

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

July 1, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Highland Falls was held on June 3, 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

Member(s) absent was:

Trustee Melanie Guerrero

Also present was:

News of the Highlands Editor, Mary Jane Pitt
Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune
Camera Operator, Sean Lackhan
Approximately 17 Community Members

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

Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune addressed the Mayor, Board Members, and public regarding the drafted local law to allow the Village of Highland Falls to go out to Orange County for the Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk positions.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to open Public Hearing on Residency Requirements.

Trustee Carroll seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

A Public Hearing, as advertised, was opened at 7:02 PM for receiving input on Residency Requirements for the Village Clerk and Deputy Clerk positions.

Public Hearing Opened

(Unnamed) commentator remarked that we can't find qualified people in the Village. Treasurer's position was also an outside applicant that was hired. Applicants were interviewed. Implication is that we don't have enough qualified people locally.

(Unnamed) commentator remarked that he would encourage the Board to hire locally. Discussed a rumor in the community about applicant. Asked if there is a probationary timeline on this position.

Village Attorney, Alyse Terhune, responded that the Clerk position is an appointment of the Mayor and once he/she is appointed they are taking office for the term of the Mayor.

(Unnamed) commentator acknowledged answers.

Mayor D'Onofrio moved for a motion to close the Public Hearing on Residency Requirements.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to close the Public Hearing.

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

Mayor D'Onofrio motioned to adopt the Village of Highland Falls Resolution adopting Local Law of 2024 amending Chapter 28 of the Village of Highland Falls Code to expand residency requirements for appointed Village Officers and Clerks to the County of Orange, NY.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to adopt.

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

4 Ayes 0 Nay 1 Absent (Trustee Guerrero)

Public Comment on Agenda items

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the FY 23/24 bills and claims totaling \$380,545.42

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to pay FY 24/25 bills and claims totaling \$1,089,545.03 with a note that of this section of payables, \$520,000 is for the Ondaora Water Project.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the Certificate of Liability for the Artwalk.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to accept the Certificate of Liability Insurance dated from June 29, 2024 to July 6, 2025 for the Fourth of July events.

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

Trustee Ramus motioned to approve 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 pending insurance.

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

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve the Budget Transfer from the general fund to workman's compensation now therefore be resolved that the following budget transfer be approved - \$ 5,000.00 from account number 601607927, General Fund, to account number 9862450658, Workman's Compensation.

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

The Fire Department received a grant for \$2,500.00 by the Department of Environmental Conservation designated for fire department contractual purchases.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to approve an Amendment to increase the Appropriation Budget a.3410.0400 Fire Department Contractual for \$2,500, and revenue code a309 Other Government Aide, for \$2500 FY 23/24.

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

The mayor stated during his report that he heard the comments and agrees that we have qualified people here and he did the interviews with others for the Village Clerk position. He understands the work that needs to be done and name's tonight as the Mayor's Appointment of Heidi M. Johnson who comes very well qualified and he thinks everyone will like the appointment.

Trustee Carroll motioned to accept Heidi Johnson for the position. He mentioned that he's aware of what goes on downstairs and we need to take action on this as fast as we can. The staff downstairs have been working late at night and haven't take vacation days that they expected to take.

Trustee DiSalvo seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Ramus motioned for Mayor to sign a letter of intent to purchase a wastewater treatment plant truck. The days of state bid are gone. There is a new policy from the state. We have a letter from our mechanic who sent out over 30 bid packages and only two came back. One bid changed the specs the second came in at what was requested and became the low bidder, \$74,466.48. This truck is going to replace a 12-13-year-old vehicle that we got more than it's useful life out of and is needing body work.

Trustee DiSalvo seconded adding that we will be taking funds from reserves. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee DiSalvo motioned to cancel the second meetings in July and August, returning to two monthly meetings in September.

Trustee Carroll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor D'Onofrio opened Public Comment.

The meeting closed at 8:27 P.M.

Heidi Johnson, Village Clerk

Joseph E. D'Onofrio, Mayor