

## **TOWN BOARD**

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget workshop on Monday, August 17, 2015 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
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Adrienne T. Voltaire	----	Council Member
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Livsey stated that he attended a round table discussion with the Secretary of State recently and the chief complaint of those attending was the tax cap.

### **HISTORIAN**

Supervisor Livsey said no numbers have been received from the Historian.

Ms. Bailey stated that this is her first budget meeting. Ms. Bailey said the Village will only pay her salary until the end of December and her Other Expenses until June 2016.

The Board discussed picking up Village's portion of Ms. Bailey's budget.

Council Member Edsall said he is okay with that, but he would like more clarity.

Council Member Gunza would like to wait to the end of the budget and look at this again.

Ms. Blauvelt informed the Board that she spoke to the State Comptroller and if the Town takes this on, the state will come in and raise the tax levy.

### **AMBULANCE**

Marty Byrnes explained that the budget has been cut as much as possible, but some things, i.e. medications, have gone up which is why that line has been increased.

Supervisor Livsey said, he believes, the \$2,000 for the garage door should fall under Buildings & Grounds.

Ms. Blauvelt stated that both A and B fund departments are in that building.

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Council Member Gunza said it is a Town building with two separate functions.

The Board asked Ms. Blauvelt to move that \$2,000 to Buildings & Grounds.

Supervisor Livsey said Capt. Stroppel wants to be stricter with the ambulance collections and because of this, the Supervisor would like to increase that revenue by \$20,000.

Ms. Byrnes said the problem is people are not complying. Ms. Byrnes said they are not submitting the bill to their insurance company or they are cashing the check instead of using it to pay the bill.

The Board discussed this and decided to add the \$20,000 to the revenue line.

## **HIGHWAY/SANITATION**

Pat Patterson informed the Board that he had to add a few things because an inspection by PESCH showed certain things out of compliance. Mr. Patterson stated that he might be able to get about 75% of the money back that he spent on electrical upgrades.

Supervisor Livsey asked how much has been spent.

Ms. Blauvelt said about \$7,000 has been spent so far.

Supervisor Livsey said he would like to speak to a supervisor at PESCH and ask for time to complete the necessary repairs.

Mr. Patterson said he added money to training.

Ms. Blauvelt said if a sanitation vehicle is going to be purchased, you need to plan for a payment.

Mr. Patterson said he didn't put a vehicle in his budget, but one sanitation vehicle and one highway truck are in rough shape. Mr. Patterson stated he has checked into a Municipal Lease Program which is where you lease a vehicle for 5 years and purchase it for \$1 at the end. Mr. Patterson also said he can join National Bid and piggyback off another bid.

The Board discussed different vehicles and purchasing a vehicle with Mr. Patterson.

Council Member Gunza said it could be put on the next meeting agenda if money is going to be moved from the reserve fund.

Mr. Patterson said he needs to move the money if possible.

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Supervisor Livsey asked if the old vehicle had any trade-in value.

Mr. Patterson said he would put it on Auctions International and sell it.

Supervisor Livsey said the Municipal Lease Program sounds good as long as there is not hidden stuff. The Supervisor suggested raising the dumpster fees and asked Mr. Patterson and Ms. Blauvelt to look into that.

Mr. Patterson said he would like to increase his reserve fund.

The Board discussed increasing the reserve fund.

Council Member Gunza said she would like to increase it \$20,000 and reduce it, if necessary, at the end of the budget.

### **Machine Repair**

Ms. Blauvelt said there is \$5,000 here and \$5,000 in the sanitation budget for the part-time mechanic.

Mr. Patterson said everything else stayed the same.

### **Snow Removal**

Mr. Patterson said the price of salt has gone from \$68 to \$71 per ton and the Town has no alternative since this is NYS bid. Mr. Patterson said his Other Expenses covers salt and the liquid for the Reed system.

The Board discussed the Highway Equipment Reserve fund briefly.

### **Police/Traffic Control**

Stayed the same as well as the rest of the budget.

### **Water & Environmental**

Mr. Patterson said he raised the Garrison Pond expenses by \$1,200. Mr. Patterson said a lot of money has been spent on Garrison Pond and he would like to see if there is an alternative.

**Parks, Bldgs & Grounds**

Mr. Patterson said he added \$2,000 to the Repairs & Improvements line and everything else basically stayed the same or was lowered.

**Superintendent – DB**

Mr. Patterson said he added to his CHIPS line because he is getting more money.

Mr. Patterson said the rest of this budget stayed the same.

Supervisor Livsey asked if \$500 could be taken out of Yard Waste.

Mr. Patterson said it could be if it could be found later if needed.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to remove \$500 from Yard Waste.

**Water District #1**

Mr. Patterson said he hasn't spent much yet and he has increased the water charges by \$10,000 in anticipation of the Village raising their charges.

Supervisor Livsey brought up the subject of reserve funds for water.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would speak to Mr. Rider about this.

**Water District #2**

Mr. Patterson stated that, because there has been a lot of hook-ups, he has increased his Other Expenses and Water Charges lines.

Ms. Blauvelt said Mr. Patterson has gotten an example of an RFP for engineering services from a nearby Town.

Supervisor Livsey said an engineer should be hired based on the project and the expertise of the engineer.

Ms. Blauvelt pointed out that there is no line in the budget for engineering services.

Council Member Gunza said there should be a line for engineering services.

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**ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS**

Council Member Edsall re-stated that he is not in favor of being a member of the Association of Towns. Mr. Edsall said they are not for what he believes in or what the Town is trying to do.

The Board discussed whether or not to pay the dues and decided to table this until a later date.

**LEGAL**

Supervisor Livsey said Rider, Weiner & Frankel will not be raising their fee. The Supervisor stated that he thinks their fee is very fair.

Ms. Blauvelt said a couple budget lines went down, but most stayed the same.

Ms. Blauvelt said, in addition to the retainer, the Town has paid about \$1,000 for dog cases. Ms. Blauvelt reminded the Board that Justice Donaldson suggested passing the attorney fees for these cases on to the owners.

**ADJOURN**

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council member Stradley to adjourn the workshop. Workshop adjourned at 8:15pm.

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

Attest,