

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS  
March 21, 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 March 21, 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

Member absent was:

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  
14 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 recommendations.

Mayor D'Onofrio opened a public hearing on the Introductory Local Law "Moratorium On Land Use Development" at 7:04p.m. Mayor D'Onofrio commented that the public hearing was properly noticed.

Erik Smith- TOH Consolidated Planning Board Chairman-commented that the Board is reviewing the amendment to zoning B3 local law and will send written response to the Village Board. Mr. Smith commented that the current proposal of 2500 sq ft is too restrictive, but 350 sq ft is too dense. Mr. Smith pointed out that if the law is too restrictive it could discourage development and that smart growth should be the goal.

No more questions or comments were heard.

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the public hearing would remain open. The public hearing adjourned at 7:08pm.

Public comments on agenda items:

Gus Koutsourades-resident of Ft Montgomery & owner of the West Point Motel, 156 Main St.-Mr. Koutsourades reported that he is concerned with the prospect of an occupancy tax having a detrimental effect on the established local hotels/motels and could discourage new development. Mr. Koutsourades suggested the Board table the resolution and look into all the AirB&B's in the Village that are not being regulated and look to include them in the law to level the playing field.

Ned Kopald-98 Roe Ave.- reported that he was there to support Mr. Koutsourades' concerns of the occupancy tax and asked if the Town was in sync with the Village on this matter. Mr. Kopald agreed with the AirB&B situation and agreed this resolution should be tabled for further review of the matter.

Mr. Kopald echoed Mr. Rose's concerns over the use of Roe Park. Mr. Kopald suggested approvals be in intervals of 2 months to make sure the permit rules are being followed, the time frame for use should be three hours, and that music is not necessary for ball games. Mr. Kopald commented that he notices that many of the license plates are from out of state and that local residents are paying for the upkeep of facilities being used by nonresidents.

Ed Rose-7 Park Place- commented on the use of the Roe Park Baseball Field being approved for a Softball Team to use on Sundays from April to October, and restricting the general public from use of the field. Mr. Rose suggested approvals be given in 60 day increments to make sure park rules are being followed and conditions surrounding games is respectful of the neighborhood. Mr. Rose commented that if most of the league members are outside users, he is concerned with them not paying for use of the field that local taxpayers support. Mr. Rose was concerned that every Sunday would be tied up by this league and maybe the Board should consider that one Sunday a month be available for community use.

James Ramus- 31 Liberty Street- commented that it's nice to see the field being used and maybe gives an opportunity for community members to join the league and bring people outside. Mr. Ramus echoed Mr. Rose in that maybe one Sunday should be reserved for community use.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting March 7, 2022

Special Meeting March 5, 2022

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the following minutes:

Special Meeting March 12, 2022

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

3 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain (DiSalvo) 1 Absent (Phillips)

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

Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the Village Clerk has given each Board member a copy of the Tentative Budget for FY2022-2023.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to set a public hearing on the Tentative Budget at 7:00pm on April 4<sup>th</sup> at Village Hall.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Phillips) motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Resolution Requesting An Amendment To The New York State Tax Law  
To Authorize The Village To Impose An Occupancy Tax

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

3 Ayes 1 Nay (Guerrero) 1 Absent (Phillips)

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
Resolution Calling For An Increase in AIM Funding

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Phillips)

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution  
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees  
FY 2021-2022 Budget Amendment

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Phillips)

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

Trustee Aylward motioned to transfer \$20,000.00 from General Fund account #601607927 to Workers Compensation Fund account #83140178 to replenish the workers compensation fund, per the recommendation of the Deputy Village Treasurer.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Phillips) motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request of the HF Softball Team to use Roe Park Baseball field on Sundays, starting April 3<sup>rd</sup> to June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022, from noon to 3:00pm, and request the schedule be looked at again from July 15, 2022 to the end of the season with updated insurance being given to the Village Clerk.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Absent (Phillips)

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request for the Ridgeway Wedding Processional Parade, (with the groom riding a camel), Saturday, May 14, 2022 from 11:30am to 1:00pm from Memorial Park, heading north to the family residence on Homestead Avenue.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the use of the Roe Park baseball field, pavilion and bathrooms for the Ridgeway Wedding Reception on Saturday, May 14, 2022, from 2:30pm to 8:00pm with live entertainment.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the TOH Easter Egg Hunt at the Roe Park Pavilion and the Roe Park Field, Saturday, April 9, 2022 (raindate-April 16, 2022) from 9:00am to 12:00 noon.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio to sign the Inter-municipal Agreement with Orange County for participation in DWI Contracts for the period March 12, 2022 through January 11, 2023.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

A motion was made by Trustee Aylward to approve the bills and claims for FY21-22 for \$125,183.13 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$77,116.69
Water Fund	\$31,552.11
Sewer Fund	\$15,754.33
Capital Fund	<u>\$ 760.00</u>
	\$125,183.13

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Mayor D’Onofrio updated the Village Board on the progress of ongoing Village projects.

Mayor D’Onofrio explained that no local resident will be paying the occupancy tax, only those outsiders staying in the hotel or motel.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that he understands the remarks of the motel owner but responded that it is getting increasingly harder for local governments to raise revenues. Trustee DiSalvo reported that property tax revenue is based on assessments and many businesses and residents seek a reduction in their assessment in order to lower their tax bill. Trustee DiSalvo remarked that the occupancy tax is paid by the tourist not the business owner.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that the Village did not impose a new tax tonight, rather the Board is looking into whether the Village can be included in State Legislation that will allow them to impose the tax.

Trustee Guerrero commented that she believes the occupancy tax to be detrimental to business and will discourage development. Trustee Guerrero commented that imposing more taxes is not the way to be creative. Trustee Guerrero commented that she would be donating her salary to some non-profit organizations.

Trustee Aylward reported that he too donates his salary to non-profit organizations and he asks residents to please put trash receptacles away after the sanitation truck picks-up garbage and to please pick-up after your dogs.

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

The meeting closed at 8:26P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk