

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

October 4, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on October 4, 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  
Chief WWTP Operator, John Jones  
Police Sergeant Robert Ruger  
Police Officer Richard Santiago  
O.C. Legislator, Laurie Tautel  
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.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting- September 20, 2021

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward commented that the policy for approval before the Village Board tonight came about to promote civility by attendees and the Village Board during the Village Board meetings.

Trustee Aylward motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls  
Resolution Adopting  
Policy for the Conduct of Public Meetings  
And All Communications with the Village Board

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

Mayor D’Onofrio	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Aylward	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee DiSalvo	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Phillips	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Guerrero	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent

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

Mayor D’Onofrio appointed Trustee Aylward the “Presiding Officer” for tonight’s meeting.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Resolution Authorizing  
Participation in the Orange County Fire Mutual Aid Plan

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

Mayor D’Onofrio	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Aylward	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee DiSalvo	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Phillips	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent
Trustee Guerrero	<u>  x  </u>	Aye	<u>      </u>	Nay	<u>      </u>	Abstain	<u>      </u>	Absent

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

Chris Byrnes, President of the Highlander's Senior Club, remarked to the Village Board that the Senior Center Building needs to be used more. Mr. Byrnes commented that for whatever reason, the TOH Recreation Program Director for Older Residents is not using the Senior Center. Mr. Byrnes commented that the Highlanders will use the building for their own programs.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Highlander's request to have a Halloween Party at the Senior Center on October 30, 2021 from 2:00pm – 6:00pm, pending insurance is provided to the Village Clerk before the event.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the approval of the Bog Meadow Reservoir Dam & the Highland Falls #2 Dam engineering assessment reports prepared by Shumaker Consulting Engineering D.P.C. as reviewed and recommended by the Village Engineer, Todd Atkinson, P.E.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the Central Hudson payment agreement for \$270,000.00 for asphalt restoration.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize the Village Attorney Alyse Terhune to represent the Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees in the matter of Kopald v Village of Highland Falls, New York Village Board and Verizon Wireless of the East LP d/b/a Verizon Wireless, at the retainer fee of \$240.00/hr.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve and authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the milling proposal from Donegal Construction Corporation for \$28,100.00 for the Fall 2021 Paving Project.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve and authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the proposal from Ward Pavements, Inc. for the estimated cost of \$380,657.71 for the Fall 2021 Paving Project.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve and authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the proposal from J. Robert Folchetti & Associates for engineering services for the Fall 2021 Paving Project for \$38,000.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor D'Onofrio to sign the engagement letter with Nugent & Haeussler, P.C. for May 31, 2021 audit services with a cost not to exceed \$23,000.00.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request from the TOH Recreation Department to hold a Trunk or Treat at Roe Park Pavilion on Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup> from 2:00p.m. to 4:00p.m.

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 \$351,745.22 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$64,485.62
Section 8	\$70,728.00
Water Fund	\$17,237.13
Sewer Fund	\$ 9,176.91
Capital Fund	<u>\$190,117.56</u>
	\$351,745.22

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero commented that she likes the policy on behavior for Village Board meetings. Trustee Guerrero commented that voting signs were stolen Sunday morning that were placed near the Farmer's Market and that reports were filed with Officers Vecchio and Ripa. Trustee Guerrero commented that Detective Kleveno will review nearby video. Trustee Guerrero commented that the vote for dissolution is democracy at work and allowing for the residents to decide. Trustee Guerrero asked for people to vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Aylward commented that people need to report incidents to the Police Department. Trustee Aylward commented that the Police can't investigate incidents if they don't know about them. Trustee Aylward asked residents to please bundle leaves and/or branches.

Trustee Phillips reported that hydrant flushing would be occurring starting today and through tomorrow. Trustee Phillips reported Bog Meadow at full capacity. Trustee Phillips thanked Steven Lam for raising the sign off the ground at the tree for Charlie Littlejohn.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that tensions seem to be getting higher as the vote gets closer. Trustee DiSalvo commented that there is no attack on democracy. Trustee DiSalvo commented to make sure facts are disseminated and hopes everyone accepts the decision on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor D'Onofrio read questions and answers from the Laberge website concerning the dissolution.

Ed Falta, 427 Main St., commented that he disagrees with Trustee DiSalvo, that this Board is downplaying the removal of signs and that it is an affront to democracy.

Karen Pelella, 24 Regina Rd., asked residents to go to the Village website and see the comments. Ms. Pelella commented that she did not find the Laberge Group to be biased. Ms. Pelella urged the residents to educate themselves and vote on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Tony Pelella, 24 Regina Rd. asked the Board if it was possible to post the studies on savings and commented that there is a value to the Village to have the water shed, water & sewer plants.

Juliana (Pelella) Connelly, Parry Ave., asked the question if the Village dissolves how will that affect the community activities that have made Highland Falls special. Ms. Connelly asked how will our rights to water be affected if the Village is dissolved and how will our water system survive.

Richard Santiago, Police Officer, read a statement in favor of keeping a full time police department and asked voters to vote no to dissolution on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Cindy Modlin, Michels Rd, commented that the figure of eight million in debt came from the Village Treasurer.

Joe Dewitt, Villa Parkway, commented that hater banners are shameful and democracy should be allowed to play out.

Suzanne Brahm, Wyandotte Ave. commented that November 8<sup>th</sup> is not the end of anything and that she is offended to be called a "hater".

Michael Joyce, 12 Eagle Valley Rd, commented that taking down banners is an attack on democracy. Mr. Joyce commented that maybe selling the assets can offset the Village debt.

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

The meeting closed at 8:37P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk