

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget meeting and regular meeting on Monday, August 11, 2014 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 6:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	James Stradley	----	Council Member (Arrived 7:10pm)
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Adrienne T. Voltaire	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

### Budget Meeting

Supervisor Livsey opened the budget meeting at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey explained that this is the first of many budget meetings. The Supervisor said the budget meeting next Monday will not be televised and the Board would be sitting at a table with no microphones.

Supervisor Livsey informed Council Member Voltaire that if the Board disagrees on something it can be thrown to a vote.

Comptroller Blauvelt reviewed the budget with the Board and told them they would be getting a new one each week with updates. Ms. Blauvelt said the sheet that the Board has does not have all the updates on it.

### Supervisor's Budget

Supervisor Livsey said his budget went down a little.

Ms. Blauvelt stated that salaries will be discussed at a separate time.

Ms. Blauvelt and the Board reviewed this part of the budget.

The Board discussed cell phone costs.

### Veterans

The Comptroller and the Board reviewed this budget.

### Seniors

The Comptroller and the Board reviewed this budget.

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The Board discussed moving \$2,000 from the bus trips into a part of the budget for the new Senior Center.

Council Member Gunza said she was concerned there wouldn't be enough money for the trips.

Supervisor Livsey said the money is in miscellaneous and can be used for anything.

### **Beautification**

The Board review this budget which remained the same as last year.

### **Historian**

Supervisor Livsey said when he first took office the Mayor asked about the Town paying the Historian's salary. The Supervisor said the Mayor has made that request and it is up to the Board if they want to take on that additional expense.

Council Member Gunza said she was surprised to find out the Town already pays 2/3 of her salary. Ms. Gunza would like to discuss this when the Board discusses salaries.

Supervisor Livsey tabled this for a later meeting.

### **Personnel**

Ms. Blauvelt said she spoke to Marshall & Sterling and they will review the current Handbook for \$600-800. Ms. Blauvelt said the Handbook definitely needs to be updated.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to send a copy of the Handbook to Council Member Voltaire.

### **Budget Officer**

That budget will stay the same.

### **Purchasing**

Ms. Blauvelt said there is no longer a Purchasing Agent.

### **Emergency Management Committee**

That budget will stay the same as last year. The Board discussed the \$2,000 in the equipment line.

Ms. Gunza said this would be used for cots, blankets, etc. and also for training.

Supervisor Livsey asked about the Emergency Management Plan.

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Council Member Gunza said the plan is at the County and she hopes Dominic Greene will come soon to go over it with the Committee.

### **Reserve Funds**

Ms. Blauvelt said these will be reviewed now and also at the end of the budget.

Ms. Blauvelt provided the Board with a sheet with the Reserve Fund information and went over it with them.

## **REGULAR MEETING**

The Supervisor stated that on the agenda that is available on line, it states the regular meeting will begin following the budget meeting.

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 6:45pm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments from the public, but Supervisor Livsey recognized Orange County Legislature DiSalvo who was in the audience.

### **MINUTES**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the minutes from the July 28, 2014 Town Board meeting.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Supervisor Livsey received letter from the Department of the Army regarding the Bull Hill lease. The Army is requesting a \$10,000 real estate fee to renew the lease for 5 years. Supervisor Livsey responded by asking the fee to be waived, but has not received a response yet.

Supervisor Livsey said he forwarded this letter and a letter he wrote to our Federal Representative in case their help is needed. The Supervisor said he received a response from Senator Gillibrand thanking him for notifying her of what is going on.

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Supervisor Livsey received numerous letters from Assemblyman Skoufis with information about grants that were obtained for organizations in the Town.

Supervisor Livsey reported that the Citizens Foundation will be holding their annual meeting and picnic. The Supervisor has the invitation if anyone on the Board wants to go.

Supervisor Livsey said the Equalization Rate is 106%

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS, REQUESTS AND RESOLUTIONS**

Supervisor Livsey said that \$104,581.97 was spent from the Consolidated Account.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to authorize the transfer of \$500 from Police Training to Police Contracted Expenses.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### **Council Member Edsall:**

Council Member Edsall said Patriot Garden has received a \$1,000 donation towards the flowers for next year.

Council Member Edsall reported that the Mine Dock Committee met recently.

Council Member Edsall said feedback on the consolidation of the Planning Boards from the Chairs should be discussed.

Council Member Edsall said there were no surprises in the Building Department budget.

Council Member Edsall said he will be in touch with Mr. Patterson about the poles.

#### **Council Member Gunza:**

Council Member Gunza said the Ambulance Corps has been very busy. Ms. Gunza said there will be a discussion later in the meeting regarding the repair of one ambulance and the replacement of the other one.

Council Member Gunza said Chief Quinn has submitted a grant to help pay for the Resource Officer and equipment.

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Council Member Gunza said the Dog Control Officers are getting a lot done and there are more dogs licensed than ever.

### **Council Member Voltaire:**

Council Member Voltaire reported that the Village Board acted on two items that our on the Town's agenda tonight.

Council Member Voltaire said she spoke to the School Board President who is interested in doing something with the old Highland Falls Elementary School building. Ms. Voltaire said a walk through will take place this Saturday at 2pm and invited the Board to attend.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Livsey announced that the Town is aware of the problem with the picture and Time Warner has been notified.

Supervisor Livsey asked Mr. Rider to include the Board when he emails something to him.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Ambulance Repairs:**

Supervisor Livsey stated that the recall on the older ambulance was fixed.

Supervisor Livsey said the newer ambulance will be taken by flatbed to Florida for repair and returned at no cost to the Town. The Supervisor said the estimated time is 10 production days.

Council Member Gunza said Wednesday is the tentative date for pick up.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **Water Agreement – 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment:**

Supervisor Livsey said he met with Mayor Flynn and Trustee Murphy and ironed out a couple of things in the agreement. The Supervisor said he has the updated agreement and will get with the Town Clerk to get it signed and delivered to the Village.

**(Council Member Stradley arrived – 7:10pm)**

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Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to adopt the resolution authorizing the Town of Highlands to enter into a 7<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the existing Water Supply Agreement.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Voltaire)  
0-nays**

**\*\*\*\*RESOLUTION ATTACHED\*\*\*\***

**Recreation Agreement:**

Supervisor Livsey stated that nothing changed in the agreement since it was sent to the Village. The Supervisor said this is a simple agreement to terminate the Recreation Commission Agreement from 1982.

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to adopt the resolution to authorize termination of the Recreation Commission Agreement between the Town of Highlands and the Village of Highland Falls.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Stradley, Gunza, Voltaire)  
0-nays**

**\*\*\*\*RESOLUTION ATTACHED\*\*\*\***

Supervisor Livsey asked Council Member Stradley to contact the Recreation Commission members and let them know about this.

**Planning Boards Consolidation:**

Supervisor Livsey said the Village had made a motion in favor of combining the two boards.

Council Member Edsall said he heard that both Chairs were at the Village meeting. Mr. Edsall said Chairman Smith feels that the codes should be aligned as a part of this.

Council Member Gunza said David Church from the Orange County Department of Planning has offered to help merge the codes and Mr. Smith knew this.

Council Member Edsall said he would like Mr. Church to give the Town an idea of what the differences are. Mr. Edsall also said he would like to see a formal agreement with the Village that has deadline.

Mr. Rider said he agreed with Council Member Edsall because it is easier to get lost if there is nothing formal.

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Supervisor Livsey said that maybe volunteers from each Board will work on something.

Jim Ramus, Village Planning Board, stated that he is concerned with the Village residents paying more.

Supervisor Livsey said that if the Boards are combined the Village residents would pay approximately ½.

### **Ambulance Purchase:**

Supervisor Livsey said he is going to let the Ambulance Corps members speak.

Capt. Stroppel said that after much research he has provided the Board with some ideas. Mr. Stroppel explained the different options and stated that a re-mount is the fastest and cheapest way to go. Mr. Stroppel said he needs the Board to make a decision tonight because things are getting critical.

Mr. Rider stated that he would be comfortable with the Town not taking a bid from the current company because of the issues.

The Board discussed the life of the old box and also the specs that were provided by Capt. Stroppel.

Council Member Edsall said the specifications provided are very tight.

Mr. Rider said the Town needs to comply with the Competitive Bid process. Mr. Rider said the Town cannot put any language in there that will knock companies out of bidding. Mr. Rider said fair specifications need to be put out.

Supervisor Livsey said the taxpayers' money needs to be spent wisely and asked the Board to consider a re-mount/new and diesel/gas. The Supervisor suggested purchasing a new one with the money available and financing the rest.

Capt. Stroppel said he doesn't think the taxpayers can afford diesel and he needs a new ambulance now.

Discussion on re-mount or new ambulance.

Supervisor Livsey said the specifications need to be cleaned up and he asked Mr. Rider to review them.

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Chris Byrnes is unhappy with the way the Board treats Capt. Stroppel.

Council Member Gunza said the Board wouldn't be doing their job if they didn't ask questions. Ms. Gunza stated that no one is belittling Capt. Stroppel they are just getting information.

Wayne Kocher said he would call two experts to get some numbers on ambulances.

Merv Livsey stated he is here as a taxpayer and said diesel is better and he is not for a re-mount. Mr. Livsey said the Ambulance Corps needs something good and reliable.

Susan Davidson said if the Town Board is willing to fund a diesel and soon she is happy.

Council Member Voltaire asked if two different bids could go out.

Mr. Rider said there could be alternatives.

The Board agreed on a re-mount and specifications would be prepared for gas or diesel.

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to prepare specifications for a re-mount with a gas or diesel option and go out to bid.

