

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

October 18, 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 October 18, 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 (6:40pm)
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee June L. Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Fire Chief, Erik Smith
2nd Asst. Chief, John Rush
Village Residents, Sheri LaFurge –Mountain Ave., Aaron Falk-82 Mearns Ave
Debbie Gonzales – 3 Center St , Ruby Alexander – 21 Prospect St.

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

a) Regular Meeting – October 4, 2010

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

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

The Building Department Report for September 2010 was presented to the Board for review.

The Mayor introduced the Local Law “Amendment to Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Places” He explained that the law currently on the books would be amended to include Center Street Park.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution Introducing Local Law
And Providing for Public Notice and Hearing
“Amendment to Dogs Prohibited in Certain Public Places”

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent

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

Trustee McCormick motioned to table the discussion on the quotes for the replacement of three (3) fire hydrants.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the appointment of Mrs. Margaret Lewis to the position of part time account clerk at a salary of \$20.00/hr and an effective start date of October 28, 2010, based on the recommendation of the Village Treasurer and Village Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the appointment of Jakobus Shel as a Junior Member of the Highland Falls Fire Department effective October 18, 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 \$66,019.87 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$21,902.91
Water Fund	\$1,317.51
Sewer Fund	\$25,699.38
Capital Fund	\$17,100.07

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Mayor followed up to the discussion on the Child Safety Zone by explaining that the Village Attorney has advised the Village Board that State Laws are in place to address the problem of registered sex offenders who reside in any community. The Attorney advised the Village that other municipalities who have passed local laws regarding this situation have had these laws challenged and invalidated because of the State Laws.

Ms. Sheri Lafurge responded that she disagreed with the Attorney and said the laws apply only to those under parole or probation and she would still like the Village to adopt a more stringent local law to deal with registered sex offenders living in too close proximity to local school playgrounds.

The Mayor responded to Ms. Lafurge that the Board is not against the Child Safety Zone, but insisted that the Attorney has strongly advised the Village that State Laws deal with this issue. He reported that he would again approach the Village Attorney, but also recommended to Ms. Lafurge that she speak with our local law enforcement officers to get clarification on any laws that pertain to this situation.

Ms. Lafurge also asked the Board if they could look into doing something of a community outreach regarding bullying in schools and online. She said the school board was looking into educational programs to address this situation and she wondered if the Village Board would also do something.

The Mayor replied that this is something the schools are doing because it relates to the schools.

The Mayor reported to the Board that Orange County Department of Planning has applications available to municipalities who wish to apply for energy audits to be conducted. Trustee Gunza responded that she would like the Village Engineer to take a look at the application and make any recommendations to the Board.

The Mayor reported that he would like the Village Code to be updated in regard to the Wastewater Policy for homeowners when a problem arises in the sewer laterals. The Clerk will speak to the Attorney about drafting a law that might be introduced at the next Village Board meeting.

Trustee McCormick thanked everyone for their concern while he was out for a couple of weeks. He reported that he and Mr. Hurst, Chief Water Plant Operator, inspected the Bog Meadow areas that were cleaned up and everything looks great. He also said he has looked at the 9W holding area and it is half filled with silt and the Village needs to think about what it might want to do there. Trustee McCormick stated that he saw the Contractor that was working on the USAA project working on October 11th when clearly the contract called for work to start on the 12th. He said he would like to see contracts honored. He reported that he is also concerned that the Wastewater Treatment Plant's roof is leaking and asked if anything is being done to look at this.

Trustee DiSalvo reported that the Chief gave the Board a memo regarding the parking meters and a report that of the 181 meters, approximately 40 are inoperable. Trustee DiSalvo said he would like to contact with the vendor recommended by the Chief and get someone here to evaluate the situation. The Board agreed with Trustee DiSalvo.

Aaron Falk asked the Board if anything could be done to control loose dogs and the Mayor responded that there are laws on the books for this and he should contact the Police Department when he encounters this problem. Mr. Falk also asked if the Board was looking to do upgrades to the Center Street Park which was mentioned at the meeting in the Church held a few weeks ago by the Mayor and Trustee Brown. The Mayor responded that the first thing being done is the amended local law to include Center Street as one of the parks that prohibit dogs. The Mayor agreed that the park needs a facelift, however, new regulations regarding parks and equipment make it problematic as to what can go in that park because of its small size. The Mayor suggested to Mr. Falk that he provide some suggestions and that over the winter the Board could look into how to improve conditions in the spring.

Mrs. Ruby Alexander asked the Board if they could look at the property above hers because it appears to be causing drainage problems on her property. She said it appears to be created above her where that old road is closed off. The Mayor responded that the old road is actually Highland Street. This Street has not been maintained or used by the Village for many years. The Mayor asked the Board to meet at the location on Wednesday, October 20th to look at the situation.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss a particular employee. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 6:40pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 7:15pm.

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

The meeting closed at 7:15 pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk