

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

April 4, 2011

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 March 7, 2011.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:40 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 Sargent, Ken Scott
Fire Captain, John Rush
Fire Chief, Erik Smith
Village Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
WWTP Operator, John Jones
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus
Approximately 20 community residents

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

a) Regular Meeting – March 21, 2011

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Police Department Report for March 2011 was presented to the Board for review.

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to approve Sgt. Scott to sign Stop-DWI enforcement contracts for the calendar year 2011.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Fire Department Report for March 2011 was presented to the Board for review.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the Fire Chief's request to take E428 to the Orange County Fire Training Center on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 for department training. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve the Fire Chief's request to take R430, Car 1 and the Decon Trailer to the Hudson Valley Parade in Lake George, NY from June 15-19. The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Fire Chief's request to take Car 1 to the NYS Association of Chief's Convention in Verona, NY, one day, June 15, 16, 17 or 18. The motion was seconded by Trustee Gunza and unanimously carried.

The Building Department Report for March 2011 was presented to the Board for review.

The Building Inspector reported, in a memo to the Board, that 109 Center Street has had limited activity by a contractor working for the bank to remedy the notice of violation sent March 18th. The Building Inspector gave the Board some suggestions on how to proceed and asked the Board to let the department know what it wants them to do.

The Mayor asked the Board members to review this memo and think about how they would like to proceed.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
2010-2011 Budget Amendment

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint Margaret Lewis a full time account clerk in Village Hall, effective April 14th at a salary of \$20.00/hr.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza motioned to approve the application for street excavation from Cal Mart Enterprises, Inc. , to install water for the USAA Financial Center at 529 Main Street, upon receipt of the necessary cash deposit or line of credit, as determined by the Village, and provided by the contractor before excavation begins.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee McCormick motioned the following:

Resolution to Relevy
Unpaid Water Bills
May & November 2010

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

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$105,719.08 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$32,860.74
Section 8	\$56,460.00
Water Fund	\$ 4,450.11
Sewer Fund	\$11,948.23

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Mayor reported that starting April 8th there will be some changes to the Sanitation schedule and that all recyclables will be picked up Monday's for Highland Falls residents, beginning on April 11th , but separate containers are needed for plastics and cardboard/paper. He also noted that Building Department will be expanding their hours of operation to 7:30am to 4:30pm.

The Mayor reported to the Board that some community development money could be available to do some work in Center Street Park and provide some trees for that portion of Main Street that lies in the "target area", but that the Village Attorney should verify the Community Development agreement with the State first. Any money that is spent would have to first go through a Public Hearing.

The Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus requested the Board consider escrow money be received for any curb cut applications, especially those that involve a state road, ie Mountain Ave or Main Street. Mr. Gary Boyce, Street Superintendent, reminded Mr. Ramus that no one can approve curb cuts that deal with State roads, they must be referred to the State DOT.

Trustee Gunza reported that the Village facilities would be undergoing an Energy Audit through Orange & Rockland, at no cost to the Village, on April 15th at 10:00am and invited any Board member to tag along if they wanted to.

Trustee DiSalvo reported that a letter had been sent to the Town Supervisor and Town Board to invite discussion on the Police Department, Water & Sewer Departments and possible ways to save on costs.

Trustee McCormick read the Water Department's report for the month, expressed his desire to set up a meeting up with Scenic Hudson to see if they are interested in a specific property in the Village; would like to see Dispatch reduced 50% and reiterated the need for crack sealing on Main Street.

Laura Milsom, 105 Center Street, addressed the Board regarding comments made during the Tentative Budget hearing. She wanted to clarify her position that the petition she is passing around is not to dissolve the Village, but to bring the issue to a vote.

James Ramus, 29 Liberty Street, asked questions regarding costs involved with a vote and other costs associated with a dissolution, ie, legal documents that might need to be changed to reflect changes, and how much the actual savings will be.

Trustee McCormick responded that only a few dollars might be saved, the debt will stay with Village residents.

Trustee Brown responded that residents need to be educated on what dissolution means and the process that is necessary if it is to be considered.

James Titolo, 95 Mountain Ave, asked if a vote for dissolution is positive, and fees must be assigned to perform studies on how to proceed, why should only Village residents pay? And how much will it cost?

Ben Daniels, 427 Main Street, responded that he recently saw where a Town was dissolved into a Village and we should consider that because the Village has a larger population than the Town outside the Village.

The Mayor responded that there would be costs associated with having to hold an election and so far no petition has formally been introduced.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss PBA Contract negotiations and specific employees.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:25pm. The regular meeting reconvened at 9:15pm.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint David Hurst a WWTP Operator, effective June 1st, pending license documentation being turned into the Village Clerk.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 9:16pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk