

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS  
June 21, 2021

A regular 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 June 21, 2021.

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 Melanie Guerrero  
Trustee Gary C. Phillips

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Regina M. Taylor  
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune  
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
TOH Councilman, Jim Modlin  
O.C. Legislator, Laurie Tautel  
Approximately 60 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our service members and Community members who have passed away since the last meeting.

Comments on agenda items:

Mr. & Mrs. Loucks, 48 Roe Avenue, thanked the Village Board again for their quick response in rectifying the wall collapse at their property that abuts Mearns Avenue and being proactive in getting the matter taken care of.

A Public Hearing, as duly advertised, for comments regarding the Community Development Block Grant 2022 Funding Application, was opened by Mayor D'Onofrio at 7:05P.M.

Laurie Tautel, Orange County Legislator, asked what project the Village is looking to fund.

Mayor D'Onofrio explained that the application would be to fund sidewalk projects on Prospect Street, Schneider Avenue, and Center Street, and other sidewalks in those areas depending on the amount of funding awarded.

All comments heard and all questions asked, Trustee DiSalvo motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:  
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:06P.M.

Mayor D'Onofrio opened a public hearing at 7:06 P.M. for Notice(s) of Violation and Order to Remedy and Notice(s) of Hearing issued to the following Property Owner(s):

53 Villa Parkway 105-3-48.12  
72 Mountain Avenue 104-2-33

in violation of the Code of the Village of Highland Falls\Chapter 170-Property Maintenance Code\170-1 Detrimental growth prohibited. There were no owners or representatives present for these properties. No further questions or comments from the public. Trustee DiSalvo motioned to close the Public Hearing.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:  
5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried. The Public Hearing closed at 7:11P.M.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Resolution(s)  
Concerning Violation of Property Maintenance at the following location(s):

53 Villa Parkway 105-3-48.12  
72 Mountain Avenue 104-2-33

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried. (A true and complete copy of the resolutions are appended to these minutes).

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:  
Regular Meeting- June 7, 2021  
The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to rescind the motions taken at the June 7, 2021 Village Board meeting to accept Randy Bailey’s retirement day of May 5, 2021 and re-appointment as a Part time Police Officer effective June 4, 2021 @ step 5 of the PBA part-time contract.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the retirement date of Part time Officer Randy Bailey, effective June 21, 2021.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to re-appoint Randy Bailey to the position of Part-time Police Officer, effective June 22, 2021 at the rate of step five in the Part-time Police Union Contract and subject to Civil Service probationary rules.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:  
3 Ayes (DiSalvo, Phillips, D’Onofrio) 2 Nays (Aylward, Guerrero) motion carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to rescind the motion taken at the June 7, 2021 Village Board meeting to appoint Tyler Vecchio to Full time Police Officer, effective July 8, 2021.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to appoint Tyler Vecchio, from the Civil Service List of Eligibles to the position of Full-time Police Officer, effective June 21, 2021, at the rate of pay as determined in the Full-time Police Union Contract and with maximum probation of 78 weeks as recommended by OIC Sergeant Torpey.

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

Trustee Aylward motioned to appoint Alexandra Martens to the position of Part-time Police Officer, effective June 21, 2021 at the recruit pay of minimum wage until training is complete and then paid at the starting step (23.60/hr.) as outlined in the collective bargaining contract and under Civil Service probationary rules, as recommended by OIC Sergeant Torpey.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Change Order #1, South Main Street Sidewalks, an increase of \$13,600.00 for bridge concrete restoration and joint caulking, making the contract price \$283,275.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve Change Order #2, South Main Street Sidewalks, an increase of \$88,500.00 for additional work to replace 75 feet by 10 feet of a stone retaining wall, supporting Mearns Avenue, on the property at 48 Roe Avenue, making the contract price \$371,775.00.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to re-new the license for the Los Picantes Softball Team to hold softball games on Sundays in June and July at Roe Park, from 12:00 noon -5:00P.M., on a month to month basis, with the stipulation that the rules be followed regarding the usage of Roe Park.

