

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

February 28, 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 February 28, 2018.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the second 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 Barbara Murphy
Trustee James Ramus

Members absent were:

Trustee Mervin R. Livsey, Jr

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph J. Walters
Fire Chief Erik Smith
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones
2 Community members

Treasurer Walters opened with comments on the Fire Department Requested Budget. Treasurer Walters reported the Fire Department budget includes cancer coverage of \$6,000.00 which is expected to be mandated in 2019. Treasurer Walters explained that no reserve money was set aside for equipment this year, however, \$20,000 additional was put into engine vehicle reserve. Treasurer Walters explained that the Fire Chief is not responsible for the truck room rent or workers compensation lines. Treasurer Walters suggested that the amount for batteries in the equipment line should be moved into the contractual line.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that the requested budget is less than the current budget and the trucks are becoming of age and the Board will need to think about replacement in the near future.

Chief Smith responded that the Department is being responsible, have set up reserve accounts, and maintain the vehicles. Chief Smith reported that one of the two command vehicles is turning ten years old and they aren't asking for a replacement, however, it might be worth exploring a pick-up truck, even a used one, as a replacement, if one were to become available. The Chief reported that he would keep the Board updated on any changes.

Treasurer Walters commented that a new truck could cost approximately \$500,000 or more. The Board thanked the Chief for a fiscally responsible budget.

Treasurer Walters reported that he left money in the Engineering line of the Sewer Requested Budget but reminded the Village Board that engineering fees for large projects are paid out of the financing of the capital projects. Treasurer Walters reported that he used 2% for the salaries and another 2% for retro salaries since the Union Contracts are in negotiations. The Treasurer reported that a BAN was being renewed on March 1st and the Sewer part of the BAN of \$155,000.00 would be paid off. Treasurer Walters explained that he put an interfund transfer of \$155,000 into the Capital Fund for the upcoming belt press and RBC project. Treasurer Walters reported that he put \$10,000 into the Sewer Vehicle Reserve Fund and \$50,000 into Interfund Transfer that will go to the General Fund for the administrative work done on behalf of the Sewer Fund. Treasurer Walters explained that he used the current rates to budget Health Insurance to cover June through November 2018 payments and increased that by 5% to cover the December through May 2019 payments. Treasurer Walters explained that he left retirement the same.

Treasurer Walters reported that he did decrease Sewer Rents on the revenue side based on the billings from June and December. Treasurer Walters reported that he did not appropriate any surplus and reported that the fund balance is in good shape.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that water and sewer rates will not be increasing in this budget.

Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones pointed out that the electric estimate went down \$4,000 based on current billings and the fact that the new equipment in the plant has been operating more economically. Mr. Jones pointed out that although the budget for Sanitary Sewers contractual increased by \$2,600, the Wastewater Treatment Facility contractual decreased by \$6,000 and his overall Requested Budget is lower than the previous budget.

Trustee Murphy made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 6:39P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk