

REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS

August 5, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held on August 5, 2024 in the Senior Center, 15 Drew Ave., Highland Falls, NY 10928.

The meeting was called to order by Trustee DiSalvo at 7:00P.M.

Members present were:

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

Also present was:

News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt  
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune  
Village Clerk, Heidi Johnson  
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan  
Approximately 40 Community Members

Mayor D’Onofrio opened the meeting and remembered our service members.

Mayor D’Onofrio opened public comment on agenda items.

Katharine Dagaev commentator asked about the ethicalness of a staff member supervising their brother and recommending the person for a promotion. Requested someone else handle the recommendation. Also asked if John Walter would be repaying the money he took.

Patrick Flynn addressed the Board about the approval of the events. Requested that these items are moved to recreation department and Recreation Director at the Town of Highlands. Questioned why there needs to be another depository.

Mrs. Olivia asked about what the zoning law introduction on the agenda pertains to.

Mayor D’Onofrio responded that it is part of the Comp Plan. He will read the resolution as it pertains to height, zoning and property.

Kevin Smedman, former owner of Napa Auto Parts store, read a testimonial in support of John Walter.

Christen Manning, President of new senior club, SALT.Y, asked that the Senior Center be added to the agenda. She requested a policy for use for the building. Mayor confirmed that anyone using the Senior Center has to have insurance. If anyone is interested in using the Senior Center, they would contact the Highland Falls Police Department for entrance. If other clubs are established, they would have access. Christen asked about a closet. Mayor reminded her that SALT.Y was offered a closet but Christen declined that until a later date. Christen acknowledged. Christen asked about who has access to the security cameras and why they are there.

Pablo Pulido commented against John Walter.

Jim Tirola commented in support of John Walter.

Annie Scott commented on starting another senior group in the Village of Highland Falls and that it feels splintered and divisive.

Kathy Jones commented that the cameras are at the Senior Center to protect everyone and to surveil the property in the event of a break in or emergency. It is for security reasons only.

Trustee Guerrero commented that Kathy Jones and Ms. Gargiulo accessed the video recordings at the Senior Center. Kathy Jones remarked that they merely submitted a FOIL request because someone removed one of their signs. Anyone can FOIL the police department and gain access as well.

Patrick Flynn asked which board member is in charge of the Senior Center. He asked that the board relinquish the responsibility for the Senior Center to the Town Recreation Director.

Mayor responded that he, Town Supervisor, and Town Recreation Director met a few years ago to discuss this. Town Supervisor wanted to keep it the way it was. Mayor confirmed that the Senior Center cannot be used for children's services and programming, it is limited to senior programming only.

Alena Vanzetta commented that she asked the town what happens to the money they raise and money that is allotted for senior meals. Anne Molina is responsible for that. Meeting for Salty, Highlanders, and Anne Molina will be scheduled in future weeks.

Village Attorney reminded the board that the policy as is written and approved by the board is for members of the public to name themselves as they come up.

Public Comment Closed 7:35 PM

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve

FY 23/24 bills and claims totaling \$97,432.65

FY 24' – 25': \$1,182,274.48 (includes \$39,254.73 Pre-pays)

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

**4 Ayes:** Trustee Ramus, Trustee Carroll, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D'Onofrio **1 Nay:** Trustee Guerrero  
Trustee Ramus asked for notation on the sewer main break. FY23-24 item for \$72,000  
Motion carried.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the minutes as written from the June 3, 2024, Regular Meeting.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll.  
Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to introduce

**VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS  
RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW NO. \_\_ OF 2024  
AMENDING THE ZONING LAW OF THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS**

The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll.

Motion carried on roll call vote.

**5 Ayes:** Trustee Guerrero, Trustee Ramus, Trustee Carroll, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D'Onofrio **0 Nay:**

Mayor D'Onofrio opened due process hearing for Violations of Property Maintenance. Let the record reflect that no one is present to represent the locations named.

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve Resolution Concerning Violation of Property Maintenance

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo.

Motion carried on roll call vote.

**5 Ayes:** Trustee Guerrero, Trustee Ramus, Trustee Carroll, Trustee DiSalvo, Mayor D'Onofrio **0 Nay:**

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Resolution to amend the budget – in receipt of \$50,000 from the Division of Criminal Justice Grant for Police FY 2024-2025.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to approve Free Lacrosse Clinics for boys and girls grades 3-8, at Town of Highlands Recreation on Wednesdays for six weeks (7/17, 7/24, 7/31, 8/7, 8/14, 8/21) from 6:00pm to 7:30pm

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo with the understanding that the board is approving the location, not the program.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor D'Onofrio updated prior approval for the Fire Department Annual Christmas in July Street Festival Event on Saturday, July 27, 2024 from Main Street closed from Village Hall to Town Hall that insurance has been received.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Town of Highlands recreation Fun for the Kids Event at Roe Park Softball Field on Friday, August 23, 2024, 3:00pm to 8:00 pm with Certificate of Liability Insurance.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve – Back to School Block Party for youth, at St. John’s AME Zion Church on Muller Avenue, Saturday, August 31, 2024, 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM, with Certificate of Liability Insurance.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero. Adding to the motion that the fee for music has been waived.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to approve adding Hudson Valley Investment Advisors Inc as an additional depository for the Village of Highland Falls.

The motion was seconded by Trustee DiSalvo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Rocio Torres to the position of Part Time Dispatcher at the rate of \$18.50 per hour. She has successfully completed a background investigation and possesses dispatching experience.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve after completing 26 weeks of probation in the position, Emmanuel Vasquez’s probationary status be removed and he be made permanent in the position of Police Sergeant.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Treasurer, Gabrielle Ferrier, to attend the annual Fall 2024 NYCOM Conference from September 16 through September 20, 2024. The cost to attend is \$510.00; lodging is \$199.00 per night. Reimbursement for meals/mileage per employee travel expense guidelines.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Clerk, Heidi Johnson, to attend the annual Fall 2024 NYCOM Conference from September 16 through September 20, 2024. The cost to attend is \$450.00 plus full dinner package at \$298 for a total registration fee of \$748.00; lodging is \$199.00 per night. Reimbursement for meals/mileage per employee travel expense guidelines.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion on promotion of Michael Jones.

Trustee DiSalvo recommends eligible DPW employee to promotion of DPW Public Works Maintenance Worker.

Trustee Guerrero motioned to approve Promotion of Michael Jones at recommendation of John Jones, DPW Superintendent.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Ramus.

Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve Mayor D’Onofrio to sign the License Agreement for 3 Graziano Lane, Highland Falls, NY for the wall repairs.

The motion was seconded by Trustee Guerrero.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion to accept resignation letter from John Walter from position of Wastewater Maintenance Worker proposed by Trustee Guerrero.

Mayor D’Onofrio asked for motion to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to go into Executive Session

Trustee Carroll seconded motion.

**8:00 PM – BREAK FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS EMPLOYEE MATTERS**

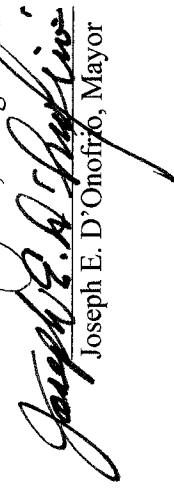
**8:10 PM – Resume Regular Meeting**

Mayor D’Onofrio accepted resignation letter from John Walter from position of Wastewater Maintenance Worker.

Mayor D’Onofrio opened Public Comment.

The meeting closed at 9:35 P.M.

  
Heidi Johnson, Village Clerk

  
Joseph E. D’Onofrio, Mayor