

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

March 2, 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 March 2, 2013.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 9:00A.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee James DiSalvo (via phone)
Trustee Patrick Flynn
Trustee Joseph McCormick

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Fire Chief, John Jones
1st Asst. Fire Chief, Jerry Galu
TOH Ambulance Captain, William Stroppel
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones
Village Residents : Mr. Ray Deveraux- 48 Ondaora Pkwy, West Point Motel Owner- Gus Koutsourades – 156 Main St.

Fire Chief John Rush presented the Fire Department's requested budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 to the Village Board. Before the review began Chief Rush handed the Village Board a budget with revised numbers from what was originally turned in to the Village Treasurer, and that the Treasurer had formulated the Requested Budget with. The original submission was a little more than the Chief actually presented to the Village Board. The Treasurer commented that the minimal revisions would be reflected in the Tentative Budget.

Fire Chief Rush explained the increases to the equipment lines were mostly due to OSHA and PESH requirements that regulate for upgrades and determine the life expectancies for equipment to be replaced.

Trustee McCormick reminded the Chief that the Department should be making sure that the Village Board approves any contracts necessary in the operation of the department and that the Mayor is the authorized signor of those contracts. The Treasurer commented that the Fire Department should be following the Village procurement policy like any other department of the Village. The Treasurer commented that the itemized lines are guidelines but the overall approved budget needs to be adhered to.

Some discussion was held regarding the age of the current fire trucks and that when the time comes to replace these Fire Trucks, how to fund it. The Treasurer explained the difference between Fire Districts and Fire Departments supported by a municipality and how Fort Montgomery is a district, not funded in the Town Budget. The Treasurer pointed out that Village budgets for Fire Departments are typically lower than Fire Districts' budgets.

No action was taken on any items, presented by the Fire Chief, at this time. The Board thanked the Chief and his Assistant Chief, Jerry Galu for their presentation and time spent formulating this budget.

The Village Treasurer reviewed the General Fund budget for all items not already presented through other departments. He explained that he has included a 2% increase in the salary lines of all non- union employees and that the Trustees and Mayor salaries have not been increased.

The Treasurer explained to the Village Board that the previous budget & this requested budget has phone lines for the Village Hall being paid out of six different codes, depending on the department, but those lines have been consolidated and are now being paid of out the buildings contractual line, since there is one Vendor and one bill being received covering all usage. The current budget will be adjusted as well since the consolidation occurred before the start of the 2012-2013 budget, however, the funds were spread out over the six codes in that budget, but are being paid out of the buildings code. It will not have an effect on the overall bottom line, only amendments to interior codes.

The Treasurer ran through the list of bond payments and interest payments included in the requested budget. During his review of the benefits codes, he explained the numbers used in the Retirement line were based on estimates received from the State Retirement System for Employees and Fire and Police. The Treasurer reported that he used an increase of 10% for health insurance numbers, based on last year's increase. The Treasurer reported that he has included reserve funds of \$10,000 each for a Police Vehicle and DPW vehicle to build back up funds used this year out of reserve to purchase a new Police Vehicle and DPW vehicle.

The Treasurer reported that after speaking with the Village insurance company for the Fire Department's LOSAP program, he will decrease the LOSAP budget by \$5,000.00 for the Tentative Budget.

The Treasurer reminded the Board that the re-evaluation of the assessed values of Village Properties will be used in the 2013-2014 Budget so some property owners will see more of an increase, others might see a decrease,

from the amount of taxes they paid last year, depending on how much, and in what direction, their property assessments changed. The Treasurer also reminded the Board that the Village is under a NYS 2% Tax Cap.

A small discussion was held regarding the Village going to the E911 system. Trustee McCormick commented that he would like to see the Communication Budget cut 50% and have the Village on the 911 system within 90days. Trustee McCormick reported that he believes the Village has given the County an overstated number of calls for the cost estimate. Trustee DiSalvo commented that four different sets of numbers have been provided to the County and the County is not being cooperative.

Trustee McCormick also commented that he would like to see the Town be responsible for maintenance of all parks, in the Town and Village, and the monies should come from the Town A Fund, to which Village residents already contribute.

The Mayor set another budget workshop for Wednesday, March 13, 2013 at 6:00pm to give the Chief Water and WWTP Operators the opportunity to present their Requested Budgets for FY 2013-2014.

The Treasurer reminded the Board that the Tentative Budget must be turned into the Village Clerk by March 20th and that if there are any changes from the Requested Budgets, they must be turned in to him by March 14th to allow him time to get the Tentative Budget ready for the Board. The Treasurer reminded the Board that a public hearing on the Tentative Budget must be held on or before April 15th, and no changes can be made to it until after the public hearing is held. The final budget must be adopted on or before May 1st.

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

The meeting closed at 10:34am.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk