

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
March 6, 2024

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held at the Senior Center, 15 Drew Ave., Highland Falls, New York on March 6, 2024.

The purpose of the meeting was the 2nd Budget Workshop for the Water and Fire Departments FY 2024-2025.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor D’Onofrio at 6:00P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present were: Village Clerk, Lynae Mesaris
Water Treatment Plant, Dale Post, VRI
Fire Chief, Erik Smith

Approximately 3 Community Members

Mayor D’Onofrio opened the budget meeting to review the Water Department and Fire Department’s requests.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that the Village Water Department transitioned to VRI through a contract. The calculations Mr. Post is presenting in his budget are derived from the past water administrations numbers.

Mayor D’Onofrio commended VRI for the good work and responsibility performed during their time with the Water Department.

Mr. Post broke down his budget by what is required in the Water Department. The water department is also requesting a multi-gas detector with requested amount of \$1,500.00, a metal detector for approximately \$1,450.00, water break tools for \$1,200.00 and a Ross Valve, a pressure reducing valve service for \$5000.00. The filter rehabilitation will be a separate from FEMA.

Trustee Ramus confirms that the original equipment is outdated or not working properly, therefore new equipment is needed.

Trustee DiSalvo comments that this equipment request would come out of the Transmission and Distribution – Equipment line (F8340.0400), request amount of \$9,150.00.

Trustee Guerrero inquired what are the contractual needs.

Mr. Post commented the following will come out of the contractual line (F-8330.0400). Chemicals, Gen Tech, Heating Fuel, Eagle Fire Safety, HACH Service Contract, Orange and Rockland, Pace Lab Tests, Kleen H2O, Charter Communications.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that the requested funds from the Appropriation in the Purification and Filtration Lines follow. Purification Salary Line, F8330.0100 was moved to the Purification Contractual line F-8330.0400. The Requested budget is \$152,270.00. There are no salary requests as we are contracting with VRI.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that the Water Fund are Revenues. The meter sales could change from the requested amount of \$658,000.00 as we are doing some sample billing because there may be a \$50.00 increase per bill. This is just a test.

Trustee DiSalvo left a few lines the same. Engineering costs come from anything related to buildings. Anything related to FEMA goes directly to the Capital Expense.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that we pay a School Tax bill for Bog Meadow in the property tax line and that may go up.

Trustee DiSalvo stated the debt service for Serial bonds did not change. He also commented that the vehicle reserve fund was taken out.

Trustee DiSalvo commented that there was not a lot of changes to the budget and stated LOSAP numbers went up considerably, as well as the equipment line, A-3410.02 from \$39,705.00 in FY23-24 to \$44,565.00.

Trustee DiSalvo introduced Fire Chief, Erik Smith to present his budget requests.

Mr. Smith commented that the Fire Department needs new Tech Rescue equipment. There is a threat with so many rescues, for instance from the flood on July 9, 2023. Fire coats can't be used more than 10 years. Orange County checks gear at training and the gear cannot be old or out of date. He also commented that physicals are expensive, but the vendor used is the least expensive.

Trustee Guerrero commented the Fire Department will only cost the Village approximately \$163,000.00, which is a reasonable request. The only reason why it went up is because \$100,000.00 was requested from Reserves for a Fire Truck and \$5,000.00 for a Command Vehicle.

Mr. Smith commented that the need for two Fire Trucks could cost approximately \$2,000,000.00. He also commented that there has been no Capital expenditure on a major piece of fire apparatus since 2001. Mr. Smith said the Fire Truck is 29 years old and can't wait to replace it. There could be a discount if both trucks were purchased together. There is a long ordering process. It could take up to four years for delivery.

Trustee Guerrero commented that the Fire Department needs this equipment.

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

The meeting closed at 7:22P.M.

Lynae Mesaris, Village Clerk