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

4 Ayes (Aylward, DiSalvo, Phillips, D’Onofrio) 1 Nay (Guerrero) motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the TOH Recreation Department request to hold movie night on Friday’s at Roe Park during July and August from 8:30pm to the completion of the movie.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Senior Bash at Roe Park on June 22, 2021, if an organization wants to provide insurance for the events planned and the insurance is turned into the Village Clerk before 3:00P.M. tomorrow.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the result which follows:

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned to approve the request from Jose Rodriquez-Dirtbags to hold a Baseball League at Roe Park on 6/22, 6/28, 6/30, 7/6, 7/14, from 6:00P.M.-8:00P.M..

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and on a roll call vote, the result which follows:

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned to cancel the first meeting in July, July 5<sup>th</sup> , unless there becomes a need to pay bills.

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 \$102,774.94 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 90,055.35
Water Fund	\$ 4,535.90
Sewer Fund	\$ 7,900.83
Capital Fund	\$ <u>282.86</u>
	\$102,774.94

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$6,708.04 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 5,946.48
Sewer Fund	\$ <u>761.56</u>
	\$ 6,708.04

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to bring Part time Officer Bailey back into the position of Detective. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

3 Ayes ( DiSalvo, Phillips, D’Onofrio) 2 Nays (Aylward, Guerrero) motion carried.

Public Comment on any issue:

Mary Ellen Olivia, 26 Cozzens Ave, would like Board members to speak up at meetings or use microphones. Commented those hired back again are double dipping.

Kat Dagaev, 40 West Point Highway, asked if someone else shouldn’t have an opportunity to apply for the job before hiring back the person who left.

Martha Aylward, 13 Church St., asked when the water issue will be corrected. Mayor D’Onofrio responded that it already has been.

Olga Anderson, 78 Ondaora Parkway, asked where is the Board with the new consolidation study with CGR. Mayor D'Onofrio responded that a meeting will be held with Mr. Bishop on July 7, 2021 to set the schedule and he will be looking at the Police Departments only.

Harvey Green, 23 Fostoria Street, commented that he has a problem with the petition being circulated to dissolve the Police Department.

Jim Lenny, HF, commented that calling 911 does not work in this Town.

Laurie Tautel, O.C. Legislator, asked what the time frame was that the water tests were out of range to cause the violation notice. Trustee Phillips explained that testing was done during an active rainy period that pushed levels slightly higher than the chemicals could keep up with. Trustee Phillips responded that everything was cleared up quickly.

Cindy Modlin, 30 Michel Rd., commented that the petitions were not to dissolve the police department, but to allow residents a chance to vote on whether or not to dissolve the police department.

Vicky Gonzales, HF, commented that many people are confused by the petitions that are being circulated and more information should be given out.

Ann Hess, FM, commented that calling 911 takes more time for response. Ms. Hess remarked that when she had a heart attack it took five minutes for the local police to respond.

Dan Zint, HF, commented that he is not in favor of disbanding the Police Department. Mr. Zint remarked that 911 does not work in our area and that the Village should take over Town policing.

Victor Cadet, HF, asked if the water report was something he could see daily. Mayor D'Onofrio responded that the annual quality report is posted on the Village website.

Joe DeWitt, 34 Villa Parkway, remarked that the facts should be given out and that maybe a Town Hall discussion is needed regarding the issue of Police dissolution.

Frank Lilos, PT Police Officer HF, commented that the petitions being carried can't let this divide the community. Mr. Lilos remarked that there are good people on both sides of the issue.

James Ramus, 31 Liberty Street, commented that the 2017 Study was flawed and that's why the previous board wanted another study. Mr. Ramus asked about the Restore NY grant and said he knew of another owner that might be interested in participating and hoped it was not too late.

James Johnson, Orange County resident, commented that part time officers are not as committed as full time and the Board should proceed with caution on getting rid of the Police Department.

Trustee Aylward motioned to enter into executive session for a specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the result which follows: 5Ayes 0Nays motion carried.

The Village Board entered executive session at 8:51P.M.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned out of executive session at 9:10P.M. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried. No action was taken by the Board.

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

The meeting closed at 9:11P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk