

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

April 1, 2013

A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in the Highland Falls Library, 298 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on April 1, 2013.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 6:10 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Patrick Flynn
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Robert Mellon

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Fire Chief, John Rush
TV Camera Operator, Kevin Coffey
Town Supervisor, Bob Livsey
Town Council Member, June Gunza
Town Court Justice – Konstantinos Fatsis
Town of Highlands Ambulance Captain, William Stroppel
School Board Members, Ned Kopald, Patrick Kelly
Assemblyman, James Skoufis
Chester Town Supervisor, Steve Neuhaus
Deerpark Town Supervisor, Karl Brabenec
Approximately 50 Community Residents

Prior to Reorganization, newly elected Mayor Patrick Flynn was ceremoniously sworn in to office by Justice Konstantinos Fatsis, assisted by Mayor Flynn's sons. Newly elected Trustee Robert Mellon was ceremoniously sworn in to office by Justice Fatsis. Re-elected Trustee James DiSalvo was ceremoniously sworn in to office by Chester Town Supervisor, Steve Neuhaus. All three had previously filed the official oath of office with the Village Clerk.

Mayor Flynn's first order of business was his appointment of Barbara "Charlie" Murphy to fill the Trustee seat vacated by his election to Mayor. This seat will be open to a Special Election in March 2014 to fill the term until March 2015. Trustee Murphy took her seat with the Village Board at 6:15pm.

The next order of business was the Annual Reorganization of the Village of Highland Falls.

Mayor Flynn made the following appointments: (see attached).

The Reorganization of the Village ended at 6:31pm.

A Public Hearing as duly advertised for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on the Village Budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 was opened by Mayor Flynn at 6:31 P.M.

The Notice of Hearing of the Tentative Budget, as duly advertised, is appended to these minutes.

The Mayor turned the presentation of the budget over to the Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters. Mr. Walters explained that after Department Head requests are submitted and reviewed by the Village Board, a Tentative Budget is presented at a public hearing and no changes can be made to this document, until after the public hearing

The Tentative General Fund Budget for FY 2013-2014 in the amount of \$4,673,903.00 was read by function. The tentative tax rate is \$9.08 per thousand.

The Tentative Water Fund Budget for FY 2013-2014 in the amount of \$764,976.00 was read by function. There is no increase in water rates at this time.

The Tentative Sewer Fund Budget for FY 2013-2014 in the amount of \$1,018,010.00 was read by function. There is no increase in sewer rates at this time.

The Treasurer explained that the Budget must be adopted on or before May 1st and that the Tentative Budget, as presented, had little changes from the Requested Budgets of the Department Heads.

The Treasurer answered questions on the reserve funds and questions on whether there is a 6 year capital plan in place. The Treasurer explained that the Town wide assessment revaluation has resulted in a larger assessed value for the Village, therefore the percentage tax rate increase at this time is a hard number to determine. The Treasurer also explained that the tax cap of 2% does not mean taxes will not go up more than 2%. The State formula allows for adjustments, therefore the tax rate could actually go up more than 2% , and the Village would still be compliant with the tax cap. The Treasurer also pointed out to the Board that since the Tentative Budget was put together, the Town Assessor has given to the office staff some assessment reductions, therefore reducing the overall assessed value of Village properties. These changes will be implemented before the budget is finalized. The Treasurer reminded the Board that it takes a 60% majority of the Board to pass a resolution to override the tax cap, before the budget can be adopted, if it looks like the cap will be exceeded.

The Treasurer explained to Trustee Mellon that the CHIPS amount budgeted is a wash out number. The same number is put into the revenue side and the expense side. The Treasurer did comment that the amount the State is funding for CHIPS has been increased for this year.

No further questions or comments from the public, Tustee DiSalvo made a motion to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The public hearing closed at 6:47PM.

The Regular Meeting of the Village Board followed.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk