

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
January 3, 2022

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 January 3, 2022.

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
Approximately 3 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 commented that he would be the presiding officer for tonight's meeting.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting December 6, 2021

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting December 20, 2021

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

4 Ayes 1 Nay (Trustee Guerrero) motion carried.

A discussion was held on the request from the property owner of 4 Satterlee Rd. for an adjustment to the December 2021 sewer bill.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to reduce the sewer bill to the normal bill this property usually has, as was just done recently for another request.

The motion was seconded by Mayor D'Onofrio and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

2 Ayes (Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D'Onofrio) 3 Nays (Trustees Aylward, Guerrero, Phillips)
motion did not carry.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that they would look further into this matter and bring it up again.

Trustee Aylward motioned to reschedule the Village Board meeting from Monday, January 17th to Tuesday, January 18th due to the MLK holiday, and Monday, February 21st to Tuesday, February 22nd due to the President's Day holiday, with meetings to be located at Village Hall at 7:00pm.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that the January 18th meeting would be held with no public because of the uptick in COVID cases, but would be on TV.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$103,467.44 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$29,872.10
Section 8	\$59,369.00
Water Fund	\$10,149.63
Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 4,076.71</u>
	\$103,467.44

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

4 Ayes (Trustees Aylward, DiSalvo, Phillips, Mayor D'Onofrio) 1 Nay (Trustee Guerrero), motion carried.

Public comment:

Mr. Edward Falta, asked if there was an update on the letter that was sent to the Town to talk about consolidation. Mayor D'Onofrio commented that the meeting is not on consolidation, but a conversation with the Town Supervisor on different topics. Mayor D'Onofrio reported the meeting will be held Thursday, Jan 13th at 10:00am.

Mayor D'Onofrio recognized and congratulated the new officers in the HF Fire Department: Chief Steve Suarez, Assistant Chief Erik Smith, Captain John Rush, 1st Lieutenant Nicholas Rush, 2nd Lieutenant Emily Green, President Lynn Heuler, Vice President Jim DiSalvo, Secretary Clarissa Marvin, Treasurer William Solan, Financial Secretary Arla James and Property Officer Anthony Stevens.

Mayor D'Onofrio updated the Board and residents with things going on in the Departments and the community.

Trustee Guerrero commented that Orange County taxes will remain flat. Trustee Guerrero questioned an action the Board took at the last meeting. Mayor D'Onofrio responded that he would go into executive session to answer any questions she might have. Trustee Guerrero commented that bills were paid that she believes were for National Night Out and that Village taxpayers should not pay them. Trustee Guerrero reminded residents that the Police budget is 35% of the Village budget.

Trustee Aylward commented that the Village is looking to hire part time police officers and that the department is currently down two full time police officers.

Trustee DiSalvo reminded residents that the Police Department operates 24/7 and therefore is the largest portion of the budget. Trustee DiSalvo reminded residents that National Night Out is a national program that many municipalities hold to help build community support for the departments.

Trustee Phillips reported that Bog Meadow Reservoir is at 100% capacity and that the Water Department continues with plant maintenance and thanked the water department employees and all the Village employees.

Trustee Aylward motioned to enter executive session for advice of counsel. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and on a roll call vote, the results which follow: 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, motion carried.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:58p.m.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned out of executive session. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

The Regular meeting re-convened at 7:59p.m. No Board action was taken.

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

The meeting closed at 8:00 P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk