

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

January 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 January 19, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:00 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
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Residents- Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Kathy Keane- Cooks Lane

The Mayor opened the meeting by commenting that he and Trustee Brown are working with a Village resident, originally from Haiti, who has relatives that are awaiting visas to come to visit her. Because of the recent earthquake and situations in Haiti, the visas are being held up until DNA testing results are completed to verify relationship. The Mayor and Trustee Brown are working with local representatives to try and speed the process up for this woman.

The Mayor also commented that he spoke with NYCOM over the recent Board member vote of yes, with reservations, and was told by NYCOM that is not a valid vote. A vote must be yes, no or abstain.

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

- a) Regular Meeting – January 4, 2010
- b) Special Meeting – January 12, 2010

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

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

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to accept the retirement of Donald Conley, Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, effective 1/28/10, with regret.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Village Board acknowledged the letter from Kevin Barnes, Maintenance Worker, stating his impending military deployment overseas, effective February 2010 and a return of April 2011. The Village Board thanked him for his service and best wishes for a safe return.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the request from the HFFMCSD to use Roe Park for the James I. O'Neill's Varsity, JV and Modified baseball teams, from March 1, 2010 through June 11, 2010, pending all necessary insurances and paperwork is received by the Village Clerk prior to their starting date.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Village Board acknowledged receipt of a letter from James Ramus, Village Planning Board Chairman, that has Village Planning Board support and approval in reference to Mrs. Fatsis' request for her property on 9W to be zoned the same as the adjoining properties.

Trustee McCormick has asked that the Village Board look at the zone request again before any action is taken. The Mayor said he would set up a meeting to discuss.

In follow-up to the rooster issue in Villa Parkway, the Mayor commented that it appears Trustee DiSalvo may have found a home in a neighboring community for the rooster. They will check with the current owner of the rooster and the possible new owner to see if a relocation is possible. The Mayor

pointed out that if the rooster cannot be relocated, the Village Code prohibits the rooster in a residential area and the rooster will have to go. The deadline is February 22nd.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$52,699.52 from the following listed funds:

FY 09-10 General Fund	\$ 25,511.84
Water Fund	\$ 5,069.00
Sewer Fund	\$ 19,047.58
Capital Fund	\$ 3,071.10

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor voiced his concern over recent vending or peddling activity that he has seen on the sidewalks near the middle of Main Street. He will ask the Chief to check our codes for any possible violations and hopefully deter this type of activity.

The Mayor reported that he and Supervisor Magryta are working together to try and bring a Stop & Shop or Foodtown to Highland Falls. He commented that the owner of Key Food has said his business is for sale.

The Mayor received a response from West Point in reference to his request for a land giveback for a possible Senior Citizen Center. The letter was a positive response in that it will go before the necessary committees to review before any decisions are made.

Trustee McCormick asked if the Police Chief could relay a concern that people are parking too close to the corners at the end of streets making visibility an issue. He also recommended that the Village Board look into removing any codes that allow lodgers. The Mayor agreed and said this would be looked at during the moratorium on changing single family homes into two-family or more.

Trustee Gunza asked when the snowflakes might be coming down. Understanding that manpower is short, the concern is about the electricity being used. Trustee Gunza also asked if the local law on no dogs in certain parks was being amended to include Roe Park. Trustee Gunza said her main concern is for the safety of the children in the parks not the dogs having a place to roam. The Mayor and Trustee McCormick both agreed that the leash law should be enforced. They were not in favor of amending the local law now.

Discussion was held on the communications department. Trustee Gunza asked if there would be time to make any changes before a new budget would have to be implemented. Mayor D'Onofrio commented that this would all be discussed during budget talks. Trustee DiSalvo said he spoke to someone to discuss communications who was independent of our situation. He would like an independent opinion on whether 911 is really working in the Town. He would have more information for the budget talks. Trustee DiSalvo said there would be time to implement any changes if any are necessary.

Trustee McCormick mentioned that the Town said they pay somewhere around \$30,000 for dispatching through the county. He would like to make sure that is paid out of the Part Town budget and not the general fund in which the Village taxpayer participates.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that during budget sessions all these things will be discussed. He has told the Treasurer to tell the Department Heads to back into their budgets for next year. They need to take into account that retirement, health insurance and worker's compensation insurance will all go up and budget accordingly. The Mayor said all efforts will be made to keep the tax rate down.

Village resident, Kathy Keane, 4 Cooks Lane, offered a suggestion to the Board for increasing revenue. She suggested that the Village look into leasing some Village property to a communications company to install a cell-tower on. The Mayor thanked her for her suggestion and commented that the Village doesn't have much property to work with, however, it is something they are looking into.

Trustee DiSalvo made a motion to enter executive session to discuss particular employees. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried. The Board entered executive session at 6:50 P.M.

Trustee Brown motioned to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza. The regular meeting reconvened at 7:15 P.M.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported to the Village Board that the application for grant funds that they are looking to do jointly with the Town has a February 24th deadline and that a project must be decided on. The recommendation is to extended sewer lines from FT. Montgomery to the Village's sewer plant, which would alleviate the over capacity situation in the Town and allow the Village to take on more users, thereby helping to increase revenues for the Village.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned that the joint grant application be filed with the project being to extend sewer lines from Fort Montgomery to the Village's sewer plant.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 7:25pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk