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

- a) Regular Meeting – December 7, 2009
- b) Regular Meeting – December 21, 2009

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza that all Village employees have approval to attend Public Employee Safety and Health (PESH) training seminars offered in the calendar year 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and the roll call vote results are as follows:

 4 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

motion carried.

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

The Fire Department Report for December 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

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

Eileen Koppnal, Director of Community Development, updated the Board regarding an emergency repair to a chimney that has been brought to her attention. The funds for these repairs will come out of the CDBG funds balance which is targeted to be used for rehabilitation work. She has obtained two proposals for the repair, one for \$4,000.00 from All Hands, Inc and the other, \$1,800.00 from Andes Contractors.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the low bid of \$1,800 from Andes Contractors to work on the chimney repair.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Police Department Report for December 2009 was presented to the Board for review.

Chief Miller presented a memo to the Board referencing an Inter-Municipal Agreement that Orange County, through its Department of Emergency Services, would like to enter into with the Village of Highland Falls regarding the installation of AVL's (Automatic Vehicle Locators) in Village police vehicles. Chief Miller explained that the County pays for all installation and operational costs. The County will also pay for routine maintenance and repairs of the AVL's. The Village must transfer the equipment into any new vehicles they may purchase in the future. The benefit of these locators is that when O.C.

dispatches vehicles in its jurisdiction, they can see where all cars are located. Chief Miller recommended that the Village participate with Orange County in this matter.

Trustee McCormick motioned that Mayor D'Onofrio be authorized to sign the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Orange County, by and through its Department of Emergency Services with the Village of Highland Falls, by and through its Police Department for the Installation of Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL's).

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to approve the Mayor signing the 2010 Worker's Compensation Claims Runoff Management Agreement.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on the expired term of Matthew Johnson on the Village Planning Board. Mr. Johnson has indicated he would like to continue serving on the Board. Trustee Gunza mentioned that his attendance record was not very good. Trustee McCormick responded that he believes Mr. Johnson's schedule will allow him to attend the meetings more regularly.

Trustee Brown motioned to re-appoint Matthew Johnson to the Village Planning Board with the term to expire December 31, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

Resolution
Vehicle & Traffic
Village of Highland Falls

Motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

4 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

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

Discussion was held that the next scheduled Board meeting falls on Monday, January 18th which is Martin Luther King Jr. Day, a Federal holiday.

Trustee McCormick motioned that the next regular Board meeting be held on Tuesday, January 19th at 6:00pm, due to the holiday on Monday the 18th.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$188,403.81 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$53,808.95
Community Development	\$51,466.25
Water Fund	\$18,863.91
Sewer Fund	\$64,264.70

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Mayor reported that vandalism had occurred in the Peacedale Cemetery again, to the same family plot that was almost to the year vandalized. He said he has asked the Police Chief to increase patrols in that area and to check into the possibility of hooking up the portable security cameras in an area that will cover activity in the cemetery. The Mayor reported that he has met with Supervisor Magryta and they will resurrect the cemetery committee that will hopefully aid in finding ways to prevent these types of incidents, as well as look after the maintenance of the cemetery. The Mayor said he was very upset about this latest incident and he has offered a personal reward for information leading up to the arrest and conviction of the vandals.

The Mayor reported that he is working with the Village Clerk and Treasurer on budget workshop dates and will get them to the Board soon. Also, the Village Engineer will have updates soon on all the grants he is working on, the possibility of taking on West Point wastewater and the bid on the sewer pumps project.

Discussion was held on implementing a moratorium for six months for any applications to turn single family dwellings into two family or more, or two family into multiple dwellings or any new apartment buildings. The Board would like to look at the current overcrowded conditions that appear to be happening, especially in the North End of the Village.

Jean Sharp, 11 Homestead Ave. , commented that she believes the laws that are in place are good laws, its all the variances that are given that seem to be creating the problem. She asked the Board to question the zoning and planning boards so that all are on the same page with the direction they would like to see the Village go.

Trustee Gunza commented that the minutes need to be turned into the Village Clerk more timely so that the Board can review what is happening out there. The Mayor asked the Village Clerk to try and secure copies of the zoning board minutes. Mr. Ray Deveraux, 20 Onadaora Pkwy, a member of the consolidated zoning board, reminded the Village Board that they are an independent Board and not accountable to the Village Board. The Planning Board recommends applicants to the zoning board for variances if they are needed.

Chief Miller pointed out to the Board that there is a reference to “lodgers” in the Village code that should be eliminated.

The Village Board thanked Ms. Sharp and Mr. Deveraux for their comments.

Trustee McCormick motioned for a six month moratorium be imposed on applications for turning single family homes into 2 family or multiple dwellings and 2 family into multiple dwellings or apartment projects.

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

4 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

the motion carried.

The Mayor reported that the Planning Board has reviewed the request of Mr. Fatsis about the zoning change on 9W that he requested, however, the Village Board is waiting for the written response, before any changes to the code could be implemented. They have indicated they see no problem with what Mr. Fatsis has requested. Trustee McCormick said he would like to discuss with Saccardi & Schiff, the consultants on the Master Plan, about restrictions that could possibly be put on this property.

Trustee McCormick updated the Board on some issues in the Water Department that will need to be looked at during budget talks, specifically the cost of tests that need to be run as directed by the Department of Health. Trustee McCormick stated these costs will run approximately \$12,000.00 and there is currently no money budgeted for these tests. He asked the Board to approve that tests being done in this current fiscal year be paid out of the current water fund budget in order to lessen the amount that next years budget will require.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve that necessary water testing costs, done in the current fiscal year be paid out of the current water fund budget.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick also gave the Mayor the name of Mr. Richard Stair, South Street, as someone who could be on his committee to review the Fire Department requests.

Tim Doherty, resident, 32 Roe Avenue, brought to the Board’s attention an incident involving an unleashed pitt bull attacking towards his daughter and her dog, while they were on their own property. Mr. Doherty indicated that he believes if he had not been nearby, a certain tragedy would have occurred. The unleashed dog’s owner quickly came to retrieve the dog and ran away. Mr. Doherty said he called the Police who responded promptly and searched the surrounding streets with Mr. Doherty to try and find the dog and owner. They were not able to find them. Mr. Doherty has asked the Board to consider amending the No Dogs in Certain Parks law to include Roe Park.

Jean Sharp asked if there was any area in Roe Park that could be made into a dog park and the answer was no. She also asked if the rooster problem had been solved. The Board told her it was again tabled. Ms. Sharp also asked the Board if they are happy with the way the Building Department is working. The Board responded that some money is being saved, and it is probably working better than not working at all.

Mr. Deveraux asked the Village Board if they have seen any savings as a result of periodic reviews of the budget. The Board responded, no. He remarked on all the bonding the Village has done. The Mayor responded by challenging him or anyone else to come and look at the bonded projects and let him and the Board know which ones shouldn’t have been done. The Mayor remarked that this Board is very conscious about every budget expense. They only bond when absolutely necessary. He also reminded Mr. Deveraux that all revenues are down.

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

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk