

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
January 27, 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 January 27, 2010.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 5:00P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee June Gunza
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Member Absent was:

Trustee James DiSalvo

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Chief WWTP Operator, John Jones
Heavy Equipment Operator, James Patterson

The Mayor opened the meeting stating that the Newspaper had been notified of the meeting and that notices were posted around the Village and on the Clerk's bulletin board.

The first order of business was to set up interviews for the open positions in the DPW and the Wastewater Treatment Plant. A tentative date was set for February 4th and the Mayor asked the Board members to confirm the date with the Village Clerk and, if everyone is available, then the Clerk will make the necessary contacts to set up the interviews.

Discussion was held on the rezoning of Mrs. Fatsis' property on 9W. Trustee McCormick would like to see a buffer zone between the property and Mearns Avenue located below Fatsis' property. The Mayor responded that he will check with Mr. Konstantinos Fatsis, (Mrs. Fatsis's attorney) to clarify the exact rezoning that is being requested.

Discussion was held on Mr. Podias's request for his Planning Board Application fee of \$300.00 to be returned because it was determined by the Building Department that he did not need a site plan review for the change of use application because the property had always been a two-family house and the tax records erroneously listed it as single family. The Village Planning Board recommended that the application fee be returned. The Village Board agreed that the application fee be returned and any escrow money left in his account after attorney and engineering fees have been paid.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to return Mr. Podias' application fee of \$300.00 and remaining balance of his escrow account after expenses have been paid.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on a Multi-Modal Funding of \$5,000 that the Village was given a few years ago to replace the sidewalk on School Street. The Mayor reported that paperwork to initiate a project was not done because the Village was waiting for the School Street Bridge to be replaced by the Town. The Mayor reported that the Village does not have additional funds to cover the cost for the entire replacement of curb & sidewalk on School Street. Gary Boyce, Street Superintendent, reported to the Board that he has money in CHIPS that could help in the cost of the curb & sidewalk replacement. The Mayor responded that if the job could be done using the \$5,000 along with CHIPS money, and it's under \$30,000, then he said we should put the application in for the \$5,000. He also reminded the Board that this money, although awarded to the Village a few years ago, is not reimbursable to the Village until the application is approved by the NYSDOT as a viable project and this approval could take some time.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza to complete the application process for the Multi-Modal Funding and submit the necessary papers to the NYSDOT for approval.

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown asked the Mayor if there is anything for the Village to do regarding the situation on Mountain Ave and Mr. Livsey's property. The Mayor responded that the Village has not received any information or proof that the Village has any responsibility there. The Board asked the Clerk to follow up with the Village Attorney on the FOIL request to the NYSDOT.

The Mayor reported that he will set up a meeting with the Village Planning Board, Building Department and Village Board to discuss the moratorium that is in place in regard to turning single family homes into two family or more and apartments.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to enter into executive session to discuss a particular employee. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 5:26pm.

The special meeting reconvened at 5:45pm. A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to authorize the Mayor to sign the Settlement Agreement with Officer John Might. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and put to a roll call vote the results which follow: 4 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent , motion carried.

Discussion was held on the Village going with the county 9-1-1 system. The Mayor stated he is not willing to sacrifice safety for money. He wants to make sure the system is working first. Trustee McCormick said the Village should be making sure that Village residents are not paying for the Town's use of the 9-1-1 system. Trustee Gunza pointed out that dispatching is a very big expense in the Village budget and with budget talks coming up, she would like to see the Village explore the 9-1-1 system extensively before a budget is decided. The Mayor reported that he is setting up a meeting with knowledgeable people, close to this situation to have many of the questions answered. There was no action taken by the Board at this time.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mayor D'Onofrio and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 6:00 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk