

REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
January 23, 2023

A regular 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 January 23, 2023.

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
Approximately 10 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 motion was made by Trustee Phillips to approve the bills and claims for FY22-23 for \$140,459.00 from the following listed funds:

General Fund	\$31,336.25
Water Fund	\$42,735.54
Capital Fund	\$40,917.81
Sewer Fund	<u>\$25,469.40</u>
	\$140,459.00

The motion was seconded by Trustee Aylward and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Meeting January 9, 2023
Special Meeting January 9, 2023

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee Phillips motioned the following:

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
RESOLUTION
GENERAL VILLAGE ELECTION

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

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Trustee Aylward	x	
Trustee DiSalvo	x	
Trustee Guerrero	x	
Trustee Phillips	x	
Mayor D’Onofrio	x	

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

Trustee Guerrero motioned the following:

VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
RESOLUTION PLACING A PROPOSITION OF THE BALLOT OF THE
MARCH 21, 2023 GENERAL VILLAGE ELECTION TO HAVE THE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF THE COUNTY OF ORANGE CONDUCT
ELECTIONS INSTEAD OF THE VILLAGE CLERK

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

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Trustee Aylward	x	
Trustee DiSalvo	x	
Trustee Guerrero	x	
Trustee Phillips	x	
Mayor D'Onofrio	x	

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the request for training for the Village Clerk Regina Taylor and Account Clerk Lynae Mesaris to attend the election workshop at the Orange County Board of Elections, 75 Webster Ave. Wednesday February 15th from 10:00am to noon and mileage reimbursement from Village Hall to 75 Webster Ave. and back be approved. The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the resignation of Full time Police Officer Richard Santiago, effective January 26, 2023, with regret.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve new HFFD member Jason Stroppel, per the recommendation of Fire Chief Erik Smith.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Phillips and unanimously carried.

Discussion was held on the request from Pablo Pulido for travel reimbursement in the amount of \$178.80 for mileage reimbursement from travelling to Buffalo, NY, for training.

A motion was made by Trustee Phillips to reimburse Pablo Pulido \$178.80 for mileage for a recent training trip to Buffalo, NY.

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

	<u>Ayes</u>	<u>Nays</u>
Trustee Aylward		x
Trustee DiSalvo	x	
Trustee Guerrero	x	
Trustee Phillips	x	
Mayor D'Onofrio		x

motion carried.

Public comment:

Kathy Gnazzo, 6 School Lane, addressed the Board regarding signage for the corner of School Lane and Center Street. Ms. Gnazzo commented that cars park on Center Street in such a way as to block the entrance to School Lane and it makes it difficult for residents, delivery trucks and emergency vehicles to access those residences. Ms. Gnazzo also commented on a recent article in the newspaper that said some people think village elections should be run by the County. Ms. Gnazzo commented that she was offended by the insinuation that the elections were not run properly, as she is an election inspector. Ms. Gnazzo commented that she would not like to see the County take over village elections.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented that he has the Police Department and Street Department working on the signage and resolution needed to ensure access to School Lane. Mayor D'Onofrio thanked Ms. Gnazzo for her comments.

Michael Joyce, 11 Eagle Valley Rd, commented on the resignation of the Police Chief and asked for answers from the Board regarding the resignation date.

The Village Attorney advised the Village Board that this was a personnel matter and not to be discussed in public.

Pat Flynn, 1 Muller Ave, commented on the resolution for the County to run village elections. Mr. Flynn commented on the resignation of the Police Chief.

Ron Malecot, 7 Parry Ave., questioned the number of lawsuits that the Village might be dealing with. The Village Attorney commented that the information is public and how to look it up online.

Jeff Domanski, Community Choice Aggregate representative, addressed the Village Board to say that letters would be going out to the community in February with information on signing up for renewable energy suppliers for their electric or how to opt out of the program. Mr. Domanski commented that information for the program is on the Town and Village websites with phone numbers to call to ask questions about the program.

Pablo Pulido, 13 Edward Street, thanked the Board for the reimbursement of his mileage.

James Ramus, 31 Liberty Street, commented to the Board that he has information on the Waterfront Overlay District that was talked about years ago if for whenever they would like to go over it.

Board comments:

Mayor D'Onofrio thanked the community emergency responders who provided mutual aid for the recent structure fire at the Old Oak Inn on 9W in Fort Montgomery.

Mayor D'Onofrio remarked that Jason Torpey is the Officer in Charge as of January 13th at the same stipend as was in place during the period before the new Chief was hired.

Mayor D'Onofrio commented on the staffing and safety concerns of the Police Department that were brought up.

Trustee Guerrero reported on the Connect Program at the HFIS. Trustee Guerrero noted that the building department did not have a report for this meeting. Trustee Guerrero commented that the Village is looking to get more ev charging stations and not paid for by the taxpayers.

Trustee Aylward presented the DPW report for the month.

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

The meeting closed at 8:03P.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk