

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

March 9, 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 9, 2021.

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

The meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Aylward at 5:00P.M.

Members present were:

Trustee Brian Aylward  
Trustee James DiSalvo  
Trustee Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.  
Trustee James Ramus

Member absent was:

Mayor Joseph E. D'Onofrio

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters  
Senior Automotive Mechanic, Tim Green  
(5) Community residents, Olga Anderson- 78 Ondaora Pkwy, Jim & Cindy Modlin-  
30 Michel Rd. , Joe DeWitt-34 Villa Pkwy, Ray Deveraux- Ondaora Pkwy

Trustee Aylward opened the meeting at 5:00P.M.

Ms. Olga Anderson addressed the Village Board and based on the last budget meeting she attended had the following comments:

1. the Village Board should decline the 2.5 % raise that the Village Treasurer added into their salary lines to show the residents that they are empathetic to the economic environment we are all currently under,
2. the Main Street Revitalization line should be renamed to something else because revitalization should mean more than benches and planters,
3. commented that from what she heard at the last meeting, someone put the Village into a corner with the proposed Police MOA's .

Village Treasurer Walters reported to the Board that he incorporated into a preliminary tentative budget changes he heard the Board say they would like to see before the next meeting. Mr. Walters reported that he took the equipment items of a dump truck, skid steer and street sweeper out of the Street Maintenance Equipment lines to put into a potential borrowing. Mr. Walters commented that he took out the compressor and the jumping jack tamper since the Board agreed to pay for these out of the current budget.

Discussion was held with the Senior Automotive Mechanic regarding the condition of the equipment and vehicles in the Requested Budget. No decisions at this time on the bonding of the equipment or vehicles.

Treasurer Walters reviewed the General Fund line items again with the Village Board. Trustee Ramus recommended some dollars could be shaved off the contingency line. Trustee Aylward agreed that Main Street Revitalization could be reduced by \$20,000 dollars. Trustee DiSalvo recommended that the reduction in Main Street Revitalization be used to increase the Police Reserve Fund from zero dollars to \$10,000 dollars and increase the DPW Vehicle Reserve Fund \$10,000 dollars from \$15,000 dollars to \$25,000 dollars.

Treasurer Walters reminded everyone that this is not the final budget and that there will be opportunity for the Board to make more cuts or additions before the final adoption on or before May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Treasurer Walters explained that a Public Hearing, scheduled right now for April 5<sup>th</sup>, needs to be held on the Tentative Budget which must be presented to the Village Clerk before March 20<sup>th</sup>. Treasurer Walters commented that with the changes he already made and the few items talked about tonight, the Tentative Budget will show a tax rate increase of .17¢ which relates to a \$34.00 increase for the year for a house assessed at \$200,000 dollars.

Treasurer Walters explained that the overall budget will show a decrease of \$507,000 dollars which will result in the amount of Fund Balance used being reduced from 1 million dollars to a little under \$600,000. Treasurer Walters explained that this is possible because the amount of assessed value of Village properties increased approximately \$400,000 dollars. Treasurer Walters reported that the budget remains under the State mandated 2% tax cap.

The Treasurer reported that he would be bringing the Tentative Budget to the Village Clerk on Thursday March 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Village Clerk asked the Village Board to enter executive session to discuss a specific individual in a personnel matter.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to enter executive session to discuss a specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 6:48P.M.

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

The special meeting reconvened at 6:56P.M.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request for vacation buy back from Detective Kleveno for (10) ten days only. The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

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

The special meeting closed at 6:57P.M.

---

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk