

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

April 3, 2017

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 April 3, 2017.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:01P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Street Superintendent, Gary Boyce
Chief WWTP Operator, John Jones
Orange County Legislator, James DiSalvo
Town of Highlands Supervisor, Bob Livsey
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Approximately 45 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.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that Reorganization scheduled for tonight's meeting has been rescheduled for the second meeting of the month, April 17th @ 7:00pm in Village Hall.

A Public Hearing, as duly advertised, on the FY 17-18 Tentative Budget, was opened by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:05pm. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that this budget was put together by the previous administration and that it does comply with staying under the tax cap of 2%. Mayor D'Onofrio read the summary page of the budget aloud stating that the General Fund Operating Expenses totaled \$4,976,537.00, Water Fund Operating Expenses totaled \$856,000.00 & Sewer Fund Operating Expenses totaled \$1,142,600.00. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that a budget workshop would be announced at a later date and would be properly noticed. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that he would like to hold the workshop before the next Village meeting scheduled for April 17th in hopes that the budget could possibly be adopted at that meeting.

Barbara Mennite, 11 Locust Avenue, commented that she had urged the previous administration to allocate funds for a grant writer and suggested that \$20,000 be put aside. Ms. Mennite commented that she would encourage the Board to continue to apply for grants to help ease the burden for taxpayers.

James Modlin, 30 Michel Road, commented that he notices that the revenues and expenses did not equal and that maybe the Board should review this at the next workshop.

All questions being asked and all comments being heard, Trustee Murphy motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:12pm.

A Public Hearing, as duly advertised, on the submission of the CDBG 2018 Grant Application was opened by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:12pm.

Mayor D'Onofrio explained that this grant comes from Orange County. Mayor D'Onofrio explained the different areas in which the Village could apply for funding, which included, but were not limited to, acquisition & disposition of real property, public works, public facilities or site improvements, special projects for handicapped or elderly. Mayor D'Onofrio suggested sidewalks around Memorial Park and Ladycliff Park could be an option or sidewalks for Main Street. Mayor D'Onofrio explained that the application is due to the County on April 28th and that does not give the Village much time to consider the project and submit the application, but that it will be submitted on time.

Joseph McCormick, 10 Rose Drive, asked where we are with Central Hudson and their plans to put a new main down Main Street. The Mayor responded that he has a meeting with Central Hudson coming up soon and he find out the answer to many questions regarding the replacement of the gas main.

Barbara Mennite, 11 Locust Ave., speaking as a representative of the Economic Development Corporation, suggested a tourist information center might be something to consider. Ms. Mennite commented that a survey put out by the EDC asking for community input came back with responses that included improvement of sidewalks in the business corridor.

All questions being asked and all comments heard, Trustee Ramus motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:19pm.

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and updated the community on meetings he has held since his re-election and upcoming meetings. Mayor D’Onofrio reported that Detective Jason Torpey is the Officer in Charge of the Police Department and that Ken Scott would be back as a Consultant on a daily basis.

The Mayor stated that the Department Head Reports will be given at the next Regular Board Meeting.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the below listed minutes as follows:

a) Special Meeting –March 30, 2017

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and with the three newly elected officials abstaining, the motion did not carry. The Mayor and new Trustees commented that they were not comfortable voting on the approval of these minutes since they were not a part of the meeting.

Trustee Murphy motioned to approve the resignation of Part Time Officer Michael Coleman, effective March 31, 2017.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the Opening Day Parade for Little League and Pony Tail League to be held on April 23, 2017 from Municipal Lot#2 (staging) to Roe Park(disbanding), from 12:30p.m. to 2:00p.m.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Livsey and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for \$126,263.96 from the following listed funds:

FY 16-17	General Fund	\$ 28,563.66
	Section 8	\$68,797.00
	Water Fund	\$ 8,792.57
	Sewer Fund	\$ 20,110.73

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and unanimously carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio read a memo from OIC Detective Jason Torpey recommending the appointment of Randell Bailey to a Part-time Officer position pending civil service approval. Detective Bailey recommended the salary of \$25.70, step 5 in the part time police officer contract.

Trustee Ramus motioned to appoint Randell Bailey a Part-time Police Officer for \$25.70/hr, step 5 of the part-time police officer’s contract, and with maximum probation, pending the approval of Civil Service, per the recommendation of OIC Jason Torpey.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Murphy and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

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

The meeting closed at 8:25P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk