

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

November 2, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in the Senior Center, 15 Drew Avenue, Highland Falls, New York on November 2, 2020.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D’Onofrio at 7:00P.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 Attorney, Alyse Terhune  
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan  
News of Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Town Councilmember, Richard Sullivan (7:44pm)  
2 Community members

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 was held under the guidelines of Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 202.1 which allows for gatherings under 25 people with social distancing and wearing masks rule in effective because of the COVID-19 health crisis.

A Public Hearing, which was duly advertised, was held on the Proposed Local Law titled “Amending Chapter 235”. The local law proposes to amend Chapter 235 of the Water Code under the Service Installation requirements by adding a new subsection which prohibits shared water lateral service lines. Mayor D’Onofrio opened the public hearing at 7:09pm.

Mrs. Stephen Terry, 91 Center Street, remarked to the Board that she is opposed to the law. Mrs. Terry commented that she and her husband received a notice to repair letter that the Village would come onto property to fix leak, if not taken care of by property owner, and charge cost to their property. Mrs. Stephen explained that she is on a shared service line and doesn’t agree with having to fix a leak that is on the shared line at their expense.

Mayor D’Onofrio responded to Mrs. Terry and apologized for the letter being sent to them. The Mayor commented that the leak is on the neighbor’s line and he would send a letter back to them after discussing the matter with the Village Attorney. The Mayor commented that a civil situation may still exist with the neighbor.

Mr. Michael Fuerch, Jevens Rd. remarked that he thinks the proposed law needs clarity on whose responsibility it is to replace their line. Mr. Fuerch commented that he thinks there is too much ambiguity in the law as presented.

Alyse Terhune, Village Attorney addressed Mr. Fuerch’s concerns and explained the Village’s responsibility on providing water to residents.

Mayor D’Onofrio responded that more work needs to be done before the law is passed and recommended that the public hearing remain open.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that he understands the law to only come into play when it is discovered that a shared line exists. Trustee DiSalvo explained that the Village is not going out to look for shared lines.

Trustee Ramus agreed that the law may need some clarity and make sure it is clear new development would have to show why one lateral is needed.

All questions being asked and all comments being heard, the public hearing was adjourned until the next meeting, November 16<sup>th</sup>, with a motion by Trustee DiSalvo and second by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Livsey motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- October 19, 2020

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Resolution of the Adoption of the Local Law Amending Chapter 235 was tabled.

Trustee Livsey motioned the following:

Resolution  
General Village Election

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.  
(A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes.)

Trustee Livsey motioned to approve change order #1 for an increase of \$4,512.50 to Consorti Bros. for additional subbase material and installation on the basketball court rehabilitation project, per the recommendation of Michael Panich, LA Group, PC inspector of the job.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the surplus of Police Vehicle 932 and Police Vehicle 936, per the recommendation of Sergeant Torpey.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Livsey motioned to accept the proposal from Denardo Excavating, LLC to dredge sediment along Bog Meadow Dam for \$6,800.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

An Event request from American Burrito to use Municipal Lot #2 on December 12<sup>th</sup> was tabled until the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY20-21 for \$274,525.76 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$110,627.86
Section 8	\$ 67,853.00
Water Fund	\$ 5,974.51
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,430.37
Capital Fund	<u>\$ 82,640.02</u>
	\$274,525.76

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio named the following residents to a committee to work with Scenic Hudson in the development of walking trail(s) on the recently purchased river view "Aloe" property: Martha Aylward, Stella Bailey, Katy Pace, Ronnie Coffey and any Village Board member who wants to be on it.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported to the Village Board that some residents came to him wanting the Village to sponsor a program with a group named "TARA" (The Animal Rights Alliance). These residents would like the Village to put \$1,000 towards the program. The Mayor explained that the program will encourage residents to pay half the cost of having a cat neutered or spayed and the Village will pay half. The Mayor commented that he would get the information to the Village Attorney to review, talk to Treasurer and come back at the next meeting asking for Board approval.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that he negotiated with Central Hudson to provide the Village with funds to offset the cost of paving the streets that had gas lines replaced as part of the Village paving project. The Mayor commented that Central Hudson will provide \$130,000 towards the repaving project

Trustee Livsey motioned to enter executive session to discuss personnel issues. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 8:18p.m.

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

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:50p.m.

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

The meeting closed at 8:50p.m.

---

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk