

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS  
June 20, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in the Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on June 20, 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  
Police Chief, Tamara Dreyer  
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan  
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
10 Community Residents

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.

A motion was made by Trustee DiSalvo to approve the bills and claims from the following listed funds:

FY21-22:	General Fund	\$27,868.37
	Water Fund	\$ 725.35
	Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 7,995.86</u>
		\$36,589.58
FY22-23:	General Fund	\$ 7,418.42
	Section 8	\$ 53,740.00
	Sewer Fund	<u>\$ 442.41</u>
		\$ 61,600.83

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:  
Regular Meeting June 6, 2022

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to set a public hearing for Local Law Amendment To Zoning Law To Increase The Required Minimum Lot Area Per Dwelling Unit In The B3 Business District, at 7:00p.m. in the Senior Center, 15 Drew Avenue.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on a memo from Police Chief Dreyer requesting authorization for the Mayor or herself to sign a contract with the County of Orange and the Sheriff’s Department for an equipment grant for a Mobile Data Terminal, which is estimated to cost approximately \$4,200.00, that the Sheriff’s Office will supply, install, cover the warranty and replace when necessary.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to authorize Mayor D’Onofrio to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement & Contract with the Orange County Sheriff’s Office for a Mobile Data Terminal and that the Village approves and accepts the equipment, per the recommendation of Police Chief Dreyer.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to approve the request to use Roe Park Pavilion by the HFIS 8<sup>th</sup> Grade on Wednesday, June 22, 2022 from 8:30a.m. to 3:00p.m.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned to approve the request to hold the Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Firecracker 5K on July 4<sup>th</sup> from 7:00a.m. to 10:00a.m. with staging at Memorial Park & to waive the live entertainment fee.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on a request from the property owners of 12 Schneider Avenue for a reduction in the June sewer bill due to a water leak that caused a large water bill, but the water did not enter the sewer system. The property owners noted in their letter that the May water bill was paid in full.

The Board discussed that they would like to see the Water Department take a more active role in determination of leaks and effects on the sewer system and requests for relief of bills. The Board discussed the need for the Department Head to be involved in the decision.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to reduce the June sewer bill on property location 12 Schneider Avenue to \$579.04, based on a five- cycle average, as discussed by the Village Board.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to cancel the first meeting in July, July 4<sup>th</sup> and note that the next meeting will be Monday, July 18 at 7:00p.m. at the Senior Center.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee Aylward motioned to accept the low quote of Mellon Electric for \$3,895.00 to relocate electric panels and install a new breaker box and LED lights on the second floor of Village Hall.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to accept the financial plan of the Village Treasurer to cover the cost of the sludge digester/generator project by accepting the WIIA grant of \$441,000.00 and borrowing from the authorized bond resolution with a BAN to be paid off within 5 years.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Mayor D'Onofrio updated the community on the many events held over the past weekend. Mayor D'Onofrio reported that the IDA denied his request to have the Thayer Hotel Resort and Spa project pay sales tax on the materials needed to construct the hotel. Mayor D'Onofrio reported he is investigating how Orange County Board of Elections could take over running the Village elections. Mayor D'Onofrio updated the community on the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities.

Trustee Guerrero commented that its good to see the Village looking for ways to pay project costs other than bonding. Trustee Guerrero commented that she still feels there are areas in the budget that can be cut out, ie dispatch to Orange County 911, to help lower taxes.

Trustee Aylward presented the monthly Police & Street Departments reports. Trustee Aylward commented that the Board should look at forming an ethics committee.

Trustee Phillips gave the monthly update on the Water Department and Bog Meadow capacity. Trustee Phillips thanked Mr. Ramus for spearheading the successful fishing derby held this past weekend.

Bonnie Snow, 41 Ft Putnam St., commented that she respectfully disagrees with Trustee Guerrero and that she appreciates and loves the Police Department.

Michael Joyce, 12 Eagle Valley Rd., requested an answer to his questions regarding the film company that used Village parking lots and streets and Roe Park recently and if the Village was compensated. Mayor D'Onofrio responded that the first concern of the Village was that we received a certificate of liability insurance from them and we did. The Mayor responded that the Village was compensated \$7,500.00 for facilities used and Police services provided.

Ron Malecot, 7 Parry Ave. commented that he would like to see the Police call report broken down into more detail regarding misdemeanors, felonies, violations and a breakdown of 4911 calls versus 911 calls.

James Ramus, 31 Liberty Street, thanked the Board for their support with the fishing derby and all those who volunteered their services or donated goods.

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

The meeting closed at 7:47P.M.

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Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk