

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, January 23, 2012 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	James Stradley	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7pm.

Supervisor Livsey met with Chief Quinn during the day and he asked if the new Detective could be sworn in at the beginning of the meeting so the Chief could leave for another appointment. The Supervisor asked Chief Quinn to introduce the new Detective.

Chief Quinn introduced Detective Kevin O'Connor and gave a brief bio on him. The Chief also thanked the Board for hiring him.

Detective O'Connor was sworn in by the Town Clerk.

MINUTES

Supervisor Livsey asked that a couple of corrections be made to the minutes from the January 9 meeting.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to approve the minutes from the January 9 meeting, with the corrections and the January 13 meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annie Scott said she got her agenda off the Town's website and thanked the Board for making this possible.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Attorney General stating that the Town needs to have an Ethics Code and Board. The Supervisor forwarded this to the liaison and it is being handled.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from Ed Huber, a former resident, saying that he believes he is entitled to a refund for all the extra taxes he paid.

Supervisor Livsey received an invitation to the James I. O'Neill Honor Society installation. The Supervisor is unable to go and asked Council Member Edsall if he was able to attend.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Orange County Association of Towns and Villages stating that they received the Town's payments for the dues and sponsorship of the hospitality room in NYC.

FINANCIAL

Budget Transfers:

Supervisor Livsey has budget transfers that total \$54,682.50 that he would like the Board to approve.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the budget transfers totaling \$54,682.50.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

Accounts Payable:

Supervisor Livsey has the Accounts Payable dated 1/13/12 in the amount of \$194,764.45.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the A/P Register dated 1/13/12 in the amount of \$194,764.45.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

Salary Schedule:

Supervisor Livsey said the salary for the Emergency Action Plan Coordinator should be \$1,785.50 not \$1,537.50 as stated in the Salary Schedule.

Supervisor Livsey said the ZBA Secretary was not put on the Salary Schedule. The Supervisor said the salary for this position is \$56.38 per meeting and \$5.90 per page.

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Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to approve the amendments to the Salary Schedule as requested by the Supervisor.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Town Engineer:

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to appoint McGoey, Hauser and Edsall as the Town Engineer for 2012.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays

Town Historian:

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to appoint Stella Bailey as the Town Historian for 2012.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays

Code Enforcement Officer:

Council Member Gokey informed the Supervisor that the Code Enforcement Officer was never appointed at the re-organization meeting.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to appoint John Hager as the Code Enforcement Officer at a salary according to the Salary Schedule.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays

Channel 23 Coordinator:

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to appoint Colleen Solan as the Channel 23 Coordinator for 2012 with a stipend of \$1,537.50.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays

BOARD LIAISON/DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Council Member Gokey:

Council Member Gokey met with John Hager. Mr. Hager reported that he has received numerous resumes for the Building Inspector position and he will do the initial interviews and then invite the Supervisor, Council Member Gokey and a Village liaison to way in.

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Council Member Gokey and Kelly Blauvelt met with Jay Lewandowski to discuss forming a Safety Committee. There will be a meeting the 1st week in February with Council Member Gunza, Ms. Blauvelt and Tony Squicciarini to begin putting the practices in place.

Council Member Gokey reported that the Assessor's Office is at the tail end of the revaluation numbers and Jean Talman has been given numbers to review.

Supervisor Livsey said that in March the new numbers will be sent out to the residents and they will be able to sit down with people, by appointment, at the Library and have their questions answered. The Supervisor said that if they are still not happy they can go to Grievance Day in May.

Council Member Edsall spoke to Ms. Talman and she explained how the documents are being analyzed.

Council Member Gokey said she is scanning the documents and putting the information in Excel for Ms. Talman.

Council Member Gokey said the quote for excess insurance coverage for Recreation programs has been received and the amount was very high. Ms. Gokey explained that the Town has a reserve fund that was set up for special cases.

Supervisor Livsey said he would like to forgo the insurance and use the reserve fund to be self-insured. The Supervisor asked Mr. Rider to prepare some guidelines for the use of the money.

Mr. Rider said he would draft something for the Board.

Council Member Gunza:

Council Member Gunza believes that Detective O'Connor will be an asset to the department. Ms. Gunza thanked the Fort Montgomery and Highland Falls Fire Departments for the time they put in at the Cornwall fire.

Supervisor Livsey:

Supervisor Livsey met with the Town Justices to discuss hiring Court Officers.

Supervisor Livsey said the Ambulance Corps is hosting an Emergency Preparedness meeting on Wednesday at 7:00pm at the Ambulance Corps Building.

Supervisor Livsey asked if there was any news on the PBA contract.

Council Member Gunza said they will be sitting down to talk.

Council Member Stradley:

Council Member Stradley said the Highway and Sanitation Departments are doing a great job. Mr. Stradley said he will be meeting with Mr. Squicciarini to discuss some equipment.

Council Member Stradley said he would like to set up an Ethics Committee of 5 people.

Council Member Stradley met with Recreation Director, Jim Willis, and he will be attending the Recreation Commission meetings.

Council Member Stradley plans to sit down with Dial-A-Bus Manager, Colleen Solan, to discuss some issues.

Supervisor Livsey said that Stella Bailey has expressed interest in being on the Ethics Committee.

Highway Supt. Squicciarini:

Mr. Squicciarini informed the Board that the new product he purchased for ice is working great. Mr. Squicciarini asked the Board to authorize him to spend \$12,000 to replace the body of one of the sanitation trucks and also the lift gate needs to be replaced. Mr. Squicciarini would like to take the money out of the Sanitation Vehicles Reserve fund.

Mr. Rider believes this is subject to permissive referendum.

Mr. Squicciarini said he doesn't believe it is.

Mr. Rider said he will look into it, but in the meantime, the Board can make a motion that is subject to any requirements.

Mr. Squicciarini said he budgeted to replace his Tahoe. Mr. Squicciarini is looking at a 4-door pickup and a plow which total \$35,000. Mr. Squicciarini would like to take this money from the Highway Repair Equipment Reserve fund.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to authorize Mr. Squicciarini to expend \$12,000 from the Sanitation Vehicles Reserve fund to replace the body on a sanitation truck. This motion is subject to any necessary referendum requirements.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

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Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to authorize Mr. Squicciarini to expend \$35,000 from the Highway Repair Equipment Reserve fund to purchase a 4-door pickup and plow. This motion is subject to any necessary referendum requirements.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

Water Update:

Mr. Squicciarini reported that he walked his proposed pipeline route with Mr. Folchetti and that Mr. Folchetti was excited to see that there would be less issues with this route. Mr. Folchetti will be sending someone to the DOT Archives to look for original plans of 9W. Mr. Squicciarini spoke to Mr. Rider about getting the first meeting scheduled.

Supervisor Livsey said there will be a meeting on water this Saturday and invited Mr. Squicciarini to attend.

Council Member Edsall:

Council Member Edsall spoke to Wastewater Treatment Operator Doug Willis who said the capacity at the plant is up a little, but still under the limit.

Council Member Edsall is preparing a spreadsheet for the water points.

Supervisor Livsey said the Mayor approached him and said he would like the Town to look at the Village doing the administration for the Water and Sewer bills.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from Mr. Rider pertaining to Weyant Road.

Mr. Rider explained that Weyant Road was extended and while it has been the Town's intention to take over the road, it has never been in the condition for the Town to do this. Mr. Rider said that things are being worked out with Mr. Hannawalt's attorney.

Mr. Rider said that the Library is requesting that a mold test be conducted on the records stored in their basement and if the Town is unwilling to do this, the records must be removed.

Council Member Gokey said the Library wants the records that are there and will be put there tested.

Supervisor Livsey said the tree contractors for Orange & Rockland are parked in the Town lot next to his restaurant.

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Mr. Squicciarini explained that, in exchange for the parking, they will be doing approximately \$10,000 worth of tree work (for free) for the Town.

Supervisor Livsey asked if he could talk about the Bogardus easement.

Mr. Rider explained that there are places where pipes were put on private property and there was either no easement obtained or the easement was not filed. Mr. Rider said the Town cannot enforce these easements. Mr. Rider said there are situations about this that need to be discussed in executive session.

Mr. Squicciarini requested that he be allowed to attend the executive session.

Supervisor Livsey said that Mr. Rider wrote a letter to Homeland Towers.

Mr. Rider explained that most Planning Board fees are paid by the applicant from an escrow fund, but a certain applicant has not paid some fees. Mr. Rider said that the previous administration authorized payment of some fees out of Town funds and this money will be reimbursed when the applicant pays.

Supervisor Livsey asked if there was any reason the Town should be concerned with the Champlain Hudson Power Express, Inc. bringing a power line from the Canadian Border to New York City.

Council Member Edsall said it will be running down the river, but he doesn't see anything to be concerned about.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Space Use Agreement:

Supervisor Livsey has the Space Use agreement for the use of the Holy Innocents Church for the Senior Dining Site. The Supervisor would like the Board to authorize him to sign this.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to authorize Supervisor Livsey to sign the Space Use Agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gokey, Gunza, Stradley)
0-nays**

Water Permits:

Supervisor Livsey said that Water Hookup Permits can be obtained at the Town Clerk's office in the Town Hall.

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Court Officers:

Supervisor Livsey met with Chief Quinn and the Justices to discuss adding 2 police officers to the Court. The Supervisor would like to discuss this and bring it up at a later date.

Green Committee:

Council Member Edsall said he received communications from Olga Andersen informing him that she is working on the 218 project and she would like to do it again next year. Mr. Edsall said that Ms. Andersen also discussed the possibility of reducing the use of plastic bags and doing an energy study.

Council Member Gokey said she has an estimate for an energy study from March 2011.

Council Member Edsall will follow-up with the energy study.

Police Dept. Clerk:

Supervisor Livsey said that the previous Board authorized hiring a Clerk for the Police Dept. and the County has approved it. The Supervisor asked the Board for their opinion. The Supervisor would like to talk about it and bring it up at the next meeting.

Council Member Gunza sat with Chief Quinn and she believes that it will be helpful to have a Clerk.

Mr. Rider said he would provide the Board with memos on the Tax Certiorari.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Annie Scott asked if the meeting on Saturday was going to be open to the public.

Supervisor Livsey said there was no need for the public because it was just going to be a discussion.

Council Member Gokey recognized Ann and Tom Burley who turned 90 and 96 years old and also just celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary.

AJOURN

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gokey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza)
0-nays**

Attest,