

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
January 17, 2024

A Special 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 January 17, 2024

The purpose of the meeting was to hold a public hearing for Local Law No. 1 to Authorize a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C.

Members present were:

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

Member(s) absent: Trustee Gary Phillips

Also, present were: Village Clerk, Lynae Mesaris
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
News of the Highlands, Mary Jane Pitt
Police Chief, Jason Torpey
Highland Falls Fire Chief, Erik Smith
Members of the Police Department
Approximately 11 Community Members

Mayor D’Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our service members and community members who have passed away, including Marion Corbin, Ann Marie Rose, Barbara Weismann and Pat Dunlap.

A Public Hearing, as advertised, was opened at 7:00 PM for receiving input on the proposed Local Law No. 1 to Authorize a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C.

Mayor D’Onofrio presented for the record by opening the Public Hearing for the proposed Local Law No. 1 to Authorize a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C and asked if there were any comments on the proposed Local Law.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to close the public hearing. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and unanimously carried.

Public Hearing closed at 7:22 PM

Regular Meeting opened at 7:22 PM

Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune reads the Resolution for proposed Local Law No. 1 to Authorize a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established by General Municipal Law 3-C.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned the following: .

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
RESOLUTION ADOPTING LOCAL LAW NO. 1
OF 2024 AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF
THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED BY GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW 3-C**

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and on a roll call vote. The results follow:

3 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Nays** Trustee Guerrero **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips
Motion carried. (A true and complete copy of this resolution is appended to these minutes.

Mr. Alfonza Baker was presented an award for 25 years of service as a crossing guard. Chief Jason Torpey stated “Mr. Baker is a true fixture in this community and his service is deeply appreciated.”

Mayor D’Onofrio invited residents to address public comment on agenda items.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the bills and claims for FY23-24 for **\$382,156.39** from the following listed funds:

General Fund:	\$69,965.56
Water Fund:	\$62,209.13
Sewer Fund:	\$ 9,505.65
Capital Fund:	\$ 190,476.05
Pre-Paid:	\$ <u>50,000.00</u>
	\$382,156.39

The highest bills: J. Robert Folchetti: \$129,717.42 (FEMA)
FDM Preferred Ins.: \$18,757.00 (Workers Comp)
Arborcare Consulting: \$68,000.00 (FEMA)
Orange & Rockland: \$20,675.67 (Electric)
VRI: \$31,752.97 (Water Dept)

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and on a roll call vote. The results follow:

3 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Nays** Trustee Guerrero **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes:

Regular Board Meeting – January 3, 2024

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

3 Ayes: Trustee DiSalvo, Trustee Guerrero, Mayor D’Onofrio, **1 Abstain:** Trustee Ramus **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes

Special Meeting – Comprehensive Plan Workshop – November 25, 2023

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and on a roll call vote. The results follow:

3 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Abstain** Trustee Guerrero **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the following minutes

Special Meeting – Comprehensive Plan Workshop – December 30, 2023

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

4 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Trustee Guerrero, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Lynae Mesaris, Clerk and Luciana Brown, Account Clerk to attend Election Training with the Board of Elections on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 10:00AM in Goshen.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero and unanimously carried.

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve Emmanuel Vasquez as Full-Time Police Officer on a transfer from the Village of Goshen at the contractual step rate 5 at the rate of \$92,349.00, effective January 22, 2024. The probationary status is waived as he has completed 18 months of probation in the Village of Highland Falls, recommended by Chief Torpey.

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

3 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Abstain** Trustee Guerrero **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Emmanuel Vasquez to be promoted to the rank of provisional Sergeant at the contractual rate of \$104,354.00, with 52 weeks probation, effective January 23, 2024.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus and on a roll call vote. The results follow:

3 Ayes: Trustee Ramus, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D’Onofrio **1 Nay** Trustee Guerrero **1 Absent:** Trustee Phillips

Mayor D'Onofrio commended Ty King for arranging the Martin Luther King Jr. March.

The Mayor congratulated Dandai Moreno (Dee) and Sallie Dorsche as the new officers of The Town of Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

The Mayor also commended the Fort Montgomery and Highland Falls Fire Departments for a job well done during a recent house fire.

The Mayor designated Erik Smith as the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator.

The Trustees presented their reports.

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

The meeting closed at 8:22 P.M.

Lynae Mesaris, Village Clerk