

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

March 12, 2018

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 12, 2018.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the fourth budget workshop for FY 2018-2019.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 6:00P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Brian Aylward
Trustee Mervin R. Livsey, Jr
Trustee Barbara Murphy
Trustee James Ramus

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
3 Community members

Treasurer Walters reported that upon further review of the current budget and the revenues the Village has received so far, he believes some codes may be overstated. Treasurer Walters commented that upon review of the tax cap regulations, more money can be raised by taxes as allowed by the cap. Treasurer Walters commented that he made changes to the revenue schedule that will allow the Village to collect more revenue, and stay under the tax cap limit, as follows:

- a. Increase Real Property by \$70,000 (allowable by tax cap)
- b. Decrease Sales Tax by \$20,000 because overstated in current budget
- c. Decrease Fines & Forfeitures by \$15,000 overstated in current budget
- d. Decrease Insurance Recoveries by \$10,00 overstated in current budget
- e. Appropriated fund balance offset by \$25,000

Treasurer Walters explained to the Village Board that with the adjustments made to the revenue schedule, and no changes on the expense side, the tax rate will increase from \$10.16 to approximately \$10.40.

Discussion was held by the Village Board regarding vehicles for the Water Plant. Treasurer Walters pointed out that there is no vehicle in the water department's requested budget. Mayor D'Onofrio stated that he would like to talk with the department head before adopting the budget.

Trustee Aylward commented that he would like to see a 10% cut from all departments and a 5 year plan put in place.

Treasurer Walters commented that right now he sees no problem with the Sewer and Water Department requested budgets and that they are reasonable to meeting the revenues and expenses.

Mayor D'Onofrio reminded the Village Board that a storm drain project on West Point Highway across from the Weyant Green Complex is the Village's responsibility to fix and the Interm Street Superintendent estimates the cost, without engineering to be \$9,500.00.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that he would like the Village Board to consider about 1/3 of parking meter revenues go towards beautification. Discussion was held that meter money is goes towards the salary of the Parking Enforcement Officer.

Mayor D'Onofrio suggested that money be put in the budget for painting of the exterior of Village Hall, at least the area that is most visible to people on main street, the front of the building from Schneider Ave to the end of the building. Trustee Ramus commented that painting should be done from the top and go down. Trustee Ramus reported he would check with the Village engineer for costs to paint the entire building as opposed to just the first floor level.

Discussion was held on the need for a master meter at South Post so the Village can monitor usage for sewer billing. The Mayor reaffirmed that a master meter was needed.

Discussion was held on repairs needed at Roe Park as the spring and summer season approaches. Trustee Livsey reported on repairs to the pool estimated at \$1,000, repairs to the basketball court estimated at \$3,000 and repairs to the playground surface estimated at \$1,500. Treasurer Walters reported to the Board that this amount is something that can be found in the current budget since the work will need to be completed in this fiscal year to ensure usage of the facilities for this season.

Trustee Ramus commented that he would like to see some reserve money being set up to start showcasing the historical museum.

There was no Board action taken on the Requested Budget.

The Mayor directed the Treasurer to move the requested budget line over one column to the Tentative Budget.

Treasurer Walters explained that the Village Board can talk about the budget all they want, however, cannot make changes to the Tentative Budget until after the public hearing, which date has not been set yet, but which must be held before April 15th.

Trustee Livsey motioned to enter executive session to hold a personnel interview. The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried. Mayor D'Onofrio requested Mr. Jim DiSalvo attend.

The Village Board entered executive session at 7:20P.M.

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

The special meeting reconvened at 7:40P.M.

Trustee Livsey motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the Memorandum of Agreement, from the PBA for Part time Police Officers, for the creation of a Part Time Detective position.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Ramus made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

The special meeting closed at 7:58P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk