

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

March 10, 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 March 10, 2012.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 1:00 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Joseph McCormick
Trustee Richard Parry

Member absent was:

Trustee Harold Brown

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Police Officer in Charge, Sergeant Ken Scott
Village Street Superintendent, Pat Patterson
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones
Police Dispatchers – Gwen Specht, Rae Ellis, Chris Byrnes
Village Residents – Mr. Ray Deveraux- 48 Ondaora Pkwy, West Point Motel Owner- Gus Koutsourades – 156 Main St.

Sergeant Scott presented the Police Department's requested budget for fiscal year 2012-213 to the Village Board. Sergeant Scott commented that the department is already operating at minimal cost and further cuts will hurt, but the safety of the Village residents will not be compromised.

The Village Treasurer commented that the salary figures were calculated by Sergeant Scott, based on union contracts and if contracts were not settled, 4% overall was used.

Sergeant Scott reminded the Board that full time officer's shifts are filled by part time officers and currently with two officers out on workers compensation cases, he has increased the salary lines for part time officers.

Officer Scott pointed out that he did put in the budget to replace the Traffic Enforcement Officer and he also has put in for a new vehicle.

Trustee McCormick responded that he would like to see justification on a new vehicle before any decision is made. Officer Scott said he would provide that information on Monday. Trustee McCormick commented that he would like the Village Board to seriously consider switching to 911 for the communications. He reported that recently the Highland Falls Fire Department made the switch with no issues.

Dispatchers Ellis, Specht & Byrnes commented that they have witnessed problems and are concerned for the safety of the Officers. Trustee McCormick responded that no switch would be made until all tests have been run and the system is confirmed to work in the Village.

Street Superintendent, Pat Patterson asked about calls in the middle of the night for mark outs or snow emergencies and how these would be handled. Trustee McCormick agreed that there are hurdles to get over.

The Mayor responded that we still don't know if it works and we are still checking it out. He reported that personnel in the county is another obstacle. The Mayor commented that right now he has been told that they can't handle our volume with current staffing levels. The Mayor reported that the protection of the Village residents comes first and no moves will be made until all questions are answered.

Mr. Ray Deveraux commented that he respects the fact that the Village is trying to protect the public, but as a community we need to see what's going on with the Town, School and Village taxes and do a study on the elimination of communications.

The Village Board thanked Sergeant Scott for the work he put into this budget. No action taken.

The Mayor reported that he had received revised requested budgets from the DPW, Water and Sewer Departments and that he will ask the Fire Department for \$6,000. in cuts) The Treasurer will make the following changes to the General Fund requested budget in preparation of the Tentative Budget:

Decrease A1640.4 \$400.00 (paint, replacement tools -originally \$1,200.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$500.00(asphalt repairs –originally \$13,000.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$2000.00 (Loader & backhoe repairs – originally \$5,000.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$14,000. (sealing cracks in pavement – originally \$21,000.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$300.00.(pressure washer –originally \$1,300.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$12,000.(fuel management system – originally \$12,000.)
Decrease A5110.4 \$4,000.(mafia block – originally \$4,000.)
Decrease A5142.2 \$10,000.(utility vehicle –originally \$10,000.)

Decrease A5410.4 \$1,000.(sidewalk replacement – originally \$5,000.)

Decrease A8140.4 \$2,000.(Jet vac service –originally \$4,000.)

Decrease A8140.4 \$300.(cement –originally \$800.)

Decrease A8140.41 \$6,000.(mapping-originally \$10,000.)

Treasurer will make the following changes to the Water Fund requested budget in preparation of the Tentative Budget:

Decrease F8330.2 \$300.(chlorine test kit – originally \$800.)

Decrease F8340.4 \$500.00(misc.tools, wrenches, rachets –originally \$500.)

Decrease F8340.4 \$1,000.(pipe repair clamps –originally \$6,000)

Decrease F8340.4 \$2,000.(pick up maintenance – originally \$6,000)

Treasurer will make the following changes to the Sewer Fund requested budget in preparation of the Tentative Budget:

Decrease G8120.4 \$1,000.(sewer aid pails-originally \$2,000)

Decrease G8130.4 \$10,000(electrical plumbing repairs –originally \$30,000)

Decrease G8130.4 \$5,000(equipment repair –originally \$25,000)

Village Board additional requests to the Treasurer included: General Fund changes as follows:

Decrease A1010.41 \$3,000.(Trustees-TV – originally - \$3,000)

Decrease A3120.2 \$29,050 (new vehicle w/lettering – originally - \$29,050)

Increase A9901.0900 (vehicle reserve fund – originally -\$10,000)

Decrease A5010.4 \$12,480 (clerk – originally \$12,480)

Decrease A7110.4 \$4,000.(pool chemicals – originally \$4,000. Town to take over)

Decrease A7120.4 \$2,000. (beautification – originally \$2,000. Town to take over)

Decrease A7989.4 \$500.(Senior Recreation – originally \$500.) Town to take over)

Village Board additional requests to the Treasurer included: Water Fund changes as follows:

Decrease F8340.2 \$30,000 (new vehicle-originally -\$30,000)

Village Treasurer noted some revisions to the General Fund requested budget as follows:

Decrease A3120.1 \$10,000(salary)

Village Treasurer noted some revisions to the Water Fund requested budget as follows:

Increase F9901.0900 \$10,000 (vehicle reserve)

Decrease F5990 \$20,000 (appropriated fund balance)

The Treasurer also informed the Board he did not put overtime in for the Street Department and this would probably increase the budget by \$19,000. The Board will meet on Wednesday, March 14th at 6:00pm to discuss the budget after these changes have been made and to set a Tentative Budget to present at a public hearing.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss Union Contract negotiations.. The motion was seconded by Trustee Parry and unanimously carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 2:30pm The Special meeting reconvened at 3:15pm

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

The meeting closed at 3:15pm

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk