

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

September 15, 2014

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY on September 15, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:05 P.M.

Members present were:

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

Members Absent were:

Trustee Anthony Farina

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ed Magryta
Village Attorney, William Florence
Fire Chief, Steve Suarez
Police Chief, Ken Scott
Camera Operator, Kevin Coffey
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Approximately 5 Community Residents

Mayor Flynn welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with a moment of silence for all our fallen soldiers and community members who have passed away since our last meeting.

The September 2014 WWTP Report was presented by Trustee Mellon.

The September 2014 Fire Department Report was presented by Trustee Murphy. Trustee Murphy also read a letter from Fire Chief Suarez recognizing the teamwork of the DPW with the Fire Department to get Engine 429 back in service so quickly.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Ed Magryta. The topics discussed included the following:

1. monthly financial updates-revenue and expense control reports,
2. AUD preparation is progress
3. Water fund discussion to center on rate plan for next billing cycle
4. Review of Procurement Policy.

The Treasurer alerted the Board that spending should be watched very carefully moving forward this current year and the Board should again approach the school district with regards to taxing the bog meadow reservoir. The Treasurer asked the Board members to review the handouts for the Purchasing Policy and asked for any comments or recommendations be turned in to him next week and hopefully the policy can be ratified at the October 6th meeting.

Trustee Murphy commented that the Community Outreach Committee would be meeting this Thursday and a topic to discuss will be the Capstone Project, which was brought to the Village a group of West Point Cadets, and whose two objectives are to 1. target business improvement and 2. provide a venue for West Point leaders and Community leaders to discuss areas of mutual concern and solutions that could benefit all. Trustee Murphy reported that a topic of discussion will be the creation of an Art Walk, which would be sculptural in context and follow the Greenway Initiative.

The Mayor elaborated a little on the Art Walk and explained that the Eisenhower Leadership Center is behind this endeavor and is looking for the Board to approve the concept. The Mayor explained that the sculptures would be rotated and that the artists would insure their pieces, however, the land they are placed on, if Village owned, would be insured by the Village.

Trustee Mellon updated the Board on the Senior Center and reported that basically all that was needed for the Center to open is painting of the interior of the facility and that he is working on getting this done as soon as possible.

Mayor Flynn thanked Mr. Brown for backing him up over the last few weeks by attending meetings and being a second set of ears for him. The Mayor thanked Assemblyman Skoufis for the grant to provide tables and chairs to the Senior Center and for coming to the wreath laying ceremonies at both Memorial Park and the Patriot Gardens this past September 11th. Mayor Flynn thanked Doris Lent & Vision for the 9/11 Ceremony held at the Patriot Garden in Ft. Montgomery. The Mayor also mentioned upcoming events for the community to attend. Regarding the Main Street Improvement Committee, Mayor Flynn commented that Vision did a very good study in 2003 and that they would be looking at some of the ideas and start implementing them. Mayor Flynn thanked everyone responsible for finally getting 109 Center Street down.

Discussion was held on a request from Mr. John Dodson to have an RFQ prepared and sent out for an expansion of the WWTP that would accommodate overflow from West Point. Mr. Dodson pointed out that in order for the Village to be able to accept wastewater from West Point, the Village would need the cooperation of the Department of the Army. Any returned RFQ's would be reviewed by a qualified Board that would select the best candidate for the project.

Trustee Murphy explained that the project is a partnership privatization and that individual Board members have made clear that the private partner must be willing to utilize our existing staff.

Mayor Flynn commented that there are basic costs involved, however, the RFQ requires fees that should offset these basic costs and the Village will have no financial obligation at this point.

Trustee Mellon motioned to put out an RFQ to financial parties to get qualified vendors for the Wastewater Treatment Project with no financial obligation for the Village.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and on a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent and 1 Abstain (Murphy), motion carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to reopen the public hearing, adjourned on August 4th, regarding the proposed "Wireless Communications Facilities" local law.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried. The public hearing reopened at 7:48pm.

The Village Attorney pointed out that the proposed local law had been revised since the hearing adjourned on August 4th with recommendations from the Village Planning Board.

Trustee Mellon recommended that under the section Setbacks, on page 13 [e] the "100ft from a residence parcel perimeter from the nearest component of the facility" be changed as follows: eliminate the word residence and increase 100ft to 500ft.

Trustee Murphy recommended the following changes:

1. page 12(b)[1][a], change 350ft to 500ft
2. insert "and other" between "visual and "effects"
3. page 6 (i) add "taxing entity or" between "a" and "government entity"
4. page 8 [5] line 4, strike out "of Trustees"
5. page 14 [2] add [f] "The facilities and structures shall be monitored from a central monitoring station 24 hours a day, seven days per week"
6. page 16 (7)(a)[1]-add a clause to require escrow deposit for removal costs
7. page 17 [3] line 6-add "shall be drawn from escrow fund with remainder" between "if not paid," and "assessed.."
8. page 18 add H. (4) at least 50% of the estimated removal cost must be placed in escrow

The Village Board was in agreement with Trustee Mellon and Trustee Murphy's recommendations and asked the Village Attorney to make the changes.

Upon all questions asked and answered and all comments heard, Trustee Brown motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried. The public hearing closed at 8:09pm.

Trustee Murphy motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Resolution of Adoption
Local Law 02-2014
Wireless Communications Facilities

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

4 Ayes 0 Noes 1 Absent

motion carried. (a true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Discussion was held on an email received from John Hager, Building Inspector, regarding the landlord registry local law and registration form. The Board was in agreement that Mr. Hager should move forward with the form and enforcement of the local law.

Mayor Flynn spoke on a proposed “Art Walk” that the Eisenhower Leadership group is looking to do in the Village. The Mayor explained the concept which is to place sculptures around the community and a map provided to show where they are located so tourists and local residents could enjoy the art work. The Mayor said the sculptures would be rotated out and placed in areas that are conducive for display and not in the way of traffic or machinery.

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

a) Regular Meeting – September 2, 2014

The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to approve the request from Trustee Murphy to attend the “Housing Summit” on September 29th at Anthony’s Pier 9 in New Windsor, NY at a cost of \$30.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and on a vote of 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 1 Abstain, motion carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the budget transfer of \$7,500.00 from A. 5110.04 Street Maintenance Contractual to A.8160.04 Refuse & Garbage to cover debris collection. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve the budget transfer of \$1,549.66 from A.9060.08 Health Ins. Benefits to A.1410.02 Clerk’s Equipment to cover computer upgrades and installation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Brown motioned to approve the budget transfer of \$950.34 from A.9060.08 Health Ins. Benefits to A.1410.04 Clerk’s Contractual to cover computer upgrades and installation. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned the following:

Resolution for Final Notice and
Termination of Service for Unpaid Water Bills
For May 2014

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and on a roll call vote, the results which follow: 4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent
motion carried. (a true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes)

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve Tyler Parsells as a new junior member of the Highland Falls Fire Department.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the request from the Fire Chief to take Engine 428, Rescue 430 and Chief Vehicles to the O.C. Volunteer Firemen’s Association Parade, Saturday, September 27th in Cronomer Valley.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Brown and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Brown to approve the bills and claims for \$103,946.38 from the following listed funds:

FY 13-14	General Fund	\$53,679.91
	Water Fund	\$38,148.47
	Sewer Fund	\$12,118.00

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Public Comment:

Christine Manning spoke on the upcoming Halloween activities that will be held in the Village.

Martha Alyward – thanked the Mayor for the update on the Section 8 Program and also commented that renters don’t have as vested an interest in properties like owners do. Mrs. Alyward also commented

that she understands the Village is looking to clean up Main Street, yet a while back the Academy Motel on Main Street had its project shot down to upgrade the motel.

Bobbie Fallon-revisited with the Board the property on Hillside Avenue and her belief that it is a Village responsibility to pave the area. The Board will look into the area with the Village Engineer.

Sandy Capriglione – followed up with a question to the Board of who was approved to go to Police Training from the last Board meeting and clarification on how much is left in the budget for the Senior Center. Trustee Mellon commented that Officer Torpey and Dispatcher Borra were approved to attend training that the about half of the budget for the Senior Center has been spent.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss and specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 9:26p.m.

Trustee Brown motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried. The regular meeting reconvened at 10:43p.m.

Discussion was held on the need to increase water rates before the November billing. The Board set a Special Meeting for a workshop to continue this discussion for Monday, September 22nd at 9:00a.m.

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

The meeting closed at 11:00P.M.

Regina M. Taylor,
Village Clerk