

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

April 7, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY on April 7, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:00 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Patrick Flynn
Trustee Anthony Farina
Trustee Barbara Murphy

Members Absent were:

Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee Robert Mellon

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Police Chief, Kenneth Scott
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Planning Board Chairman, James Ramus
Camera Operator, Kevin Coffey
Town Camera Operator, Tierney Scott
Approximately 30 Village residents

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and swore in the newly elected Trustees, Anthony Farina and Barbara Murphy.

The first 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 7:09pm.

A Public Hearing as duly advertised for the purpose of obtaining public input and comment on the Village Tentative Budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 was opened by Mayor Flynn at 7:10 P.M.

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

The Mayor read the Tentative Budget Recap that lists the Total Appropriations to be \$6,372,349.85 and the Total Revenues to be \$6,372,349.85 with \$2,901,948.22 to be raised by taxes. Based on the assessment roll of \$307,827,824.00, the Tentative Budget shows a tax rate of \$9.43.

The Mayor read the Tentative FY 2014-2015 General Fund Budget in the amount of \$4,647,948.22 line by line, followed by the Water Fund Budget in the amount of \$787,664.63 and the Sewer Fund Budget in the amount of \$936,737.00

Questions asked after the presentation included, where is the money for the Senior Center that was donated show in the budget, what are the contingency funds used for and to clarify the \$69,000 in the Treasurer line. The Mayor responded that the money donated for the senior fund is unanticipated revenue in the current budget, the contingency funds are for unanticipated expenses that the Board would have more control over when they need to be used and the Treasurer's salary is part of the \$69,000.

Mayor Flynn reported that another budget workshop will be held on Thursday, April 10th at 7:00pm in Village Hall.

Trustee Murphy motioned to close the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:31pm.

Before the Regular Meeting began, the Mayor asked everyone to please remember those who passed since the last meeting, especially, Christine Graber and Charles Cooper and all our service members. The Mayor welcomed Tom Oso from the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Developer, Brian Zweig, as well as some West Point Cadets and their Officer Representative who are observing the meeting and will give a presentation at the next Board meeting that discusses West Point and Village relations.

Police Chief Kenneth Scott presented the March 2014 Police Department Report .
Mayor Flynn read the March 2014 Water Department Report.

Trustee Murphy presented the March 2014 Fire Department Report. Trustee Murphy also mentioned some community events recently held at the Fire House and reminded everyone of the upcoming Pancake Breakfast. Trustee Murphy informed the Board and members of the community that the Fire Department recently participated in a “tabletop” drill with West Point and CSX in the event of a train derailment. Trustee Murphy said it was a very good experience for all that participated.

Mayor Flynn congratulated Trustee Farina and Trustee Murphy on their recent victory in the Village Elections and remarked that he is looking forward to continuing working with them. The Mayor informed the community of the recent Greek Flag raising ceremony and how successful the turnout was.

Mayor Flynn introduced Brian Zweig, owner of Business Opportunities Management Consulting, who gave a brief presentation with a proposal to provide the Board with the economic impact of West Point on the Village of Highland Falls. Mr. Zweig specializes in economic impact studies. Mr. Zweig commented that the report would provide the “potential impact” of visitors, not on the current economic conditions. Trustee Murphy expressed reservations because previous studies have been done.

Mayor Flynn explained that Mr. Zweig is only providing an introduction at this meeting and it will be further discussed at budget meetings if money will be set aside for such a plan. The Mayor commented that this Board needs to start investing in the Community. The Mayor thanked Mr. Zweig for his time and presentation.

Mayor Flynn reported to the community that the MS4 Stormwater Draft report is available for review on the Village website and in Village Hall for the next thirty days for anyone interested and informed them that if anyone has comments or questions to contact the Village Clerk.

The Mayor reported that the Eisenhower Leadership Group will be holding an “Art Walk” through the Town of Highlands, from Bear Mountain to Eisenhower Hall, and more information will follow as it becomes available.

The Mayor reported that Trustee Murphy and the Village Clerk will be working on the CDBG 2015 Grant Application and that the application will go for funding of improvements to the Senior Center. The Mayor reminded the Senior Citizens in attendance that the repairs that need to be done to the building will have to be done in stages and the first priority is to make sure the building is safe and handicap compliant. The Mayor also reminded the Seniors that the Village owns the building and will need to take care of the maintenance of it. The Mayor also assured the Seniors that the building will be utilized by the Seniors as the grant specified.

The Mayor reported that the retaining wall between the parking lot of the Senior Center and the lot behind the Highland Falls Market does belong to the Village and the Village is aware of the repairs needing to be done on it.

The Mayor reported that he wanted to make it known that he is in favor of removing the parking meters and that this will be discussed during the budget sessions.

The Mayor reported that correspondence received from Mr. Fred Brennan regarding a neighbor’s trees leaning on his garage, has been forwarded to the Building Department and that a Notice of Violation has been sent to the neighbor.

The Mayor reported that the lawyer for the property at 109 Center Street has requested a week extension before any demolition of the building would be done. The Mayor explained that Wednesday would already be a week’s extension from the Property Hearing and that unless the bank can provide any guarantee before the budget meeting on Thursday, April 10th, the Village Board will select a contractor to demolish the building.

Mr. Enton Minto, 17 Cozzens Avenue, came before the Board to answer any questions the Board had regarding the raising of chickens at that location. Trustee Farina reported that he checked out the law and that the minimum number of chickens had to be six.

Trustee Farina motioned to approve the request from Mr. Minto to raise six chickens at the property location of 17 Cozzens Ave.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy with a caveat that the neighbors be noticed and Mr. Minto show proof to the Village Board by April 10th that the neighbors have no objection.

The motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Farina motioned to approve the below listed minutes as follows:

- a) Regular Meeting – March 17, 2014
- b) Special Meeting – March 17, 2014 (budget workshop)
- c) Special Meeting-March 20, 2014

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the Mayor signing the Sixth Amendment to Water Supply Agreement with the Town of Highlands.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve a medical leave of absence for at least six weeks for the Purchasing Clerk to begin approximately April 2, 2014.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Farina motioned to approve the transfer of \$5,000.00 from A.1990.1990 General Contingency to A.9040.0800 General Worker’s Compensation to cover tail claims through the end of the fiscal year.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve a bid advertisement for the grass cutting services for FY 14-15. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the Mayor to sign the DMV certification for license plate program . The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Farina to approve the bills and claims for \$138 ,201.29 from the following listed funds:

FY 11-12	General Fund	\$58,175.56
	Section 8	\$62,420.65
	Water Fund	\$ 1,989.74
	Sewer Fund	\$15,615.34

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to set a hearing date for April 21, 2014 and inform the Building Inspector to prepare the necessary paperwork for a Notice of Hearing for the property located at 8 South Street.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

Public Comments: included further discussion on the following:

- Senior Center and the improvements that are needed.
- 109 Center Street and the condition it has been in for more than six years.
- Using students to do Economic Development studies as opposed to spending tax dollars.
- Why businesses don’t survive on our Main Street and what would attract them to our Main St.
- Asking West Point MWR about community residents being able to hunt and fish on West Point facilities.

Board comments: Trustee Murphy reported that the Main Street Group is active and will work with Tom Oso from the Chamber of Commerce to see how we can revitalize Main Street.

Trustee Farina motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 9:40pm.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk