

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

April 5, 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 5, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:30 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
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Police Chief Peter Miller
Fire Captain, John Rush (6:49pm)
Fire Chief, William Lee (7:00pm)
Resident – Jean Sharp – 11 Homestead Ave., Tim Doherty –32 Roe Ave (6:40pm), Fred Brennan- 28 Lake Street (6:45pm)

A Public Hearing as duly advertised for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on the Village Budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 was opened by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:30 P.M.

The Notice of Hearing of the Tentative Budget, as duly advertised, is appended to these minutes. The Mayor commented that the Tentative Budget, as it stands, is at a 2% increase over the 2009-2010 budget. The Mayor turned the presentation of the budget over to the Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters.

The Tentative General Fund Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$4,095,887.00 was read by function. The tentative tax rate is \$15.38 per thousand.

The Tentative Water Fund Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$723,127 was read by function. There is no increase in water rates at this time.

The Sewer Fund Budget for FY 2010-2011 in the amount of \$959,237.00 was read by function. There is no increase in sewer rates at this time.

The Treasurer reported that right now the budget shows an increase of 2% over last year's budget. He pointed out that this budget has a new line in each fund set up for reserve funds for vehicles. This is the first time the Board has set aside funds for future vehicle purchases. He also informed the Board that the Street Maintenance Salary line shows an increase due to the fact that he has consolidated all DPW employees into this code. He continued to explain that this will make payroll processing easier.

Jean Sharp asked a couple of questions. -1. how many people are in the Clerk's salary line and 2. is there any money set aside in this budget for street paving projects? The Treasurer responded that two employees are in the Clerk's line and that there is no money set aside in the budget for any street paving projects.

Trustee McCormick asked if any information had been received regarding the \$8,000 currently budgeted in the General Fund for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. No one responded, therefore the \$8,000 remains in the General Fund budget.

Upon reading the benefits line in the General Fund, Trustee Gunza commented that this is one area the Board really needs to consider during negotiations of any union contracts, before agreeing to anything.

The Mayor pointed out to the public that the budget must be adopted by May 1, 2010. He also set a budget workshop for April 15th at 5:30pm to hopefully finalize any items the Board would like add or subtract from the Tentative Budget presented. The Mayor said he is hopeful that the 2% could possibly be reduced even more.

No further questions or comments from the public, the public hearing closed at 6:48pm on a motion from Trustee McCormick, seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The next order of business was the Annual Reorganization of the Village of Highland Falls.

Mayor D'Onofrio made the following appointments: (see attached).

Trustee Gunza asked the Mayor why she has only been afforded the opportunity to be Building Commissioner since 2005 when she first came on the Board. Trustee Gunza commented that other Board members have been given the chance to be commissioner for different departments and hold more than one appointment, yet she has not. Trustee Gunza said she felt the Mayor was discriminating in his appointments.

The Mayor responded by stating that even though the Trustees are assigned to one department, he knows that every Trustee has made it a point to be involved in the other departments as well. The Mayor stated that the appointments are what he wants.

The Reorganization of the Village ended at 7:00pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk