

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
February 29, 2020

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 29, 2020.

The purpose of the meeting was to have the second budget meeting for FY 20-21.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 9:00A.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters
Chief Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, John Jones
Interim Street Superintendent, John Jones

Treasurer Walters explained that \$285,000 is an interfund transfer to the Capital Fund to keep sewer rates stable and that once transferred there will be approximately \$700,000 in the Capital Fund to be used against the belt press project that will be started this spring. Mr. Walters commented that sewer rents have decreased approximately \$30,000, based on the prior two billing cycles. Mr. Walters remarked that he put salary figures into budget based on the contractual amounts and also reported that overall, the sewer budget is down approximately \$45,000 from last year's budget.

Mr. Walters introduced Mr. Jones to present the Wastewater Treatment Plant budget to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Jones highlighted to the Board his equipment requests, specifically to replace one suction pump. Mr. Jones explained that there are three pumps and his plan is replace one each year. Mr. Jones explained that he also included funds to upgrade security camera system and purchase a storage shed.

Treasurer Walters remarked to the Board that the Central Garage section of the DPW budget has increased by \$93,000 because of a new fire guard gas tank with dispenser that is needed and other items that the Auto Mechanic has requested to be able to do his repairs. Mr. Walters also informed the Board that the salary line in Street Administration is the stipend for the interim Street Superintendent. Mr. Walters explained that the other salary lines were based on current salaries because contract negotiations are ongoing.

Mr. Walters introduced Mr. Jones to present the DPW budget to the Board of Trustees. Mr. Jones explained that the sweeper is almost thirty years old and he has put \$225,000 in his requested budget for a replacement. The Treasurer reported that he did not include this amount in the requested budget because if the Village were to get a new one it would be bonded. Mayor D'Onofrio noted that a request for a grant is in to Senator Skoufis for a new sweeper. Mayor D'Onofrio asked Mr. Jones to see if any of the equipment requests could be gotten out of this year's budget. The Board agreed to cut the request for \$81,000 for the gas tank down to \$40,000 this year and budget the remaining \$41,000 in the FY 21-22 budget.

Trustee Livsey recommended that the DPW replace the backhoe instead of the sweeper.

After review of the DPW requested budget, the Village Board asked the Treasurer to increase the Sidewalks Replacement line A5410.04 from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and to increase the Street Administration Salary line from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

The Village Board thanked Mr. Jones for preparing two fiscally sound budgets.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that he would like to see the Village look at leasing the next time vehicles are needed. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that he would like to get two new fountains for Roe Pond out of the current budget, Mayor D'Onofrio commented that it's time to look at replacing the snowflakes and replacement of hydrants.

The Village Board recommended to the Village Treasurer, based on current trends, that the following revenue lines should be adjusted:

Mortgage Tax A3005 should be increased from \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Business Licenses A2501 should be increased from \$6,000 to \$20,000.

Property Maintenance A 1255 should be increased from 0 to \$5,000.

Trustee Aylward motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The meeting closed at 11:00A.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk