

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget workshop on Monday, October 17, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:30pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie R. Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Council Member Gokey opened the budget workshop at 7:40pm.

Theresa Ziemer presented the Board with a petition signed by residents who want the camera back on.

Supervisor Magryta made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to turn the camera back on.

**MOTION DEFEATED: 2-eyes (Magryta, Gokey)
3-nays (Edsall, Livsey, Tautel)**

Town Justice:

Justice Donaldson stated that the biggest increase in his budget is in the Court Officer Salary line. He said that he would like to have 2 court officers upstairs and 2 court officers working the Magnometer.

Mr. Donaldson said that his Other Expenses line has been increased for education.

Council Member Livsey asked what the equipment line covered.

Mr. Donaldson said that was to replace the printer or fax machine if necessary.

Police Department:

Chief Quinn said that he needs to replace the Trailblazer and when he does, he would like to give his old one to another Town department. The Chief said that there is \$34,000 in the Equipment Reserve fund, the cost of the vehicle is \$27,500 and he would put the remaining \$5,500 in the equipment line to pay for the lettering and lights on the new vehicle.

Supervisor Magryta would like to know the life cycle of the vehicles to properly prepare for purchases.

Chief Quinn will prepare a report for the Board.

Chief Quinn has a significant increase in his personal services line because he would like the Board to consider allowing him to hire two experienced police supervisors to bring the department to where it should be. The Chief has three people that are interested.

Council Member Tautel asked if these officers would also be training officers.

Chief Quinn said that two of the Sergeants are also training officers and he has obtained permission to use a local facility for firearms training.

Supervisor Magryta asked Chief Quinn how long he expected it to take to get the department where it should be.

Chief Quinn said that it could take a couple of years to get the department to where it needs to be for state accreditation.

Council Member Gokey questioned the contractual line.

Chief Quinn said that it is the Town's share of the agreement with Orange County for communications towers.

Council Member Tautel is concerned that there is not enough budgeted for fuel.

Supervisor Magryta doesn't agree and said that there is always the Contingency Fund if it is needed.

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Building Department:

Building Inspector John Hager said there is not much change to the 2012 budget. Mr. Hager has put in for a small increase in salary and removed the Legal line item. Mr. Hager said he has also put in \$10,000 for Codification.

Supervisor Magryta said that money needs to be put in Legal Services and asked Mr. Hager to work with Ms. Blauvelt to come up with an amount. The Supervisor also asked Mr. Hager to review the revenues again because he believes his estimate is too low.

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Personnel:

Supervisor Magryta said there is still work to do on the Handbook and he would like to keep that money in there.

Insurance:

Supervisor Magryta said he spoke to Scott Liebert and the Town's rates might be a little less, but Worker's Compensation is still an issue.

Association Dues:

Supervisor Magryta stated that the Town has not been paying there fair share for many years and the correct amount is now in the budget.

Veteran's Services:

Supervisor Magryta would like to budget \$500 for grave decorations and \$2,500 for Patriotic Observances (July 4th).

Grant Research:

Supervisor Magryta said that there are grants out there and he would like to leave some funding in the budget.

Supervisor Magryta said the next Budget Workshop will be on October 20 at 7:30pm and the next Regular Meeting will be on October 24 at 7:30pm.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to adjourn the budget workshop. Budget workshop adjourned at 9:15pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Livsey, Edsall, Tautel, Gokey)
0-nays**

Attest,