

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
May 15, 2023

A Special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held in Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on May 15, 2023

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for the submission of a CDBG funding application FY 2023-2024 and for any other items that may come before the Board.

Members present were:

Mayor Joseph E. D’Onofrio
Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Melanie Guerrero
Trustee James Ramus
Trustee Gary C. Phillips

Also present were:

Village Clerk, Lynae Mesaris
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands, Mary Jane Pitt
Town Council Member, Joseph DeWitt
Members of the HFFMCSD
Approximately 11 Community Members

Mayor D’Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our Service members and Community members who have passed away since the last meeting.

A Public Hearing, as advertised, was opened at 7:00 PM for receiving input on the proposed application of the FY 23-24 Orange County Community Development Block Grant Program.

Mayor D’Onofrio presented for the record the Notice of Public Hearing of the proposed application of the FY 23-24 Orange County Community Development Block Grant Program and asked for any questions or comments from the public. Any questions or comments asked were answered.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the proposal. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 7:09 PM.

The Regular Meeting opened at 7:09 PM

A motion was made by Trustee Guerrero to approve the bills and claims for FY22-23 for \$282,572.87 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$ 38,742.89
Water Fund	\$ 1,419.64
Sewer Fund	\$ 21,449.57
Capital Fund	<u>\$220,960.77</u>
	\$282,572.87

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting May 1, 2023

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

	<u>4</u> Ayes	<u>0</u> Nays	<u>1</u> Abstain
Trustee Guerrero	x		
Trustee Ramus	x		
Trustee Phillips			x
Trustee DiSalvo	x		
Mayor D’Onofrio	x		

Mayor D’Onofrio introduced members of the Highland Falls Fort Montgomery Central School District to Present the Annual School District Budget.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

RESOLUTION
Village of Highland Falls Board of Trustees
Transfer of Reserve Funds

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

5 Ayes 0 Nays

Trustee Guerrero	x
Trustee Ramus	x
Trustee Phillips	x
Trustee DiSalvo	x
Mayor D’Onofrio	x

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the annual salary of the treasurer at \$35,100.00.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve retaining a consultant to provide Grant Consulting Services for a flat monthly fee of \$3,000.00, payable in twelve equal monthly installments, for an amount not to exceed \$30,000.00.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the appointment of Alexander Perez and Klarissa Sisco as Highland Falls Fire Department members, pending medical clearance with the recommendation of Erik Smith, Chief.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve River Keeper & American Water to host a clean-up along Highland Brook, Wednesday, May 24th with a rain date of Wednesday, May 31st from 8:00am-12:00pm.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve American Legion, post 633 to hold a Memorial Event at Memorial Park On May 29, 2023 from 9:00am – 10:30am.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to approve the Town of Highlands United Youth Group to hold their 2nd Annual Community Fun Day at Roe Park on Saturday, June 3rd. Event time is 11:00am – 5:00pm.
The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Town of Highlands to hold their 7th Annual Town of Highlands Juneteenth Parade on Saturday, June 17th, 2023. Lineup 9:30am, with parade starting at 11:00am.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve West Point Town of Highlands to hold their Farmers Market at Lot#2, Sunday’s from 6:00am – 2:00pm, June 11, 2023 – October 29, 2023.
The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

Approval of Village Clerk to sign a consent form for the NYS Gaming Commission, tabled to retrieve more information.

Trustee Phillips motioned to accept appointing Tim Green and George Ramus as Bog Meadow Wardens.
The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried and on a roll call vote, the results which follow:

4 Ayes 0 Nays 1 Abstain

Trustee Guerrero	x	
Trustee Ramus		x
Trustee Phillips	x	
Trustee DiSalvo	x	
Mayor D’Onofrio	x	

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to have a handicap sign removed between Church St. and Cozzens Ave. because the individual it was for no longer lives there. A resolution is also needed to be removed From the General Code Book.

Resolution
Vehicle and Traffic
Village of Highland Falls
Delete Handicap Parking Space-Church Street

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following:

Resolution
Vehicle and Traffic
Village of Highland Falls
Parking Prohibited Certain Hours – Schneider Avenue

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes.)

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve a special meeting on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 at 9:00am to approve payment of bills for end of FY 2022-2023.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried.

Public comment:

Edward Dunn, resident, commented on emergency services and his concern of no cell tower service and asked when does it become a danger not having this service. The Mayor acknowledged his concern. The Village attorney stated there has not been a stop to the activity related to the cell towers being put up. The towers are not up yet and have been cautious and are moving at a pace to make sure to prevent lawsuits.

Michael Joyce, resident commented asking on the progress of the water filter testing at the water plant. Trustee Phillips stated Hazen and Sawyer have done the testing and waiting for results.

Town Council Member and resident, Joseph DeWitt stated his concern with Bog Meadow and that it needs to be cleaned up. Mr. DeWitt also stated there are two food pantries that run out of Sacred Heart and Holy Innocents Church. They are in need of volunteers with pickup trucks to pick up food from the food bank in Cornwall-On-Hudson and bring back. If there is any interest, they can reach out to him on his town email.

Mayor D’Onofrio took the time to thank Jody Downy and Fran DeWitt for their service volunteering their time to buy, plant flowers and hang flower baskets, as well as improving the appearance of our sidewalks, streets and Memorial Park.

Trustee Ramus motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously Carried.

The meeting closed at 8:31 PM

Lynae S. Mesaris, Village Clerk