

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

January 3, 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 January 3, 2011.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:00 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
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Police Sergeant – Ken Scott
Village Residents, - Ray Deveraux- 20 Ondaora Pkwy., Ms. Sherri Lafurge-
Mountain Ave. Mr. Konstantinos Fatsis- 2 Mountain Ave., Tim Doherty – 32 Roe
Ave., Marilyn Guzman -15 South St., Tony Galu – 14 Cedar Lane

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

a) Regular Meeting – December 6, 2010

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A Public Hearing, as duly advertised, was opened at 7:01P.M. for the purpose of receiving public comment to consider adoption of Introductory Local Law entitled “Amendment to the Zoning Law and Map/Split lots.” Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the original Notice of Hearing, Affidavit of Posting, Affidavit of Publication have been presented before the Board and are ordered to be filed. The Mayor stated that this law would re-zone a portion of tax lot 111-1-15.4, from Highway Commercial to Single-family residential, and addresses dimensional requirements for lots that are split between zoning districts.

Mr. Galu asked where this property is located. The Mayor responded that the property affected is the Pointer's Echo Motel, located on 9W, and pointed it out on the zoning map. The Mayor commented that the law will allow for that portion that is residential to be used in the acreage needed for any commercial development that might occur in the future along the 9W portion of the property. No further comments or questions asked, Trustee McCormick motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded Trustee Brown and unanimously carried. The public hearing closed at 7:03pm.

Trustee Gunza motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Resolution of Adoption
Amendment to the Zoning Law and Map/Split Lots

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

 5 Ayes 0 Noes

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

The Police Department Report for December 2010 was presented to the Board for review. Trustee Gunza thanked Sgt Scott for providing additional information with the report.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the resignation of Part-time Dispatcher, John O'Dell, effective November 29, 2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Building Department Report for December 2010 was presented to the Board for review. Mr. Doherty asked if the Building Department was made aware of the boarded up windows on the building located at the corner of Mountain Ave. and Main St. Mr. Doherty commented that this creates a visual problem for vehicles waiting to enter Main St. from Mountain Ave. Mr. Fatsis, owner of the building, commented that bids are out for repairing the windows. Mr. Fatsis added that the problem might still exist when the windows get replaced and blinds are put in the windows.

Discussion was held on the request from USAA to install 2 exterior light fixtures around the ATM located in the temporary space in municipal parking lot#2 that USAA is leasing. USAA explained that the banking industry requires this lighting for safety and security reasons. They are willing to leave the lights, if the Village thinks it will be beneficial, when they vacate the space, or have them removed.

Trustee McCormick motioned to approve the request from USAA to install 2 exterior light fixtures around the ATM located in the leased space in municipal parking lot#2, for safety and security reasons, as required by the banking industry.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Gunza that all Village employees who are required to attend Public Employee Safety and Health (PEOSH) training seminars be authorized to do so in the calendar year 2011.

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

5 Ayes 0 Noes

motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to move the next Village Board meeting to Tuesday, January 18th at 7:00pm due to the Martin Luther King Holiday on Monday, January 17th.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for \$142,309.62 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$99,284.21
Capital Fund	\$ 9,747.50
Water Fund	\$12,710.22
Sewer Fund	\$20,567.69

The motion was seconded by Trustee McCormick and unanimously carried.

The Mayor updated the Board on the following matters:

The report on the water meters located on South Post that the Village requested be calibrated indicated that 3 out of 5 meters were not working properly. West Point responded that they would replace and calibrate these meters.

The DPWEA contract expires on May 31, 2011 and the Mayor has named Trustee Gunza and Trustee DiSalvo to be the negotiating team from the Village.

The engineer reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant roof repair job will go out to bid very soon.

The Landlord Registry program, administered through the Town Building Department, is going well. Most landlords are complying without issue.

The Town is moving forward with the revaluation of properties. The Town has joined with other municipalities to fight a rate increase proposed by Orange and Rockland, and the funding will probably come from the townwide A fund, so the Mayor commented that he will ask the Town Supervisor if this means the Village is also included.

There is over \$9,000.00 in unpaid parking tickets from local residents alone and over \$10,000.00 from people outside the community. The Mayor would like the Police Department to send reminder letters to these people and hopefully recover this money. The Village Board agreed.

The Mayor reminded the Board members to visit Highland Street after the snow clears so they can discuss how the Board would like to proceed with Mr. McElroy's request to purchase a portion of it.

There is a retaining wall on Mountain Avenue that the State DOT will replace this year. It is not easily seen from the road, but it holds the road up and is located across from the Mountain Ave./Kleitiz Ave. intersection.

The Mayor reported that Local Law 01-2010, Moratorium Conversion of One and Two Family Homes, is expired and would like to extend the law for an additional three months, as provided for in the local law. The Mayor commented that during this extension, he would like the Village Board and the Planning Board to meet and discuss the matter.

Trustee McCormick motioned to extend the Moratorium Conversion of One and Two Family Homes, for three months, as provided for in the local law 01-2010. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Gunza commented that she would like to see the Village move forward with the local law regarding the repair of sewer laterals and would like to see it introduced at the next meeting. Trustee McCormick commented that he approves of the law eliminating property owners from digging in Village

Streets. The Mayor pointed out to the Trustees that a draft law is in their boxes and if they have any comments or changes, to give them to the Clerk so it can be readied for introduction at the next meeting.

Trustee McCormick suggested a committee be formed to discuss the health insurance benefits that the Village currently provides and make recommendations on how to manage the costs. He suggested the Village Treasurer, a Trustee, a union member and taxpayer be part of the committee. Trustee McCormick also commented that he would like to have a meeting with all employees to explain exactly what the benefits are to Village employees. The Mayor did not object, however, he explained to Trustee McCormick that he would not like this to interfere with contract negotiations.

Trustee McCormick commented that the digester and the electric in the Wastewater Treatment Plant are still in need of upgrades. The Mayor responded that a meeting with the Village Engineer will be held very soon.

Trustee McCormick commented that he would like to have meetings set up with Town Board members to discuss common areas, ie, planning, water, sewer, recreation, to see if savings could be realized.

Mr. Ray Deveraux asked if there had been any follow-up with the school district in regard to televising Village Board meetings. The Mayor responded that there is no update on that matter.

Ms. Marilyn Guzman asked the Board to look into the intersection of Tobins Lane and Main Street. She reports it to be a dangerous intersection for pedestrians crossing Main Street and cars exiting Tobins Lane onto Main Street. She pointed out that in 2009, while crossing Main Street, she herself had been struck by a car exiting Tobins Lane onto Main Street. She recommended that the parking space on the north side of Tobins be removed, since it creates a visibility problem.

Mayor D'Onofrio agreed that it is a dangerous intersection and he will have Police Sergeant Scott investigate the matter and provide recommendations to the Village Board.

Ms. Guzman also pointed out that along Main Street, there are 5 crosswalks that meet sidewalks with no curb cuts and that makes it difficult for people with walkers or canes to easily access the sidewalks.

Mayor D'Onofrio responded that this matter will be addressed in the Spring.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss union contract negotiations and particular employees.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 7:35pm.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:30pm.

Trustee McCormick motioned to release Mr. Anthony Daugherty as a part time laborer with the Village, effective January 19, 2011, under Orange County Civil Service Rules and Regulations, section XV, Probationary Term.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A note from Mr. Ken Hall, 24 Village Parkway, requesting reimbursement of camera costs of \$550.00 incurred while investigating a sewer problem was discussed by the Board.

Trustee McCormick motioned to deny the request from Mr. Hall for reimbursement of \$550.00 incurred during the investigation of a sewer problem.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk