

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
September 7, 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 September 7, 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
Representatives of the LA Group, PC Tracey Clothier and James Martin
Approximately 15 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the meeting with a moment of silence for all our community and service members who have passed away since our last meeting.

Mayor D'Onofrio introduced Mr. Jim Martin, Senior Planner with the LA Group, PC. Mr. Martin explained the purpose for the presentation was to inform the community of the DRI (Downtown Revitalization Initiative) Grant Application that the LA Group is putting together on behalf of the Village of Highland Falls, for a September 15th submission to New York State, for a possible \$10 million dollar award. Mr. Martin reported that there are four projects the Village would be putting forth in the application, (1) helping with the proposed hotel to be built on north Main Street, (2) waterfront development, (3) possible parking garage and mixed use properties where Ladycliff Park is now located and relocation of Ladycliff Park, and (4) possible AI (artificial intelligence) initiatives with the old Key Bank building.

Mr. Martin explained that when the grant is awarded, \$300,000 dollars will be used to form a planning process to develop further the listed projects in the application. Mr. Martin commented that the grant is a reimbursable grant which means the Village would cover costs before reimbursement would be applied for.

Mr. Martin received input from a few residents which included (1) a possible cover over municipal lot 1 with a park put on top to expand outdoor seating for residents and provide a more pleasing view to traffic entering the West Point highway (2) more electric vehicle charging stations and (3) local shuttle cars or buses to bring tourists from one area to another.

Mr. Martin commented that this is just the type of input they were looking for and thanked the residents for their attention and suggestions.

Mayor D'Onofrio thanked Tracey and Jim for their presentation.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- August 16, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the FY 2021 CDBG Municipal Agreement for the Village of Highland Falls Senior Center Improvements CDBG Funded Amount: \$125,000.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the Fire House Truck Room Lease Agreement for FY June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022, for \$27, 100.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the settlement agreement with the PBA upon the Village Labor Attorney's approval.

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:

Resolution
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
Supporting and Concurring in the
NYS Downtown Revitalization Initiative
Funding Application.

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

	<u>AYE</u>	<u>NAY</u>
Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio	<u>x</u>	—
Trustee Brian Aylward	<u>x</u>	—
Trustee James DiSalvo	<u>x</u>	—
Trustee Melanie Guerrero	<u>x</u>	—
Trustee Gary C. Phillips	<u>x</u>	—

The Mayor declared this resolution adopted. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes).

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Old Guard request for escrow of \$34,500 dollars to be returned based on the review of the Developer’s Agreement and recommendation by the Village Engineer and Village Attorney.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned to approve the proposal from A-Tech Concrete to repair a wall on Schneider Avenue for \$26,000 pending the other two contractors contacted, decline in writing, the reason for not submitting a quote.

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 HFPTSC to hold a homecoming parade, from Thayer Gate to municipal lot #2, with a pep rally to follow in municipal lot #2, on September 22, 2021 from 6-8pm with a DJ providing a sound system and music.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$183,683.51 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$57,465.35
Section 8	\$70,124.00
Water Fund	\$40,660.46
Sewer Fund	<u>\$15,433.70</u>
	\$183,683.51

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero commented on the brown water that she says happens every couple of months. Trustee Guerrero commented that she talked to the Village Engineer about it and was told it’s caused by disturbances in the water system and unidentified leaks. Trustee Guerrero commented that the crumbling infrastructure needs to be updated and the Ondaora/Cragston water main replacement project should be done. Trustee Guerrero commented that the Village Board needs to start saving money for infrastructure projects in the future. Trustee Guerrero commented that the Board need to find ways to save money and become more lean. Trustee Guerrero commented that she is the only Board member who has been to the 911 Center and they are more than capable of handling the Village’s dispatch duties. Trustee Guerrero commented that the Town of Highlands police are part time, and many are retired NYC police and very capable, but coverage of the Village will be full time.

Trustee Aylward commented that he has been to the 911 Center and agrees that it is unbelievably equipped and millions of dollars have been spent to make it so. Trustee Aylward commented that he would like to see the DPW employees as well as the Police Officers trained in the administration of Narcan. Trustee Aylward commented that he would like the Board to consider two people in every department to train in CPR and the administration of Narcan.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that he too has been to the 911 Center and agrees it is high-tech. Trustee DiSalvo commented that this Board has never told people not to use 911. Trustee DiSalvo explained that water and sewer fees pay expenses of the water and sewer departments and that the general funds cannot pay expenses in those areas. Trustee DiSalvo commented that reserve funds were always in these departments.

Mayor D’Onofrio commented that he has been to the 911 Center at least six times. Mayor D’Onofrio explained that brown water occurs with leaks, hose testing, opening of hydrants for a fire or flushing. Mayor D’Onofrio commented that the Town of Highlands needs to put a water storage tank in Fort Montgomery which will help with these disturbances in the Village when the Town does hydrant flushing or hose testing. Mayor D’Onofrio reminded everyone that back in the early negotiations of the Village supplying water to the Town there was a stipulation for

the Town to put in a tank and that still has not happened. Mayor D'Onofrio commented that he will ask the Town Board to meet with Village officials to discuss the tank concerns.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported some vandalism occurred in Roe Park and thanked the Police Department for finding the culprits quickly. Mayor D'Onofrio thanked all the departments for an excellent job on preparing for the latest storm that came through the area.

Michael Joyce, 12 Eagle Valley Rd, commented that the brown water concerns need to be taken care of .

Olga Anderson, 86 Ondaora Parkway, commented that she hopes the Ondaora Park residents are listening to this meeting and hearing that the water main project might not be done. Ms. Anderson asked if a comprehensive infrastructure plan is being done. Ms. Anderson commented that it is disheartening to see disinformation being put out against people who are in favor of dissolution. Ms. Anderson commented that there is no need for verbal abuse.

Frank Lilos, Fort Montgomery resident, commented that he disagrees with Trustee Guerrero about the make up of the Town of Highlands police force, and that full time officers know the community better and are able to follow up on cases. Mr. Lilos commented it is good to supplement with part time officers. Mr. Lilos commented that people signed the dissolution petition and did not know what they were signing. Mr. Lilos commented that local dispatch would be able to have responders to an emergency quicker than using 911.

Laurie Tautel, O.C. Legislator, commented that Mr. Lilos did a disservice to the 911 system and is using scare tactics to frighten residents. Ms. Tautel urged the people to let the facts come out before they make up their minds on the vote.

Harvey Green, 23 Fostoria Street, asked Trustee Guerrero to stop with the misinformation and let the facts come out.

Ed Falta, 427 Main St., asked the Village Board to present an itemized list of bills to the public.

James Ramus, 31 Liberty St. commented that the Old Guard came to the aid of the Village and to upgrade the stormwater drainage in that area. Trustee Ramus commented that he would like the Board to consider to put money aside to help with lateral replacements with the Ondaora/Cragston water main replacement project.

Jason Torpey, Sgt. OIC, commented on the qualifications of the Village Police Department and staff and thanked them for making his job easy. OIC Torpey commented that retention and recruitment is difficult now with everything that is going on.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.
The meeting closed at 8:40P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk