

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

April 10, 2013

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 10, 2013.

The Meeting was called to order by Flynn at 6:11 P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters  
Fire Chief, John Rush  
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus (6:50pm)  
Approximately 6 Village Residents

The purpose of this meeting was a 2013-2014 Budget Workshop. The Mayor turned the meeting over to the Village Treasurer to lead the discussion.

The Treasurer, Ralph Walters explained that the Board had requested the Department Heads to reduce their Tentative Budgets by 10%. The Treasurer, began with a review of the reductions recommended by the Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. After Board discussion and review of the suggestions from the Department Head, the Treasurer was directed to reduce the G8120.2 <\$15,000.00> for the camera system.

Mr. Walters reviewed the reductions recommended by the Chief Water Plant Operator. After Board discussion and review of the suggestions from the Department Head, the Treasurer was directed to make the following reductions:

F8340.04 -< \$2,800.00> for pipe chain saw  
F8340.04-<\$1,000.00> for pipe repair clamps  
F8330.04-<\$785.00> gate at 9W  
F8330.04-<\$5,058.00> electric gate at plant

Mr. Walters commented that at the end of this fiscal year, the Water Fund vehicle reserve will have \$30,000.00 available. The Tentative Budget includes \$10,000.00 to the vehicle reserve fund. After discussion by the Board, the Treasurer was directed to reduce the vehicle reserve fund, F9901.0900 - <\$10,000.00>

Discussion on the water rates. The Treasurer informed that Board that the water rates need to be increased to keep up with the increase in costs to operate the plant. The Treasurer recommended to increase the minimum charge to \$100.00 for the first five thousand gallons. After comments from the public and discussion by the Village Board, the following motion was made:

Trustee Mellon motioned to increase the minimum base charge for the May 2013 water billing from \$78.80 to \$88.80, leaving the additional charge per thousand gallons at \$4.29 and that the June sewer charge will remain at 185% of the May water billing.

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

5 Ayes   0 Nays.

Motion carried.

Mr. Walters commented that the Police Chief could find no reductions without under budgeting for the fiscal year. The Police Chief reluctantly suggested to remove the vehicle and lettering but warned that it would go against the five year capital plan to replace vehicles and deplete vehicle reserve funds.

Discussion was held on the use of part time officers to reduce overtime costs. The Treasurer informed the Board that the Tentative Budget includes \$10,000.00 for a police vehicle and \$10,000.00 for a DPW vehicle in the reserve fund.

After discussion by the Village Board the Treasurer was directed to make the following reductions:

A3120.02-<\$32,750.00> car & lettering

A3120.04-<\$1,000.00>

A3120.01-<\$23,000.00>

A3320.01-< \$9,712.00> parking meter enforcement officer

The Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus, presented the Board his recommendations for reductions to the Planning Board fund. Mr. Ramus also suggested to the Board that upon the expiration of the term for the Alternate Planning Board member, that they consider not filling, and possibly eliminating the position.

After discussion by the Board, the Treasurer was directed to make the following reductions to the Planning Board fund:

A8020.01-<\$300.00>

A8020.04-<\$290.00>

The Fire Chief presented his reductions and recommendations to the Board. The Chief strongly encouraged the Board to keep the request for two used Chief's vehicles. After Village Board discussion, the Treasurer was directed to reduce the F3410.02 by <\$17,000.00> two used Chief's vehicles & chevrons.

The Treasurer reviewed the recommendations from the Village Street Superintendent. After discussion by the Board, the Treasurer was directed to make the following reductions:

A8140.41 -<\$4,000.00> mapping

A7110.02-<\$8,500.00> mower

A5110.04-<\$1,000.00> leaf vacuum

A5110.04-<\$1,000.00> large truck repairs

A1640.04-<\$600.00>paint

The Treasurer reviewed the remaining General Fund accounts with the Board and summarized as follows:

A1450.04 was increased \$1800.00 for a special election needed in FY 2013-2014.

A1210.0110 was reduced -<\$3,102.00> Mayor's secretary

A7270.04 was reduced -<\$400.00> band concerts

A9030.08 was reduced -<\$1,004.00> social security & medicare

The Treasurer summarized the reductions of the recommendations of the Department Heads as follows:

General Fund – overall reduction of \$101,858.00

Water Fund – reduction of \$15,000.00

Sewer Fund-reduction of \$19,643.00

The Treasurer concluded by informing the Village Board that the Village can raise \$2,949,053.00 in taxes and remain under the mandated 2% cap.

The Mayor cancelled the budget workshop for April 11<sup>th</sup> to allow the Treasurer time to put the reductions into the budget and come back to the Village Board with the impending tax rate for fiscal year 2013-2014 property tax bills. The Mayor set a budget workshop for April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm to review the Tentative Budget after reductions.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss a specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried. Also present in executive session was the Village Clerk.

The Board entered executive session at 10:39pm. Trustee Brown motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried. The special meeting reconvened at 11:05pm.

A motion was made by Trustee Murphy to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 11:05pm.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk