

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

April 15, 2010

A special 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 April 15, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 5:30 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
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters

The Mayor asked the Board to review a memo that Chief Miller submitted regarding the completion of probation for Officer Adam Bruce. No action taken at this time.

A scope of work for the reconstruction of the Cozzens Avenue wall was submitted by the Village Engineer for Board approval.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the scope of work submitted by the Village Engineer and to have the invitation to bid published in the next edition of the News of the Highlands.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to authorize the Mayor to sign the Settlement Agreement for Officer John Might. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza reported that she had spoken to Nancy Koslowski, from Big Brothers Big Sisters and was assured that the funds the Village provides the program are used for the mentoring of approximately 38 local children. The Village budget of \$8,000, and the county money of approximately \$2,000, that the Village defers to the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization, is used to help cover training costs for the school based mentoring program. The \$8,000 will remain in the 2010-2011 budget.

Discussion was held on contracting for grass cutting in the Village. Estimates the Mayor received a couple years ago came in around \$13,000. The Mayor suggested hiring one or two part time employees to strictly cut grass. The Board would like current estimates and to consider contracting out. The Treasurer reported he has money in the tentative budget that could be designated for a contractor to cut grass, if that is the direction the Board decides to go. Trustee DiSalvo will follow-up on getting a more detailed description of what areas need to be included in the estimates.

The Mayor suggested that Police overtime could be cut down by hiring a court officer to handle vehicle and traffic court. Trustee DiSalvo will ask Chief Miller for an approximation of how much overtime is related to court. The Treasurer suggested that a separate line in the attorney code be set up for this court officer. The Mayor will remind the Chief that his budget does include for a new hire, however, it is at a step one level for salary.

The Mayor confirmed with the Board that the painting of the water tanks will have to be bonded. This is not an item to be include in the budget.

Some discussion was held on the truck room rental at the Fire Department. Trustee DiSalvo and Trustee Brown have been trying to negotiate with the Fire Department and so far no amount has been settled on. The Village Board gave some recommendations for the committee to bring back to the Fire Department representatives. No action taken at this time.

The Mayor asked the Board to consider the Village buying a camera that would be used by the water, sewer and street departments when issues involving broken or clogged lines arise. He said an estimated cost for such a camera is \$15,000. Trustee McCormick said the Village needs to look at its return on investment. No action taken at this time.

Discussion was held on using the unexpected revenue from the municipal impact agreement to purchase the police vehicle and remove that amount from the budget. Discussion was held on using some of that revenue to increase the reserve fund for another vehicle in the general fund. The Treasurer suggested leaving that revenue to flow into the surplus for this year. He suggests that the police vehicle can remain in the budget and he has some room to increase the reserve for a vehicle by another \$10,000.

The Treasurer will increase A9901.0900 from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to include a reserve for a Police Vehicle.

Discussion was held on the position of Code Enforcement Officer. Trustee DiSalvo said talks with the Town to hire a part time code enforcement officer are going well, however, he recommends that the position be funded for at least six months, since the Town Budget runs on a calendar year.

Trustee McCormick reported that he would like to see the Village seal the streets. He said if maintenance is not being done on the paved streets, it is a waste of money. He recommends the streets be repaired by tar and chip.

The Mayor updated the Board on his meeting with representatives from Central Hudson and according to Central Hudson, the streets were repaired as directed by the Village. The Mayor assured the Board that Central Hudson would correct any problems.

The Treasurer reported that after talking with the Clerk it appears the sewer pump project will not be completed until after June 1, 2010. The borrowing for the project will not take place before June 1 therefore he can remove the amount set aside for repayment of the debt out of the 2010-2011 budget.

The Treasurer will decrease G9730.0650 \$30,000. and decrease G9730.0750 \$3,750.00.

The Treasurer concluded that after this evening's discussions the following changes to the Tentative Budget will be made and the tax rate will show no increase from last year:

Decrease A3410.0410 \$5,000.

Decrease A3620.0100 \$8,835.

Decrease A3120.0100 \$6,000.

Increase A7110.0400 \$13,835

There were no changes to the water or sewer rates at this time. The Mayor set a meeting for April 29th at 6:00pm at which time the Board is expected to adopt the budget.

Trustee Gunza made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7:00 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk