

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

April 5, 2021

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 April 5, 2021.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:17P.M.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio
Trustee Brian Aylward
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Melanie Guerrero
Trustee Gary C. Phillips

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor
Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
TOH Councilman, Jim Modlin
5 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the Public Hearing on the FY 2021-2022 Tentative Budget at 7:17p.m. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that there will be another budget workshop on Saturday, April 17, 2021 at 9:30a.m. in the Senior Center to continue discussion on the Tentative Budget with the new Board members. Mayor D'Onofrio introduced Mr. Ralph Walters, Village Treasurer, to present the tentative budget.

Mr. Walters read the Tentative Budget by Fund, by Department. Mr. Walters stated that the budget is below the New York State mandated tax cap and if there are to be changes to this tentative, he must have them before April 28th in order to have the final adoption numbers ready by the May 1st deadline to adopt the budget. Mr. Walters did inform the Board that because May 1st is a Saturday, the budget can be adopted Monday May 3rd.

Trustee Guerrero questioned how much debt the Village has and remarked that she was concerned about the Village spending. Trustee Guerrero commented that she would like to bring the debt down and would like to see this budget reduced. Trustee Guerrero commented that she is not reassured because we remain under the tax cap and she doesn't see enough in the budget to help reduce the debt.

Treasurer Walters explained that the Village has current debt of approximately 3.9 million to be paid off by 2035 and that the Village will be taking on more debt, approximately 3.4 million, for the water main replacements in Ondaora/Cragston areas, scheduled for next year. Mr. Walters explained that the financial investors set the repayment schedule. Mr. Walters explained the current BAN of \$585,000 constitutes money for the Schneider Avenue drainage project and the 2020 street paving project. Mr. Walters explained how debt repayment works. Mr. Walters added that interest rates are in a good place today to get infrastructure projects done.

Merv Livsey, 107 Mountain Ave. commented as a former Trustee, that it is not easy to prepare the budget with many fixed expenses. Mr. Livsey expressed that now might be a time to look at consolidation or shared services.

Barbara Murphy, 25 Webb Lane, commended the Board for taking a hard look at this budget and agreed with Mr. Livsey that now might be a time to look at consolidation. Ms. Murphy agreed with the Village Treasurer that now is also a good time to bond infrastructure projects.

Cindy Modlin, 30 Michel Rd., suggested the Board look "outside the box" for alternatives to bonding.

Jim Modlin, liaison to the Town Board, 30 Michel Rd., suggested the structure of government might be something to look at and offered Town support in looking for ways to reduce government spending.

Trustee Aylward motioned to adjourn the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried. The Public Hearing closed at 8:06p.m.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- March 15, 2021

Special Meeting – March 29, 2021-Clerk presented Tentative Budget to Village Board

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request from Vision to hold a Farmer's Market in municipal lot#2, on Sundays from June 13-October 31, 2021, from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned the following:

A Resolution to Introduce and Schedule A Public Hearing to Receive
Public Comments Concerning the Enactment of A Local Law
Adding Chapter 78 Entitled "Community Choice Aggregation (Energy) Program"
To the Code of the Village of Highland Falls

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

(A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee Guerrero motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Introductory Local Law Modifying Chapter 207 of the
Code of the Village of Highland Falls, Entitled, Subdivision of Land,
To Regulate Lot Line Changes.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

(A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Resolution
Vehicle and Traffic
Delete Two Handicap Spots

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

(A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee Phillips motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls
Resolution
Vehicle and Traffic
Parking Prohibited at All Times

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

(A true and complete copy of the resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorize Mayor D’Onofrio to sign the renewal agreement with Joseph E. Mastrianni Inc. for administrative services for the HVC Section 8 Program and the Family Self Sufficiency Program from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to accept the resignation of DPW Laborer Jacob Sizemore effective COB April 16, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to accept the Retirement of Police Chief Kenneth Scott, effective April 14, 2021. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY20-21 for \$150,988.78 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 39,376.42
Section 8	\$ 67,781.00
Water Fund	\$ 22,590.79
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 21,240.57</u>
	\$150,988.78

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

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

The meeting closed at 8:45 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk