

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

August 16, 2021

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 August 16, 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
Village Treasurer, Ralph Walters
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
TOH Councilman, Jim Modlin
TOH Councilman, Richard Sullivan
Village Financial Advisor, Noah Nadelson, from Munistat, Inc.
Village Auditor, Justin Wood from Nugent & Haeussler, P.C.
O.C. Legislator, Laurie Tautel
TOH Ambulance Corp President, Jeff Gathers
CCA Chairman, Mindy Kimball
17 Community members

Mayor D’Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our service members and Community members who have passed away since the last meeting. The meeting was held under the CDC and Orange County Department of Health recommendation to wear masks inside buildings & for public gatherings whether a person is vaccinated or not, due to the rise in the Covid-19 & the delta variant.

Mayor D’Onofrio introduced Mr. Justin Wood from Nugent & Haeussler, P.C. the firm that performs the annual audit for the Village of Highland Falls. Mr. Wood is the Village’s lead auditor and he reviewed the most up to date financial audit report, FY Ending May 31, 2020, with the Village Board and those in the public. Mr. Wood followed up his presentation with a Q&A session.

Mayor D’Onofrio introduced Mr. Noah Nadelson from Munistat, Inc., the financial advising firm that reviews all BOND and BAN borrowings of the Village. Mr. Nadelson reviewed the BOND rating of the Village and explained how this number is derived. Mr. Nadelson explained the difference between authorization to BOND and the actual issuance of BONDS and BANS. Mr. Nadelson reported to the Village Board and the public the actual debt of the Village as of May 31, 2021 to be \$3,840,000 in BONDS and \$585,000 in BANS for a total of \$4,425,000. Mr. Nadelson followed up his presentation with a Q&A session.

Trustee Phillips motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- August 2, 2021
Special Meeting- August 9, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
COUNTY OF ORANGE
STATE OF NEW YORK

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK
STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA) REGARDING THE LEASE OF LAND TO
VERIZON WIRELESS OF THE EAST d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS TO PLACE A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FACILITY AT 303 MAIN STREET

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Voting: Trustee Aylward | <u>Aye</u> |
| Trustee DiSalvo | <u>Aye</u> |
| Trustee Guerrero | <u>Aye</u> |

Trustee Phillips Aye
 Mayor D'Onofrio Aye

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
 COUNTY OF ORANGE
 STATE OF NEW YORK

RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK
 STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA) REGARDING THE LEASE OF LAND TO
 VERIZON WIRELESS OF THE EAST d/b/a VERIZON WIRELESS TO PLACE A TELECOMMUNICATIONS
 FACILITY AT 15 DREW AVENUE

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays

| | | |
|---------|------------------|------------|
| Voting: | Trustee Aylward | <u>Aye</u> |
| | Trustee DiSalvo | <u>Aye</u> |
| | Trustee Guerrero | <u>Aye</u> |
| | Trustee Phillips | <u>Aye</u> |
| | Mayor D'Onofrio | <u>Aye</u> |

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

RESOLUTION
 Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
 FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment
 Insurance Recovery

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Trustee Aylward | x |
| Trustee DiSalvo | x |
| Trustee Guerrero | x |
| Trustee Phillips | x |
| Mayor D'Onofrio | x |

motion carried. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to the minutes)

Trustee Phillips motioned to approve the request by the HF PBA to host a 20 Year Anniversary of 911 Softball Tournament with the HF Fire Department on September 12, 2021 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm at Roe Park.

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 approve the request from the TOH Recreation Department to hold the TOH Youth Soccer at Roe Park from 8/30/21-11/13/21, M-F from 5:00pm -8:00pm and Saturdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

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 approve the request from TOH Councilman King to hold a Town of Highlands Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Parade & Festival on Saturday, September 4, 2021 from 10:00am – 5:00pm, with the parade starting at Thayer Gate and ending at Roe Park with the festival on Roe Park.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to acknowledge the completed probations for PT Police Officer Antonio Esparra, PT Dispatchers Gregg Jones and Jayden Little, WWTP Maintenance Worker Daniel Stalter and Public Works Maintenance Worker Quadel Washington.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain (D'Onofrio) motion carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the settlement agreement with the PBA regarding time sheet submission by the Full Time Dispatchers.

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 authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the Officer in Charge agreement with Sgt Torpey after the PBA signs the agreement.

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

4 Ayes 1 Nay (Guerrero) motion carried.

Discussion was held on a request from the estate of 1 Satterlee Rd. for a reduction in their sewer charge and to waive the late fee that was assessed to the Village Tax bill. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that New York State Real Property law does not allow for the Mayor or Village Board to waive any fees that are assessed to a property tax bill. Mayor D'Onofrio reported to the Board regarding the request for the sewer charge reduction that the water bill for \$1,970.34 was paid timely. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the Board has previously taken an average of the last five sewer charges and have reduced the bills accordingly.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to reduce the June 2021 sewer bill for 1 Satterlee Rd. to a minimum bill of \$164.28 since the exorbitant water bill was paid.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to reschedule the next regular Board meeting to Tuesday, September 7th at 7:00pm at the Senior Center due to the Labor Day Holiday.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY2021-2022 for \$468,467.26. after a bill for \$501.79 was removed, from the following listed funds:

| | |
|--------------|--------------------|
| General Fund | \$394,151.16 |
| Water Fund | \$ 45,461.07 |
| Sewer Fund | \$ 19,537.69 |
| Capital Fund | <u>\$ 9,317.34</u> |
| | \$468,467.26 |

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

4 Ayes 1 Nay (Guerrero) motion carried.

Mindy Kimball, Chairman of the CCA Committee reported to the Village Board that their next step is to take official action to authorize an administrator to work out an agreement and get prices for the energy saving program. Ms. Kimball stressed to the Board that this is not a final commitment of anything, but in order for an agreement to be reached prices need to be received.

The Board thanked Ms. Kimball for the update.

Trustee Phillips presented the water department report on the Bog Meadow capacity and informed the public that Jim's Pond will be opened to feed into Bog Meadow.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that he would like the Board to try and find out what is going on with the PenFed building, the Christiana Hotel building and the house on Drew Ave that Thayer Flats intends to demolish and has proposed to build a new hotel on. Trustee DiSalvo commented that the buildings are deteriorating and the Village needs an update.

Public comments:

Police Sgt. Robert Ruger commented that he enjoys being a Police Officer in Highland Falls even though he does not live here and that he cares about this community.

PT Police Officer Frank Lilos commented that the National Night Out hosted by the PBA was a great night.

Kat Dagaev, Weyant Green, reported the Town of Highlands is one of the safest communities and it can continue to be with Part Time Police Officers.

Laurie Tautel, O.C. Legislator, commented that the Town of Highlands has committed to the Laberge Group that they will have a plan together for people to have information before the vote for dissolution is held.

Daniel Zint, Highland Falls, commented that he is for keeping the Village and the Village Police Department.

James Ramus, 31 Liberty Street, commented it was great to see crowds on Main Street Saturday night and the LED lighting looked great. Mr. Ramus commented that he would like to see the annual 2% LED replacement project continue.

TOH Councilman Jim Modlin, 30 Michel Rd., commented that anyone with questions regarding the Town and dissolution should ask the Town Board.

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

The meeting closed at 9:22P.M.