

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
August 2, 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 August 2, 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:

Deputy Clerk, Ana I. Sierra
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Engineer, Todd Atkinson
Cell Consultant, Clint Smith
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
TOH Councilman, Jim Modlin
Approximately 20 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting with a moment of silence for all our service members and those affected by COVID.

Trustee Aylward started with a plea to the Village Board and the residents to try and be civil to one another and be respectful to one another even if we have different opinions due to dissolution talks. He asked that people on both sides make a conscious effort to stop with the negativity and lack of respect.

Comments on agenda items:

Martha Aylward, 13 Church Street, asked the Board if a cell antenna went up would 911 still be an issue and would it improve cell service. Mayor advised her that they were good questions and they would be discussing it shortly.

Police Officer Frank M Lilos, Fort Montgomery, spoke about the Police Contract being approved and the compromise they took. He believed all grievances would be settled, however he didn't see anything on tonight's agenda about his son Frank A. Lilos' grievance and asked would it be addressed tonight and was advised that it would be on the agenda on Monday August 9, 2021. He also agreed with Trustee Aylward and stated that we should all stay together as a community.

Clint Smith, the Village's cell consultant, spoke about the Cell Antennas being installed in the Village, one on the Village Hall roof and one at the Senior Center in one of the parking spaces. This would tremendously improve cell service and improve most dead zones in the Village. This would be the best solution at the moment with hopes that it will be installed by first quarter 2022.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:
Regular Meeting- July 19, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve a request from Sergeant Ruger to buy back 10 (ten) vacation days according to section 703 of the employee handbook, at the cost of \$3,868.27.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned to accept the proposal and lowest bid from New York Tree Masters for \$2,450.00 for removal of a dead oak tree on 65 West Street as well as a smaller tree along side of it.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the Concrete Curb repairs (option #2) on Mearns Avenue after a brief explanation from the Village Engineer Todd Atkinson on why the repairs on were necessary, and that the A-Tech cost of \$11,925.00 be approved as these funds were still available in left over funds from sidewalk grants that could be used to complete the work.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request from Area of Operations, Inc to use Roe Park Baseball Field, Pavilion and Bathrooms to host a meet and greet fundraiser on August 7, 2021 from Noon until 6:00 pm, provided that there is nothing else scheduled on that date and time after contacting Aaron Falk, the Town of Highlands Recreation Director.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the request from Village Clerk Regina Taylor to surplus 2 Dell Computers with monitors, keyboards and mice that are over 10 years old.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio asked Village Board to go back to Police Officer Frank A. Lilos and that he be brought to Step 2 effective August 2, 2021 at 11:00pm, his next shift.

Trustee Phillips motioned to move Police Officer Frank A. Lilos to Step 2 effective tonight.

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio requested a motion to set a special meeting to take place on August 9, 2021 at 6:00pm in the Village Hall for the purpose of setting the date for the vote on Village dissolution. Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept.

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio advised the residents that if anyone is unable to make it upstairs to the meeting the downstairs conference room would be open for residents to watch meeting on TV and ask questions by calling the number to the second floor.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$254,162.62 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$127,506.77
Section 8	\$ 67,376.00
Water Fund	\$ 12,904.82
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 46,375.03</u>
	\$254,162.62

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio commented on the Covid numbers rising in the County and advised residents that if anyone has a child 12 and over they can call 845-291-2330 to get the vaccine.

Trustee Guerrero commented that the resolution that was passed for \$27,500.00 to hire the Laberge Group for the dissolution studies at the last meeting was improperly done because she was not aware of it before. Mayor D’Onofrio advised her that the Laberge Group would be applying for grants to help with the costs. She also commented on the \$125,000.00 grant which she feels was not permissible and that the funds are being misused as these monies are being used for what she feels is against the dissolution.

Trustee Phillips reported that the Bog Meadow reservoir is at 87%, which is higher than this time last year. Trustee Phillips also reported that Ryan Kresback has been rehired as a second operator at the plant.

Trustee DiSalvo reported that the time schedule involving the dissolution was very frustrating and that maybe the policy should be looked into. Trustee DiSalvo also reminded the Public to attend the National Night Out tomorrow night.

Public Comment:

Joe DeWitt asked why the Village wouldn’t hire both firms CGR and Laberge to look at both sides as he feels that Laberge is more for non-dissolution. He stated that everyone, whether for dissolution or not, should ask questions and make sure to get answers.

Harvey Green commented on the dissolution flyers he keeps receiving and why whoever is sending them will not identify themselves. He stated that the information on them is false and why they claim that there are many of the Village employees nearing retirement, but how does anyone know if any of the Village employees are ready to retire or can actually afford to retire. He also stated that the Town hiring the village employees is not true with Civil Service and necessary lists, titles and salaries involved.

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

The meeting closed at 8:50P.M.