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

Supervisor Livsey stated that, even though the Town Board are the Ambulance Commissioners, he is sure that no one would be happy if the Board did something like this without help from the Ambulance Corps. The Supervisor said the Board appreciates everything that Capt. Stroppel does.

## OTHER BUSINESS

Supervisor Livsey said he spoke to Robert Held, the new Sewer Plant Operator about his budget.

### Chief Quinn – Grant:

Chief Quinn said he submitted for a grant, with the School District, from the Orange County Youth Bureau for \$60,000. The Chief said \$30,000 would be to help pay Detective O'Connor's salary and the other \$30,000 would be for a vehicle. The Chief said this is not a matching funds grant.

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### Hudson Highlands Land Trust:

Supervisor Livsey recognized Kathy Hamil from the Hudson Highlands Land Trust. The Supervisor recommended that everyone go on line to their site to see what is going on.

Ms. Hamil informed everyone what is going on.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ramus questioned why it hasn't been brought up to consolidate the fire departments.

Council Member Gunza said this has been discussed in the past.

County Legislature DiSalvo asked to be notified about any County grants because he might be able to help. Mr. DiSalvo also stated that a plan of action and cost analysis needs to be done for consolidation.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to go into executive session to discuss Police Personnel, PBA Contract, Highway Contract and Dog Control personnel. Board went into executive session at 8:40pm.

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

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 9:45pm.

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

### ADJOURN

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:46pm.

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

Attest,

RESOLUTION

OF

AUGUST 11, 2014

A RESOLUTION OF THE  
THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS TO  
AUTHORIZE TERMINATION OF THE  
RECREATION COMMISSION AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS  
AND VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS

Council Member **Voltaire** moved the following resolution which was seconded by Council Member **Gunza**.

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands wishes to terminate the Highlands-Highland Falls Recreation Commission and the Recreation Commission Agreement dated January 15, 1982, between the Town of Highlands and Village of Highland Falls.

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the terms and conditions of the Recreation Commission Agreement and no longer deems it to be in the public interest for the Town of Highlands to continue the Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Supervisor be and he hereby is authorized and directed to notify the Village of such termination and to execute the Recreation Commission Termination Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor and officers of the Town are hereby authorized and empowered to make, execute and deliver, or cause to be made, executed and delivered, in the name of and on behalf of the Town, all such certificates, documents and papers as may be necessary to effectuate and carry out the contents of the foregoing resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

James Stradley, Councilman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
June Gunza, Councilwoman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
Adrienne T. Voltaire, Councilwoman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
William Edsall, Councilman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
Mervin R. Livsey, Supervisor	voting	<b>Aye</b>

The foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution duly made, seconded and Adopted at a meeting of the Town Board, Town of Highlands, on August 11, 2014.

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June Patterson, Town Clerk

RESOLUTION

OF

AUGUST 11, 2014

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE  
THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS TO  
ENTER INTO A SEVENTH AMENDMENT TO  
THE EXISTING WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT  
DATED NOVEMBER 6, 2003  
BETWEEN THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS  
FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS  
WATER DISTRICT NO.1 AND THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS  
WATER DISTRICT NO. 2 AND  
THE VILLAGE OF HIGHLAND FALLS

Council Member **Edsall** moved the following resolution which was seconded by Council Member **Voltaire**.

WHEREAS, the Town of Highlands has negotiated a Seventh Amendment to the terms and conditions of the existing Water Supply Agreement dated November 6, 2003, and amended in June 2006, August 2009, July 2012, July 2013, September 2013 and April 2014 between the Town of Highlands for and on behalf of the Town of Highlands Water District No. 1 and the Town of Highlands Water District No. 2 and the Village of Highland Falls (hereinafter the “Water Supply Agreement”) which will allow for the sale of more water from the Village to the Town; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board deems it to be in the public interest for the Town of Highlands to enter into a seventh amendment to the Water Supply Agreement for the aforesaid purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the Supervisor be and he hereby is authorized and directed to execute the Seventh Amendment to the Water Supply Agreement substantially in the form presented to the Board and attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Supervisor and officers of the Town are hereby authorized and empowered to make, execute and deliver, or cause to be made, executed and delivered, in the name of and on behalf of the Town, all such certificates, documents and papers as may be necessary to effectuate and carry out the contents of the foregoing resolutions and the terms and conditions of the Fifth Amendment to the Water Supply Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the aforesaid resolutions shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

James Stradley, Councilman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
June Gunza, Councilwoman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
Adrienne T. Voltaire, Councilwoman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
William Edsall, Councilman	voting	<b>Aye</b>
Mervin R. Livsey, Supervisor	voting	<b>Aye</b>

The foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution duly made, seconded and Adopted at a meeting of the Town Board, Town of Highlands, on August 11, 2014.

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June Patterson, Town Clerk