

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on March 23, 2015 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
	Adrienne T. Voltaire	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	Lesley K Peterson	----	Deputy Town Clerk

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey made a quick comment about a water main break in the Village and that residents may be witnessing no water, low pressure or dirty water. There are two breaks that the Village crew are working on and apologize for any inconvenience at this time.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to accept the minutes from the March 9, 2015 Town Board Meeting.

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey spoke about the Hudson River Valley Greenway Grants Program they are looking for applications no later than 5pm on the following days May 8, 2015, Sept 11, 2015 and Dec 4, 2015. The grants are up to \$10,000 for projects, which have to meet the Greenway criteria. The Town has been successful when applying in the past for projects so we will apply again.

Supervisor Livsey announced The Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Substance Abuse Prevention Poster Contest. If anyone would like to attend that will be held on Friday May 8, 2015, 10:00am at SUNY Orange, Kaplan Hall, One Washington St, Newburgh. Supervisor has leaflet for information.

Supervisor Livsey discussed that the insurance covering the Committee for Mine Dock Park has been reinstated.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS, RESOLUTIONS & REQUESTS**

**Highway Superintendent:**

Supervisor Livsey said he had been informed by Pat Patterson, Highway Superintendent, that the garbage/recyclable containers are not making money for the Town and he wants to raise the fees. The large ones will now be \$62.50, medium \$55.00 and \$45.00 for small.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to raise the fee on all garbage/recyclable containers.

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

**Accounts Payable**

Supervisor Livsey stated that the Town spent \$72,173.28 from the consolidated account.

**AUD Filed:**

Supervisor Livsey announced the AUD (Annual Update Document) has been filed to the State by the Comptroller, Kelly Blauvelt. There is a hard copy in the Supervisor's and Town Clerk's Offices.

**BOARD LIASON REPORTS**

**Council Member Voltaire**

Council Member Voltaire said there was really nothing other than the New Superintendent is with Roxanne Donnery in Washington D.C. to represent our school district working on our Impact Aid.

**Council Member Gunza:**

Council Member Gunza announced the new Police car was now on the road. Chief Quinn is in school this week. Officers are policing the top of Mountain Ave by Stoney Lonesome, the new four way stop, making sure that all drivers adhere to the new signs.

Council Member Gunza said the small committee that meet to discuss consolidation of the Town wide Police Department met again, Council Member Gunza was included, they discussed procedures and what the Town Police will have to offer when the Village decides to hand over those duties.

Council Member Gunza also announced exciting news that the Fort Montgomery Fire Department have two Firefighter members being recognized by Hudson Valley Firefighters Association, and will be given Firefighter of the Year Awards, they will be given out at the Convention in June.

**Council Member Edsall:**

Council Member Edsall just briefly thanked the Fort Montgomery Fire Department for their help with the recent problem with resident's property and the Sewer Treatment Plant. They did a great job responding down there.

Council Member Edsall said he had sent out a letter to Pat Patterson, Highway Superintendent, regarding double poles and the Public Service Commission, he just wanted to remind him about that he knows that he has been busy.

Council Member Edsall said that New York State passed an act regarding Electronic Waste effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 individuals are not allowed to throw out electronic waste in their garbage. We should advise the public on what the procedure to dispose of electronic waste is, Supervisor Livsey added that there is a large dumpster at the transfer station for items like that so he will work something out to notify the public.

Council Member Edsall stated that Mary Jane Pitt had brought to his attention what great work The Center is doing. Harold Brown was being honored by the Democratic Committee, they also did a March Mania where they involved the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to participate.

**Council Member Stradley**

Council Member Stradley just apologized to his fellow Council Members and the Public for being absent these past meetings. Due to the bad weather he has been working extensive hours and was unable to attend.

Supervisor Livsey asked Council Member Stradley if he would just check on the Ethics Committee to make sure they still want to serve.

Supervisor Livsey also asked Council Member Stradley to check on whether we need a Recreational Advisory Committee.

Council Member Edsall just wanted to note that Council Member Stradley and he had sat down and discussed about the salt shortage they have right now and that has been a major focus for the board and Highway/Sanitation Department.

**SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Livsey reported that the bridge workers are using Town parking next to Little Richie's to store their trucks and machines they are keeping the area very clean and organized and they should be there about one year.

Supervisor Livsey said that when you were discussing salt earlier on the Town is spending over budget for salt, actually spending money we don't have. However, we are getting a substantial amount of rent money from the Bridge working company so maybe that can help subsidize for the salt problem.

Supervisor Livsey said that the workers do seem to be bringing business to local restaurants as well, they have a crew of fifteen or more.

Supervisor Livsey announced that Julio Garcia, an employee with the sanitation department, is retiring effective March 17, 2015.

Supervisor Livsey states that Pat Patterson has requested that Ryan Falk be made a permanent sanitation driver.

Council Member Gunza states that first we should make a motion to accept the resignation of Julio Garcia that allows that position to be open.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to accept the resignation of Julio Garcia starting March 17, 2015.

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

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to make Ryan Falk a permanent sanitation driver at salary scheduled and completion of probation.

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

Supervisor Livsey also stated that Supervisor of Highway and Sanitation, Pat Patterson, also requested that Jacob Sibley be hired as a permanent full-time sanitation laborer at \$19.33 hour.

Council member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to make Jacob Sibley a permanent full time sanitation laborer with a beginning salary and maximum probation.

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

**Cemetery Committee**

Supervisor Livsey highlighted on the subject of animals in the cemeteries. The members of the Cemetery Committee, Joe McCormick, Ned Kopald, Pharoby Ripa, Dave Tonneson, Tony Squicciarini and Stella Bailey also Superintendent of Highways Pat Patterson are meeting at Town Hall in the court room March 25, 2015 at 7pm. The Public is invited to attend.

Supervisor Livsey said they do have a Rules/Regulations stating that “no animals including pets shall be led or taken into the cemetery unless continually confined to an enclosed vehicle” but it only specifies Eagle Valley Cemetery. Supervisor Livsey said he will wait until the committee have had their meeting to see if they want to apply these rules to all the cemeteries.

**Computer Equipment**

Supervisor Livsey stated that there are 7 computers and keyboards in the basement that are obsolete, also there is a printer that used to be the Supervisors but is now not compatible with his new computer.

Supervisor Livsey is asking the board to agree to trash the computers and maybe recycle the printer.

Lesley Peterson, Deputy Town Clerk, asked if she could use the printer in her office as hers had recently broke.

Supervisor Livsey said that would be fine, and with the old computers he would ask Pat Patterson, Highway Supervisor , to destroy the hard drives before we trash them.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to destroy and trash obsolete and surplus computers and allow Lesley Peterson, Deputy Town Clerk, to take unused printer.

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

**EMT New Hire**

Supervisor Livsey, Captain Stroppel, Marty Byrnes and Kristina Englese recently interviewed people at the Ambulance Corp Building for jobs as EMT's.

Captain Stroppel said that all interviews went well and is asking if the two girls he interviewed could be placed in the pool and the gentleman placed in their back pocket to be used at a later date as one of his EMT's are out on Workman's Compensation for four months, so we would like to use him to temporarily cover that position.

Supervisor Livsey asked for a motion to hire Karin Needleman for the pool at \$15.05 an hour and one year probation.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to hire Karin Needleman as an EMT at \$15.05 with one years probation and to be placed in the pool.

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

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to hire Megan Medley as an EMT at \$15.05 hour with one years probation and to be placed in the pool.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to hire Matthew Cashman as a temporary part-time EMT at \$15.05 hour with one years probation.

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

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Grass Cutting Bids:**

Supervisor Livsey announced there were five bids handed in for the cemetery grass cutting. They were opened at Town Hall Friday March 20, 2015 in front of Supervisor Livsey, Town Clerk, June Patterson, Highway Superintendent, Pat Patterson and two of the bidders.

Supervisor Livsey said that one of the bidders said they put in an erroneous offer, but unfortunately bid date and time is set and we have to accept what you offer at that time.

Supervisor Livsey said that Neighbors Landscaping and Design was the lowest bidder. Bid for 3 years at \$12,600 each year.

Supervisor Livsey read the remaining bid results.

Supervisor Livsey announced that they were all local businesses with the exception of the company that over bid erroneously, which was nice.

Supervisor Livsey asked for motion to hire Neighbors Landscaping and Design and said that Pat Patterson, Highway Superintendent, said they meet all qualifications.

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to hire Neighbors Landscaping and Design to cut cemetery grass for the next 3 years.

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

Supervisor Livsey asked Deputy Town Clerk, Lesley Peterson, to notify Pat Patterson that Neighbors Landscaping and Design has been hired.

Supervisor Livsey said that he had received a resignation from Police Officer John Gardner. The Supervisor reads resignation letter.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Councilman Edsall to accept the resignation of Police Officer John Gardner.

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

**Public Comment**

None

Supervisor Livsey briefly addressed Captain Stroppel about a billing issue within the Ambulance Corp, Captain Stroppel said he took care of it.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Supervisor Livsey asks for a motion to go into Executive Session at 7:30pm

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to go into Executive Session at 7:30pm.

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

**Town Board**

**March 23, 2015**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the executive session at 8:30pm.

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

**ADJOURN**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to close the executive session at 8:30pm.

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

Attest,

