

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

February 19, 2019

A regular 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 19, 2019.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:00 P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Police Chief, Kenneth Scott
Police Officer, Stephen Smedley
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Approximately 9 community residents

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting with a moment of silence for all our fallen soldiers and community members since the last meeting.

The meeting opened with public comment:

Mr. Johnston, 11 Riverview Rd, commented on the balloon test held on Sunday and asked the Board if other sites will be looked at. Mr. Johnston also voiced concerns of health issues related to cell towers.

The Mayor responded that other sites were looked at, however, this site was determined to have the best frequency levels by the representative of Homeland Towers. The Mayor reassured Mr. Johnston and the other residents that the Village is in the very early stages of the process and a consultant will be hired by the Village to assist in making any decisions before any leases are signed.

Trustee Aylward remarked that a consultant will be hired to assist the Village in making informed decisions and he commented that a resident of Riverview Rd has been added to the committee. Trustee Aylward remarked that it will be a long drawn out process.

Trustee Livsey commented that it would make more sense to have a tower at a higher elevation than at 26 Havens Rd. Trustee Livsey remarked that assessments of homes that are too near to cell towers experience a lowering of their assessed value and have a hard time marketing their property for resale.

Mr. Ned Kopald, 98 Roe Ave, commented that he thought the balloon test was not properly publicized. Mr. Kopald remarked that a balloon is significantly smaller than a tower. Mr. Kopald mentioned that he would like the Village to look at sites that are not as close to residences as Haven's Rd is, and that the Board should look seriously at health concerns.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:

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The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

Trustee Livsey motioned to appoint John Sibley, Chief Water Treatment Plant Operator, effective February 21, 2019 at the rate of \$32.55 /hr and with maximum probation of 26 weeks.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the proposal from J. Robert Folchetti & Associates for engineering services related to the WWTP fire damage repairs and authorized Mayor D'Onofrio to sign it.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve new fire department member, Jazmen Brittany Booker, pending the results of a physical, per the recommendation of Fire Chief Erik Smith.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to appoint James Ripa, Jr. a part-time Police Officer at the rate of \$10.40/hr , recruit pay in the PBA Part Time Officers Contract, and with maximum probation of 78 weeks.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Murphy to approve the bills and claims for \$145,033.97 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$106,276.08
Water Fund	\$ 19,670.01
Sewer Fund	\$ 17,172.07
Capital Fund	<u>\$ 1,915.81</u>
	\$145,033.97

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio updated the Village Board on the following:

- a. Cell tower- balloon test was conducted. Mayor reported that more information will be gathered before any decisions are made.
- b. Will interview for open positions of Water Assistant and PT Mechanic on Wednesday, February 27th at 8:00am.
- c. Article 78- Mayor reported the Village is waiting on the decision of the appellate court.
- d. Emergency Management Flyer- Mayor reported that a flyer could be included in the upcoming sewer billing as long as the flyers are given to clerk before preparation for mailing begins.
- e. Vendor spots – Mayor reported that advertisement for bids will go out soon for the second space and advertisements for the first space will go out to synchronize both spots to run on a permit from April 1 to March 31 each year.
- f. Fire Department truck room lease – Mayor reported that the Fire Department’s Chairman of the Board has requested a \$500 increase in the truck room rental for FY 19-20. The Mayor reported that the Fire Department would like a one year lease extension and during the fiscal year work on a three year lease starting with the FY 20-21.

Trustee Livsey motioned to approve the increase of \$500.00 for the Fire Department truck room lease and the one year extension and to work during the year to have a three year lease starting with the FY20-21. The motion was seconded by Trustee Alyward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Murphy motioned to authorize Mayor D’Onofrio to sign the Fire Department truck room lease for the FY 2019-2020. The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 7:47P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk