

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

April 23, 2012

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 23, 2012.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:00 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Patrick Flynn
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Police Officer in Charge, Sergeant Ken Scott
Police Sgt. James Lavelle
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones
Village Street Superintendent, Pat Patterson
Chief Water Plant Operator, Kevin Hurst
Head Dispatcher, Gina Borra
TOH Ambulance Captain, Bill Stroppel
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Approximately – fifteen interested General Public

The purpose of this meeting was a 2012-2013 Budget Workshop. The Mayor opened the meeting and set a meeting for Monday, April 30, 2012 at 6:00pm to adopt the budget. The Mayor also thanked everyone involved with the refinancing of the bonds for the Village and stated the savings will be over \$391,000.00.

A discussion was held regarding water rates. The Treasurer recommended at least a 5% increase in the rate for gallons used over 5000. Trustee Flynn recommended an 8% increase. Trustee DiSalvo recommended to increase the base rate from \$78.80 to \$90.00 for the first 5000 gallons so that all customers contribute to the increase. Trustee Flynn asked if there should be a combination of at least 5% to the base amount and the additional amount.

Trustee McCormick motioned to increase by 8% the amount paid on the additional gallons over 5000, from \$3.97 to \$4.29 and that the town rates increase according to the water agreement.

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

4 Ayes 1 Nay (DiSalvo)

motion carried.

The Treasurer reported that as of the last budget meeting some adjustments made included the following:

Decrease F9710.0610 1975 Bond Prin.	\$20,000
Decrease F9741.0710 1975 Bond Int.	\$2,500
Decrease F8310.0400 Water Admin	\$18,000
Decrease F2140.0000 Metered Sales	\$18,000
Decrease F5990 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$22,500
Decrease G8110.04 Sanitation Admin	\$18,000
Decrease G5990 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$18,000
Decrease A2801 Interfund Revenue	\$36,000
Increase A5990 Appropriated Fund Balance	\$36,000

A discussion was held on the E911 system. Trustee McCormick asked if all information was sent to Mr. Allen Wierzbicki, Orange County 911 Coordinator. Sgt. Scott confirmed that all information was sent. The Mayor reported that Mr. Wierzbicki has all the information he needs and that Mr. Wierzbicki would make a determination from this information if more personnel would be needed in order for the Village to become a part of their system. The Mayor clarified that if more personnel were needed, then the County Executive would have to be informed and the Mayor would need to negotiate with the County Executive for how much it would cost the Village.

The Mayor also asked the Trustees to review the document Sgt. Scott prepared regarding the pros & cons of going to the County E911 system. Trustee DiSalvo recommended that Sgt. Scott follow up with Mr. Wierzbicki to make sure he has all the information he needs and that the Mayor follow up with County Executive Diana regarding any costs for the Village.

Police Officers and Department Heads spoke in favor of keeping dispatching local because of the advantages to local knowledge and quicker response time. Also the TOH Ambulance Captain pointed out that public safety for emergency workers and residents should be looked at, in addition to any costs. No action was taken.

The Mayor requested that \$8,000 be added back into the 2012-2013 budget for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program. No action was taken.

The Mayor set a budget workshop for Thursday, April 26th at 6:00pm to discuss adding funds for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Program.

The Treasurer reported that the tax rate remains at \$15.61, which is a 2.03% increase in the tax rate of 2011 and this will be the rate unless the Board directs him differently.

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to enter executive session the purpose of which was to discuss union contract negotiations. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 7:15p.m. Also entering executive session was the Village Clerk.

Trustee Brown motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried. The special meeting reconvened at 7:25p.m.

A motion was made by Trustee McCormick to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Flynn and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 7:25p.m.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk