

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

November 1, 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 November 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 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> Asst. Chief, John Rush  
Police Chief, Peter Miller  
Village Residents, - Ray Deveraux- 20 Ondaora Pkwy., Sheri LaFurge –Mountain Ave., Mr & Mrs. Milsom-105 Center Street, Dr. Nancy Beeman, DVM 63 Old State Rd (7:10pm)

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

a) Regular Meeting – October 18, 2010

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A Public Hearing, as duly advertised, was opened at 7:01P.M. for the purpose of receiving public comment to consider adoption of Introductory Local Law entitled “Amendment to Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Parks.” Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the original Notice of Hearing, Affidavit of Posting, Affidavit of Publication have been presented before the Board and are ordered to be filed. The Mayor stated that this law would amend the current law “Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Parks” by inserting Center Street Park in front of Ladycliff Park and Memorial Park.

No public comment was made.

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried. The public hearing closed at 7:02pm.

Trustee Brown motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls  
Resolution of Adoption  
Local Law No. 2 of 2010  
“Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Parks”

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

  5   Ayes        0   Noes

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

The Mayor pointed out that the since the local law of “Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Parks” has been amended to include Center Street Park, then the law governing Parks (chapter 146; section 146-4) also needs to be amended to reflect this change.

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

Resolution Introducing Local Law  
And Providing for Public Notice and Hearing

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

  5   Ayes        0   Noes

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

Dr. Nancy Beeman arrived after the local law "Amendment to Dogs in Certain Public Parks" was adopted. She stated that as a Veterinarian, she does not agree with laws that prevent animals from entering Parks. She first questioned the Board if they have seen an improvement because of this law. She then stated that she believes these laws are a result of emotional responses, not practical ones. Dr. Beeman suggested that a better eye be kept on the Parks to see if these laws are doing any good. She believes this only allows those who do not abide by the laws, to continue not abiding, but penalizes responsible dog owners from enjoying a walk in the Park with their dog.

The Mayor responded that he does believe he has seen an improvement in Ladycliff Park and especially in Memorial Park. He agreed that this is a tough problem because it is hard to enforce these rules, however, something has to be done to try and make it best for everyone. He also stated that by improving Parks, it does cause some people to look after them better, but agreed that making these laws does not guarantee people will stop bringing their dogs into the Parks.

Trustee Brown motioned to table the Introduction of Local Law entitled "Repair and Maintenance of Sewer Laterals" until the Board meeting of November 15<sup>th</sup>.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

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

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

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

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

Resolution  
General Village Election

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried. ( A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee Gunza motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls  
Resolution Requesting Real Property Tax Exemption  
Of The Village Owned Water Supply Property

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

  5   Ayes   0   Noes

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

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the Mayor signing a consent form for the contractor awarded the drainage job on Laurel Lane, acknowledging that by working on Village property, in close proximity to private property, the contractor may have to enter private property during the completion of the job and both parties are aware of this situation.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to table the discussion on the memo sent by the Village Attorney regarding the 9W Zoning issue.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to accept the quote of \$1648.90 from Ashcraft's Lock and Hardward to install emergency panic bars on the lobby door in Village Hall and the entrance door for the Historical Society, in order that the Village Hall comply with the recent Fire Inspection report completed by the Building Department.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to promote Police Officer Ken Scott to Sergeant at the current salary of \$74,295( pending negotiations of the PBA contract), with the maximum probationary period of 26 weeks, effective November 1, 2010.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$140,360.46 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$31,921.47
Section 8	\$59,074.05
Water Fund	\$ 9,127.85
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,789.29
Capital Fund	\$32,447.80

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported to the Board that in the interest of intermunicipal cooperation, he asked the Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce, to get in touch with the School District's interm Superintendent of Roads and Grounds, to discuss a situation they are having with a vehicle to see if the Village could assist in some way and also to see if there is some way for the fuel expenses to be shared.

The Mayor also reported that he had spoken to the Village Engineer and asked him to contact Argenio Brothers, the contractor hired to do the street paving, and discuss not starting the job until first thing in the spring.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that he had met with some young people on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Center Street Park to discuss improvements that might be possible. He reported that he explained the size of the Park and Federal and State regulations on requirements for Parks, makes it difficult when you are looking at a Park the size of Center Street. He said he did give them a catalogue of playground equipment to look at.

Mr. Milsom, Center St, responded that the kids are hanging out, after dark in Center Street Park, and kids are abusing the equipment in it and allowing dogs to pee and run free in it. Mr. Milsom commented that to fix up the Park so the kids could destroy it is ridiculous. He said he sees kids unsupervised and destructive in the park.

The Mayor asked Mr. Milsom what should the Board do, just let it go? Mr. Milsom suggested a camera in the area and for more Police patrols and action when they do see something happening. He would like the Police to enforce the law of dusk to dawn, Park is closed.

Chief Miller commented that a security camera will be installed shortly, on the Center Street/Schneider Avenue corner, hopefully with 10 days to 2 weeks.

Trustee McCormick reported that the Water Department is almost finished with the painting of the hydrants. The reservoir is approximately 75% full. Trustee McCormick stated that he does not support the request from Mr. McElroy to sell that portion of Highland Street which is in front of his property. Trustee McCormick also reported that he would like to see the Village and Town get together to discuss some issues, such as, the Village possibly taking over the Town wastewater system, the use of Roe Park by the Townwide Recreation, and he stated that he would like to see the Department Heads come to a least one of the meetings during the month.

Mayor D'Onofrio responded to Trustee McCormick and said he has asked the Town Supervisor for information regarding various issues, some of which Trustee McCormick has mentioned. The Mayor said he gave the Supervisor information that the Supervisor requested in regard to Roe Park Pool expenses and Roe Park maintenance expenses, early on in October, and the Supervisor has yet to respond. The Mayor said he spoke with Councilman Livsey and said the Village was not interested in joining with the Town's communication system, if the Village is looking at the 911 system. The Mayor said he told the Supervisor that the Village is not interested in lowering water rates for the Town or joining with a Part Time Police department. The Mayor said the Supervisor showed him a proposal for a computer system that would keep track of fuel accounts that possibly would allow the municipalities to share fuel costs. The Mayor said he told the Supervisor, the Village has done upgrades to our fuel system, according to DEC requirements and we don't need to share in the cost of a new one.

Trustee Gunza commented that the Town should be reminded that the Village is a part of the Town and should get back to them when questions are asked or information is needed.

Trustee McCormick motioned to have a letter sent to the Orange County Department of Emergency Services, that authorizes Police Chief Miller or Sergeant Lavelle to sign DWI contracts.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Mr. Ray Deveraux addressed the Village Board and asked if they might consider televising their meetings like the Town does. He said that an answer was not needed immediately, however, by the next meeting, perhaps they could respond to his question.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss a particular employee.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 7:55pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:15pm

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

The meeting closed at 8:15pm.

---

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk