

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS
March 13, 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 13, 2024.

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

The Meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor DiSalvo at 6:00P.M.

Members present were:

Trustee James DiSalvo
Trustee Melanie Guerrero
Trustee James Ramus
Trustee Peter Carroll

Also present were: Village Clerk, Lynae Mesaris
DPW Superintendent, John Jones
News of the Highlands, Mary Jane Pitt
Approximately 4 Community Members

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo opened the budget meeting to review the Wastewater and DPW requests.

WASTEWATER

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented there were not a lot of changes in the Wastewater budget. One request was the need for a new truck. The funds could be pulled from the reserve account. The other request was for a new camera system.

Mr. Jones stated that the truck he has now is 12 years old.

Mr. Jones commented the fund request from the G8130 line for electric went up (\$84,000.000 - \$86,000.00). The numbers were calculated from past bills. The cost of fuel went down based on the new digester furnace (\$28,000.00 - \$23,000.00). Once the furnace project is complete, the cost could go down more. The outside lab fees are out of their control, but the cost went down. (\$7000.00 - \$6,000.00) Laboratory equipment and supplies went up and these costs are also out of their control. (\$2,500.00 – \$3,000.00) All other items from G8130 stayed the same. The total request is the same as last year, totaling \$12,500.00.

Mr. Jones fund request for the contractual expense line, G8130.4 stayed the same, totaling \$297,150.00.

Trustee Guerrero questioned the salary line and overtime expenses for the employees. One is the Chief, but half of that is part sewer and part DPW for Mr. Jones, and part one Operator, one maintenance man and one part-timer. The salary line stayed the same (\$203,570.00). The overtime stayed the same (\$20,000.00). Mr. Jones commented he does not control payroll.

Mr. Jones commented from line G8120.4, sanitary sewers – contractual expense. The Jet-Vac service is done twice a year. This cost goes up every year. (\$40,000.00 - \$48,000.00). There is a contract with Generac for the generators. The cost stayed the same because contract has not been renewed. (\$550.00). The generator and pump service went up from \$3,500.00 - \$4,000.00.

Trustee Guerrero questioned the sewer revenues. Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented that there was no change.

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented there is \$98,000.00 in Reserve for a new truck. Mr. Jones commented he will keep the truck because he loves it, but is a lot of wear and tear and the repairs are costly.

Trustee Carroll questioned why new plow accessories are needed. Mr. Jones commented if a new truck is purchased, new accessories are needed.

Mr. Jones commented every time a camera is needed, a call for a company that needs one is called and it is costly. Mr. Jones is also questioned as to why the wastewater treatment plant does not have one.

Trustee Guerrero commented no to the new truck and no to the camera.

Trustee Ramus says yes to the camera.

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented the sewer fund has always been in good shape.

DPW

Mr. Jones says the Jet Vac request went up. Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented the reason was because of the flood. The Jet Vac was used multiple times during the flood. This is for the budget line A8140.04 – Storm Sewers – Contractual. (\$16,700.00 - \$26,700.00) Mr. Jones commented that they are mandated by the DEC and have to be cleaned and certified every year.

A-1640.01 – Central Garage

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo requested Mr. Jones lower the replacement tools and paint from \$3,000.00 back to \$2,000.00.

A5010.02 – Street Administration - Equipment – Copier - No change - \$1,200.00

A5010.04- Street Administration – Contractual – Copier Repairs, School Training Materials, Office Supplies – No change - \$1,950.00.

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented there is a budget request in the Street Maintenance equipment line – A5110.02 for \$523,000.00. This is for equipment. A switch and go truck a front-end loader. Mr. DiSalvo would like to take these out of the budget.

Trustee Guerrero suggests working together with the Town as we are working on a shared agreement.

A5110.04 – Street Maintenance – Contractual – Loader and Backhoe Repairs went up from \$11,000.00 - \$15,000.00; Small Truck Repairs & Parts went up from \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00; and Line Striping went up from \$5,000.00 to \$8,000.00.

Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented that A5142.0120 – Snow Removal overtime stayed the same (\$4,000.00). A-5142.02 Snow Removal Equipment with a request of \$30,000 and A-5142.04 Snow Removal Contractual stayed the same (\$58,800.00). There is a request for a two salt-spreaders. One would cost approximately \$15,000.00.

A5410.04 – Sidewalks – Contractual went up from \$24,500.00 to requested, \$26,000.00.

A5410.02 – Sidewalk Equipment – requested - \$4,000.00.

Trustee Ramus commented the village is in need of sidewalks in residential areas.

A7110.02 – Parks Equipment – Requested \$4,000.00

A7110.04 – Parks Contractual went from adopted \$37,500.00 to \$98,700.00

A7110.0410 Parks Contractual-Mowing went down from \$21,000.00 to \$18,000.00. This is done through a contract.

Trustee Guerrero questioned the request of \$75,000.00 for fencing. Deputy Mayor DiSalvo commented it was for a new fence, but this request could be taken out.

Trustee Guerrero commented she would like to hire in-house for mowing.

Trustee Guerrero questioned what was purchased for \$15,000.00 in the Beautification line, A7110.410. (Flowers, Trash Cans, Flags)

A8160.04 – Refuse & Garbage - Stayed the same. (\$5,000.00)

A-8170.02 – Street Cleaning – Equipment – Stayed the same. (\$0)

A-8170.04 – Street Cleaning – Contractual – Went up from \$10,000.00 to requested - \$13,000.00.

A8160.4 – Refuse & Garbage Contractual – Stayed the same. (\$5,000.00)

A-5182.04 – Street Lighting – Contractual – Stayed the same. (\$85,000.00)

A5112.2 CHIPS – Stayed the same. (\$25,000.00)

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

The meeting closed at 7:23P.M.

Lynae Mesaris, Village Clerk