

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

March 5, 2014

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 5, 2014.

The Meeting was called to order by Trustee Mellon at 7:05P.M.

Members present were:

Trustee Harold Brown
Trustee Anthony Farina
Trustee Robert Mellon
Trustee Barbara Murphy

Member Absent was:

Mayor Patrick Flynn

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Edward Magryta
Fire Chief, Steve Suarez
1st Assistant Chief, Erik Smith
Village Residents: Sandra Capriglione- 26 Kings Rd

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

Trustee Mellon opened the meeting and Treasurer Magryta reviewed notes from the last budget session.

Fire Chief Suarez introduce his 1st Assistant Chief, Erik Smith and explained to the Board that Chief Smith was the builder of the budget and turned over the presentation to Chief Smith.

Under the equipment request, Chief Smith explained that bunker gear is worn by Interior Firefighters and is the coat, pants and helmets. He explained that under OSHA requirements this gear has a ten year life and it is important that this gear be purchased regularly so it doesn't become expired. Chief Smith also explained that firefighters come in different sizes and they need to have proper gear. Chief Smith explained that the SCBA's (self-contained breathing apparatus) also have life expectancy standards.

Chief Suarez pointed out to the Board that training costs are a little lower because Chief Smith actually provides a lot of training in house.

Chief Smith pointed out that the Chief's Allowance has been lowered since they have been given the go ahead to get a vehicle for the Assistant Chiefs.

Chief Smith recommended reserve funds be established for replacement of SCBA's and also for the Command Vehicles. Treasurer Magryta recommended to the Board to establish these funds as proposed by Chief Smith.

Chief Suarez and Chief Smith explained that they believed this budget was pared down as low as it could go and still be able to give the service and support needed.

Discussion was held on vehicle reserve funds. Treasurer Magryta recommended to the Board that a capital reserve for new trucks be considered. This could help offset some of the cost when it comes time to replace a big truck and the time is fast approaching.

Treasurer Magryta asked Chief Suarez to go have the Board of Directors of the Fire Department provide a letter to the Village Board outlining any ancillary costs they might incur based on the lease agreement that is currently in effect.

The Village Board thanked the Chiefs for their budget presentation. No Board actions were taken at this time.

A discussion on consolidation of bonds was held. The Treasurer made some recommendations to the Board as to how this might be accomplished and the benefit of it. The Treasurer also recommended to the Board that a hard look at water rates should be done after June 1. Finally the Treasurer recommended that a factor of 5% be looked at for overtime.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss negotiation matters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina.

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:03 P.M.

The Special Meeting reconvened at 9:14 P.M.

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

The meeting closed at 9:14 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk