

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

February 18, 2015

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 February 18, 2015.

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  
Police Chief Kenneth Scott

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the first Budget Workshop for FY 2015-2016.

Before the budget workshop session began, Mayor Flynn recognized Police Chief Scott's request to discuss specific individuals in personnel matters.

Trustee Murphy motioned to enter executive session to discuss specific individuals in personnel matters. The motion was seconded by Trustee Farina and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 7:17pm.

Trustee Farina motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

The special meeting reconvened at 8:11pm.

Trustee Farina motioned to promote Officer Jason Torpey to the position of Detective, as recommended by Police Chief Scott, effective February 26, 2015 and at the salary of \$79,003/yr for Detective as negotiated in the collective bargaining agreement for the full-time police officers.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Mellon motioned to appoint Philip Heckett, a part-time Police Officer, as recommended by Police Chief Scott, at the rate of \$21.35/hr, step 1 of the collective bargaining agreement for part-time police officers and with the maximum probationary period of 52 weeks.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Treasurer Magryta resumed with the budget workshop. Treasurer Magryta informed the Board that at this time he had only one department head submit his budget request, and that he would need all of them by Friday.

The Treasurer announced that the start time for the budget workshop on March 2<sup>nd</sup> would be at 6:30pm with the Regular Board meeting to follow.

The Treasurer explained to the Board that the purpose of this meeting was to do a quick review of the current budget of where we stand now and what it looks like with a little more than 3 months to go in this budget. He explained that the fund balance will be lower at the end of the year due to unforeseen expenses. The Treasurer reported that snow removal overtime has approximately \$20,000 and should be enough to get us

through the year as long as there isn't many more snow storms this season. The Treasurer recommends that the snow budget remain the same for the FY 15-16 budget.

The Treasurer recommended to the Board that the positions of Treasurer and Budget Officer be broken out into separate line items. The Treasurer explained that even though both positions are currently held by the same individual, this is not always the case and having it broken out will make it easier to assess each position. The Treasurer explained that the total hours would remain the same, but broken out by the line items.

Treasurer Magryta explained Governor Cuomo's "Circuit Breaker & Tax Cap" incentive that is part of his state budget and has a high probability of passing. The Treasurer reported that basically this means that it will be harder for Villages to exceed the 2% tax cap because of state tax rebates that constituents can lose.

Treasurer Magryta pointed out the following areas of interest that he would like the Board to give guidance on:

1. How to structure the attorney.
2. How to handle the reserve fund.
3. Recommends increasing judgments and claims due to unforeseen tax certioraris'
4. Dispatching and possibly sending one shift to 911
5. Police overtime budget and how to curtail it from ballooning
6. Fire Department budget and if there is a need to increase it.
7. Recommends adding funds to the beautification and celebrations lines
8. How much to fund the senior center, a possible part time position to man the facility.
9. Health insurance
10. General liability insurance. The Treasurer reminded the Board that due to many claims this year, the Village could expect a sizable increase this year.

Mayor Flynn commented on areas he would like the Board to review include youth programs, parks & recreation and Historian. The Mayor commented that he would like to work with the School District and possibly moving The Center into the old elementary school.

The Treasurer informed the Board that a large BAN offering is upcoming in a couple of weeks and this will save the Village in interest and efficiency, by combining the borrowings into one time a year renewals.

The Treasurer reported that the Water & Sewer Funds are still running a little high with overtime, however, their fund balances should increase at the end of the year providing there are no unforeseen emergencies to contend with.

The Treasurer reminded everyone that the next budget workshop will be on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00pm and the Water Department, Sewer Department and DPW will present their requested budgets to the Board.

No action was taken.

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

The meeting closed at 10:08 p.m.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk