

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
March 9, 2023

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at Village Hall, 303 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York on March 9, 2023.

The purpose of the meeting was the 3rd Budget Workshop for FY 2023-2024.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D'Onofrio at 10:00A.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
Assistant Fire Chief, Patrick Kelly
Fire Captain, Steve Suarez
Account Clerk, Lynae Mesaris
News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
0 Community members

Mayor D'Onofrio opened the budget meeting and a discussion with Captain Suarez and Assistant Chief on the condition of rescue engine 429 and pumper 428 followed. Captain Suarez reminded the Board that the ages of the vehicles are 28 and 22 years old and in need of replacement sooner rather than later. Captain Suarez explained that the pump tests are failing more often and repairs needed more often.

Discussion was held on the possibility of bonding for two trucks and because it will take 18 months on delivery of vehicles, they could be ordered now. Mayor D'Onofrio reported on the amount of reserve funds on hand for an engine and how to add to the fund over the next couple of budgets before any bonding would be needed.

Discussion was held on the renovations needed to the firehouse in order for any new vehicles to fit into the building. Mayor D'Onofrio commented that these renovations may not happen for a little while which is why the ordering of the vehicles could happen sooner rather than later.

Trustee Guerrero commented that the Fire Department costs are very little considering the services they provide and are necessary for the safety of the residents. Trustee Guerrero commented that the volunteers help to save the Village money and that the Chief put a lot of thought into this budget and it is a very responsible budget.

Trustee DiSalvo questioned if two smaller trucks might be useful instead of the rescue and pumper. Captain Suarez reminded the Board that the rescue truck holds a lot of needed equipment and also holds the 35ft ladder which is critical to have because of the structures in the Village.

Trustee Aylward suggested we approach our elected officials about grants or member items to help offset costs of replacement because of the necessity of these vehicles for the health and safety of our residents.

The Board thanked the Fire Officers for their presentation of the budget.

Mayor D'Onofrio asked the Board to come to a 9:30A.M. budget workshop, in Village Hall, on Monday, March 13th to review all the requested budgets and make any cuts so that the Treasurer can prepared the Tentative Budget which needs to be delivered to the Village Clerk by March 20th.

Trustee Phillips motioned to enter executive session to discuss a specific individual in a personnel matter. The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo and unanimously carried.

The Board entered executive session at 10:32A.M.

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

The Board re-entered the budget meeting at 10:56A.M.

Mayor D'Onofrio directed the Village Clerk to request the Sergeant's eligible list from Orange County Civil Service to fill the Sergeant's vacancy in the 3:00pm-11:00pm shift.

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

The meeting closed at 10:57A.M.

Regina M. Taylor, Village Clerk