

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

April 10, 2014

A special 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 April 10, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Flynn at 7:15 P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Patrick Flynn  
Trustee Anthony Farina  
Trustee Robert Mellon  
Trustee Barbara Murphy

Members Absent were:

Trustee Harold Brown

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Treasurer, Edward Magryta  
WWTP Operator, John Jones (7:30pm)  
Village residents- Sandy Capriglione-26 Kings Rd, Dan Olivia-8 McCullems Lane

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the ninth Budget Workshop for FY 2014-2015.

Treasurer Magryta opened the workshop with brief comments on the recap page of the budget. Mr. Magryta pointed out that there are tax certiorari's that have come through so the taxable assessed valuation will decrease by at least \$771,000.00, and therefore the tax rate currently shown at \$9.43 will increase.

Before the budget workshop session began, Mayor Flynn recognized Mr. Dan Olivia in reference to the demolition of 109 Center Street. Mr. Olivia presented the Board with paperwork that he believes shows that the bank is interested in selling the property. The Mayor took the paperwork from Mr. Olivia and informed him that we would be sending it to the Village Attorney for review. The Mayor assured Mr. Olivia that no action on the demolition will take place until the Village Attorney responds. The Mayor responded to Mr. Olivia that he will address the matter again at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Board meeting.

Trustee Murphy brought to the attention of the Board an email that Laura Milsom, 105 Center St., sent to her, regarding the property at 109 Center St. The email brought up concerns on the current conditions as well as the conditions she has had to look at for at least six years and what she might have to look at if the property gets rebuilt.

Treasurer Magryta resumed with the budget workshop and explained to the Board the difference in the tax cap, which deals with the tax levy, which is the amount of taxes needed to balance the budget and the tax rate, which is the number applied to the assessed valuations in order to reach the tax levy. The Treasurer explained to the Board that the tax rate shows an increase, however, revenues can still be increased and the Village will stay under the 2% tax cap.

Treasurer Magryta pointed out that a majority of residences have seen a decrease in the assessed value of their property. Treasurer Magryta further explained that even though the tax rate will increase, a property owner could see their tax payment decrease, increase slightly, or hold steady, depending on how much their assessment decreased. Mr. Magryta also pointed out that the commercial properties did not have reduced assessments, therefore the Board should be prepared for feedback as those properties will show an increase in the taxes owed.

The Treasurer asked the Board if they would like to consolidate the BANS to lower payments but would extend the payments out further. The Treasurer explained the advantages are as follows:

1. a higher annual refinancing amount that could attract more banks to the bid process and possibly lower interest rates.
2. consolidation would require one closing date with associated costs. The Treasurer explained that the principle savings would have to be put into a contingency account in order for the budget to remain balanced.

The Treasurer also reported that the fund balance used to balance the budget is a conservative number. The Treasurer reported that he would target for the April 21<sup>st</sup> meeting to have a budget for review and a possible adoption, however, he would like more time to look at how the end of the current year is doing for a better look at fund balance numbers.

Mayor Flynn recommended that the judgment and claims line be increased from \$5,000.00 to \$15,000.00 based on the tax certiorari's that the Treasurer has informed the Board about. The Mayor also recommended to add \$2,000.00 into Celebrations contractual line.

Trustee Murphy brought to the Board's attention that Chief Suarez and 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief Erik Smith are concerned that the Board took \$8,000 .00 out of their purposed budget for Command Vehicle Reserves and reduced the equipment line by \$4,000.00 and the contractual line by \$8,000.00.

Mayor Flynn told Trustee Murphy to inform Chief Suarez and Chief Smith that should come to the next budget meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> and explain why the money should be put back.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss Union negotiations and a specific contractual matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Mellon and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:42 p.m. The Special meeting reconvened at 10:17 p.m.

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

The meeting closed at 10:17 p.m.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk