

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

April 25, 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 April 25, 2020.

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

The meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 9:30A.M. The meeting was held under the guidelines of the Governor Cuomo's Executive Order prohibiting the general public from physically attending the Board meeting and restricting attendance to under 10 people.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Brian Aylward
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee James Ramus

Member absent: Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters
PT Detective, Randy Bailey

Mayor D'Onofrio introduced Detective Bailey to present the Village Board with an update on the Court System request that arraignments be done in the local departments with the use of webcam technology. Detective Bailey reported the cost for these items will be approximately \$2,000 dollars.

Mayor D'Onofrio asked Detective Bailey to report to the Village Board on the upgrade of security cameras, as well as the number of cameras, for the Roe Park area and other locations within the Village.

Detective Bailey reported that the number of cameras will increase from five to nine and will include Roe Park as well as a couple of other areas in the Village. Detective Bailey reported that the cost for the upgraded camera system will be approximately \$65,000-\$70,000 dollars.

Mayor D'Onofrio and the Village Board were in agreement that these costs should come out of the current budget and Detective Bailey should do what is necessary to order these items.

Village Treasurer Ralph Walters reported that the Water and Sewer Tentative Budgets are in good shape and recommends no changes to it.

Mayor D'Onofrio asked the Treasurer if more funds need to be added to the General Fund Engineer's line. The Treasurer explained that most engineering fees are paid through projects and does not recommend adding more money.

Trustee Ramus asked if money is in the budget for PPE (personal protective equipment) because of the recent health crisis. The Mayor explained no extra money was put in the budget for this equipment. The Treasurer explained that the department heads should have included these items in their requests. The Treasurer commented that if additional PPE equipment is needed throughout the year there is money in the budget to help with the cost.

The Village Treasurer reported that there are no major changes to the General Fund. Discussion was held on the salaries and overtime line of the Police Department. The Village Board directed the Treasurer to decrease Police Salaries (A3120.0100) \$15,000.00 and increase Police Overtime (A3120.0120) \$15,000.00.

Mayor D'Onofrio directed the Village Treasurer to put the Police Chief's salary at \$109,500, in line with the 2% increase for non-union employees, who have been employed for more than one year, for FY2020-2021.

The Village Treasurer reported that he would have the Adopted Budget for the Village Board's approval by April 29th. The Village Treasurer explained the Adopted Budget tax rate will remain the same as the Tentative Budget at \$10.6121 and under the 2% tax cap mandated by the State. The Treasurer reported that the State does allow for the budget adoption to be done at the earliest date possible to May 1st due to the Coronavirus and that it would be ok for the Village Board to adopt the budget at their Regular Meeting on May 4th to avoid an unnecessary special meeting.

Mayor D'Onofrio updated the Village Board on the ongoing projects within the Village.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to enter executive session to discuss specific individuals in specific personnel matters.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Executive Session was entered 10:38A.M.

Trustee Aylward motioned to come out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Regular Meeting reconvened at 11:15A.M.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign a retainer agreement with Goldberger & Kremer as the Village's Labor Relations Attorney & Consultants, that includes, but is not limited to, a three year cost structure of \$195/hr year 1, \$210/hr year 2, \$225/hr year 3, a 30 day termination clause and the use of video teleconferencing whenever possible.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to increase Ana Sierra's Deputy Treasurer's stipend from \$1.75/hr to \$2.75/hr effective FY 2020-2021.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to increase Regina Taylor, Village Clerk's salary \$5,000/yr effective FY 2020-2021.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 11:37A.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk