

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

March 6, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Senior Center, 15 Drew Avenue, Highland Falls, New York on March 6, 2021.

The purpose of the meeting was to hold the third budget meeting for FY21-22.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 9:30A.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  
Police Chief Kenneth Scott  
(5) Community residents, Olga Anderson- 78 Ondaora Parkway, Jim & Cindy  
Modlin- 30 Michel Rd. , Kathy Jones-17 Catherine St., Joe DeWitt-34 Villa Pkwy

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting at 9:30A.M. and welcomed the residents to the meeting. Mayor D'Onofrio introduced the Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters and commented that the budget workshop would begin with the Police Department requested budget for FY 21-22.

The Village Treasurer remarked that the Police budget, including salaries, was put together by the Police Chief. Mr. Walters commented that the salary lines are based on the current union contracts that ended May 31, 2020, and that overtime amounts are a pure guesstimate based on prior year actual amounts and prior budgets.

Chief Scott remarked that the Communications salaries line is a little less than last year because newer dispatcher was hired at a lower salary according to union contract.

Treasurer Walters reported that the contractual line in the Communications Department is in-line with previous budgets and that the Police contractual line has increased about \$7,000 dollars.

Chief Scott reported that leasing vehicles has allowed the department to keep the fleet up to date and save on year to year costs. Chief Scott reported that the vehicles are done on a three year lease with an option to buy for minimal cost after lease expires.

Chief Scott responded to questions on overtime expenditures and commented that the budget of \$50,000 has worked out because there is usually money left in salaries to help if overtime runs overbudget.

Mr. Walters reminded everyone that a budget is a best guesstimate on what you think you'll need for expenditures in the new fiscal year. Mr. Walters recommended that Traffic Control Contractual be combined with the Street Parking Contractual.

Mr. Walters commented that the Police Budget was very tight and that some areas have seen decreases.

Mr. Jim Modlin commented to the Board that the Police budget should have something in it to account for unsettled contracts and possibilities.

No more questions or comments from the Board, the Treasurer moved on to present the General Fund Expenditure lines.

Mr. Walters commented that he put in a 2.5% increase for non-union employees based on the DPW settled contract for 2.5%. Mr. Walters explained that the non-union employees consist of three Village Hall employees, Village Board and the non-Police PT employees.

Mr. Walters reviewed the General Fund line with the Board and noted that most lines were being budgeted the same as current year.

The Village Board asked the Treasurer to make the following changes from Requested Budget to the Tentative Budget:

1. take \$5,000 dollars out of A7120.042 Main Street Revitalization and put it into A7310.040 Youth Services.
2. take out the equipment requests of (1) dump truck-\$110,000 dollars, skid steer-\$80,000 dollars and street sweeper-\$270,000 dollars for a total of \$570,000 dollars to consider for bonding.
3. take out the air compressor-\$24,000 dollars and jumping jack tamper-\$23,000 dollars and pay for them out of the current budget.

Mr. Walters reported to the Board that the requested budget as presented calls for a .36¢ increase to the current tax rate of \$10.6121, which in turn results in a tax increase of \$70.00 on a \$200,000 assessed home. Mr. Walters commented that in order to arrive at this rate, 1 million dollars of surplus is being used to lower the amount of taxes to be raised and the budget is under the State mandated 2% cap.

Mr. Walters asked the Board to think about how much of a tax rate increase would be acceptable and also to think about if they want to bond for the DPW equipment. Mr. Walters reminded the Board that it takes time to prepare the bond resolution and it takes time before any money can actually be borrowed.

Mr. Walters reminded everyone that the next budget meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:00P.M. at the Senior Center.

Mayor D'Onofrio asked that Tim Green and John Jones be asked back for any Board questions regarding the equipment.

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

The special meeting closed at 11:11A.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk