

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Meeting on Monday, December 14, 2015, at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY, at 7:00pm

PRESENT: Mervin R. Livsey ---- Supervisor
William Edsall ---- Council Member
June Gunza ---- Council Member
James Stradley ---- Council Member
Kelly Blauvelt ---- Comptroller
Lesley K. Peterson ---- Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: Adrienne Voltaire ---- Council Member

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:00pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

MINUTES

Supervisor Livsey requests the approval of the minutes of November 23, 2015.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the minutes of November 23, 2015.

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

The minutes of November 9 and 11 were not approved at this time as Council Member Voltaire was absent.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey read a request from Aaron Falk, Recreation Director, to introduce a new logo for Recreation. The Town Board all had a chance to look at it and agreed for the use of the new logo.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Accounts Payable:

Supervisor Livsey stated that the total amount paid was \$187,842.82 which includes a payment to the Village for water in the amount of \$116,593, which will be discussed in Executive Session as the check was returned.

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Supervisor Livsey said there was some paving done at Brook’s Park and the Town needs to take some money from the Park’s Reserve Fund. The Supervisor said half of the money taken out will be reimbursed through the grant that the Town received five years ago.

Supervisor Livsey read the Resolution and asked the Board to make a motion to use \$8,600.00 from the Park Reserve Fund.

A motion was made by Council Member Gunza seconded by Council Member Stradley to adopt the Resolution allowing the Town to use and not to exceed \$8,600.00 from the Park Reserve Fund to make paving repairs at Brook’s Park.

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

******RESOLUTION ATTACHED******

Mr. Rider said that the Town Clerk should get the Public Notice to the Paper.

Supervisor Livsey said due to the beautiful weather we have had so far our salt usage has been minimal compared to last year.

Supervisor Livsey would like to take \$10,000 out of the A fund reserved for salt.

Supervisor Livsey read the Resolution that authorizes expenditure from the General Reserve Fund which would be for salt. The Supervisor said there is \$698,000.00 in that fund and the Town would like to take out \$10,000 for salt.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to authorize expenditure of \$10,000 from the General Reserve Fund for Salt.

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

******RESOLUTION ATTACHED******

TRANSFERS

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$320.00 from Police Fuel to Police Uniforms.

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

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Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to transfer \$800.00 from Town Garage Utilities to Town Garage other Expenses.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$2,500.00 from Cemetery Services - revenue to Cemetery Other Expenses.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$1,600.00 from Sanitation Fuel to Sanitation Equipment.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$300.00 from Senior Misc. to seniors other expenses.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to transfer \$2,400.00 from Training Ambulance to Ambulance Retirement.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$4,677.18 from Legal Action Fees to Assessor Certiorari.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to transfer \$650.00 from WD#1 – Water Charges to WD#1 – Personal Services.

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

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Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$650.00 from WD#2 – Other Expenses to WD#2 – Other Expenses.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$350.00 from Highway – Other Expenses to Highway - FICA.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$600.000 from Health Insurance Buyout to Health Insurance.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$82.00 from Zoning Seminars to Zoning Other.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$170.00 from Sewer Utilities to Sewer Equipment.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$350.00 from Building Dept. – other expenses to Building Dept. Training.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to transfer \$4,000.00 from Sanitation Fuel to Snow Removal Equipment.

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

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Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$250.00 from Supervisor Equipment to Board Members - Cell Phone.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$600.00 from Police Fuel to Police Vehicle Maintenance.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$5,000.00 from Parks - Utilities to Parks – Contractual Expenses.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Edsall

Council Member Edsall briefly spoke regarding the Consolidation Meeting with the Village the board was recommending to the Village Board which Consulting Firm would be most equipped to do the study. Mr. Edsall said the firm being recommended was Groundout Consulting and their bid was \$10,000 less and their experience was stronger in the realm of consolidations.

Council Member Edsall said there had been a lot of email dialogue concerning vehicles and traffic lights at the Fort Montgomery School on 9W.

Council Member Edsall said he had researched maybe getting a lighted speed reader at the Fort Montgomery School, hoping that would have people slow down.

Council Member Edsall said that he had spoken to Assemblyman James Skoufis's Office and they said once we had clarified what we might need there could be grant money available.

Council Member Gunza added that Chief Quinn liked the idea of the speed monitor but also recommended maybe the crossing guard could use a lighted stop panel.

Council Member Gunza said the Police Department also stations a Police Officer almost every morning at the school crossing.

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Council Member Edsall also stated that the location of the crosswalks might have to be moved as well.

Council Member Gunza said that if the State cannot come with funds for us then we have to look within our own budget as this is an issue that has to be addressed.

Supervisor Livsey recommends that we also get the speed signs, there are kinds that change and flash color when you are speeding, something like that would be ideal.

Supervisor Livsey asked Jim DiSalvo to come to the mic with his comments.

James DiSalvo had some questions regarding the Consolidation Meeting for Council Member Edsall.

James DiSalvo asked if the Consolidation Committee opened the bids at the meeting.

Council Member Edsall said no because they were already public knowledge, therefore opened before.

James DiSalvo asked if there were minutes taken at the meeting

Council Member Edsall said not that he was aware of.

James DiSalvo asked Council Member Edsall if he or the Town Clerk could email all elected officials when the next meeting will be.

James DiSalvo said that it is not always advertised. He also asked if there was a Chairperson for the committee.

Council Member Edsall said it seemed like Charlie Murphy was in charge of everyone getting to the meeting.

Council Member Edsall spoke regarding Orange & Rockland and improving the street lighting in our area. Mr. Edsall said he is still in discussion with them.

Supervisor Livsey asked Kelly Blauvelt, to ask Lori Hurst to find out who has a list of our street lighting, said that he would like to know how we are being billed.

Council Member June Gunza

Council Member Gunza spoke with David Church, Orange County Planning Department and he said they are going to resume their meeting with the planning board to go over our codes and update.

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Council Member Gunza said our Police Department is going to assign a police officer at O'Neill High School sporting events. The school will be paying for the officer's time.

Council Member Gunza wished everyone Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Council Member Stradley

Council Member Stradley did not have anything to contribute but wanted to congratulate Aaron Falk for his position of Recreation Director and thanked Kelly Blauvelt for all her hard work on the budget.

Council member Gunza wanted to recognize the officer's at the Ambulance Corp who were appointed recently.

Supervisor Livsey said we would when they read their Oath of Office. We will have to officially swear them in. Congratulations to all members.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Livsey said he received an email from Assemblyman Skoufis responding to Colonel Dunham and the access to Mine Torne Road in Fort Montgomery. Colonel Dunham was asking if all the construction is completed on the Palisades Parkway, if so then he would be closing Mine Torne Rd.

Supervisor Livsey addressed the public and anyone watching urging them to write a letter to Colonel Dunham allowing Mine Torne Rd to stay open.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Board of Assessment Appointment

Supervisor Livsey said the Town has advertised for a position on the Assessment Board of Review, this position is a 5 year appointment, we have received two letters of interest one from Joe McCormick the other from Monica Sullivan, selection was Monica Sullivan.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to appoint Monica Sullivan to the Board of Assessment Review.

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

Recreation Office Discussion

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from Mayor Flynn asking for a meeting between the Recreation Liaison's to discuss moving Recreation Office to the Senior Center.

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Supervisor Livsey spoke with Brian Aylward, Village Trustee and Recreation Liaison, and said that he would be assigning our new Board Member, Tyrone King, as Recreation Liaison for the Town, hopefully they could get together in the New Year and discuss the possibility of the Recreation Office moving.

Council Member Edsall wanted to bring to Tyrone King's attention, as he is a new member, that Recreation has been assisted by other Town employees in the building.

Mr. Jim DiSalvo came to the mic and explained that when both Boards get together they must understand that the money that was used to purchase that building was specifically granted for a Senior Center, using the office for not intended purposes may hinder future grants.

Mr. DiSalvo requested that the Boards reach out to Rich Mayfield who is the Director of the Grant at least include him in the discussion.

Planning Board Consolidation

Supervisor Livsey said that he and Council Member Gunza attended a meeting with Erik Smith, Planning Board Chairman, discussing the Planning Board Consolidation. Erik Smith's concern was getting both zoning codes together before consolidating.

Council Member Gunza added that hopefully we can move quickly on the subject.

Insurance 2016

Supervisor Livsey asked Kelly Blauvelt, Comptroller, to discuss good news for Insurance in 2016.

Ms. Blauvelt said we received proposals from our current provider CLG Insurance as well as Marshall & Sterling and the Viero Agency.

Ms. Blauvelt said Viero Agency did not come back with a competitive offer for us.

Ms. Blauvelt said that Marshall & Sterling came back with a comparable offer as did CLG Insurance who in fact came in with a 20% reduction inclusive of all the coverage from last year.

Supervisor Livsey said that we have until January 12, 2016 until our old insurance policy expires and he suggested the Board act on this at the next meeting. The Supervisor Said Ms. Blauvelt has copies of the proposals and the numbers if the Board would like to review.

Tax Cap Initiative

Supervisor Livsey received a letter concerning the Tax Cap Initiative, unsure who the gentleman is who wrote the letter believes he is a Supervisor. The letter is asking for Association of Towns, Supervisors and Mayors to address Governor Cuomo to revisit the Tax Cap.

Supervisor Livsey read the letter.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would like to see Health Insurance included in that Tax Cap Initiative, as Health Insurance and Retirement is not going down.

Council Member Edsall said that he had met a Council Member from Marlboro who explained that they do not have garbage pickup in their Town, they pay \$600.00 privately per resident a year they are not faced with that Capital expenditure and they would love to have their Town garbage be included.

Council Member Edsall said the Board is aware that he is in favor of the Tax Cap and any vote for him against the Tax Cap would be negative. Mr. Edsall said consolidation with the Village will give us \$800,000.00 from the State even partial consolidation will give us money.

Council Member Gunza said that she would like to see Governor Cuomo revisit the Tax Cap Initiative not on all subjects but definitely where Health Insurance & Retirement are considered as they are always on the rise.

Council Member Stradley agreed.

Supervisor Livsey expressed his desire to have the Governor revisit the Initiative and asked to put it to a vote.

Mr. Rider said that it is a very genetic letter and clear in its view.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to allow Supervisor Livsey to sign the Tax Cap Initiative Letter and send it off to Governor Cuomo.

**MOTION CARRIED: 3-eyes (Livsey, Gunza, Stradley)
 1-nay (Edsall)
 1-absent (Voltaire)**

Collective Bargaining Agreement

Supervisor Livsey addressed the Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Highway Department explaining that it is just an extension of their present agreement.

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Mr. Rider adds that Planning Board members have approached him regarding legislation concerning Retirement Classification. Assemblyman James Skoufis spoke with Mr. Rider requesting a letter from Supervisor Livsey requesting this Special Legislation in attempt to change the Retirement Classification.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to allow Supervisor Livsey to send a letter to Assemblyman Skoufis requesting Special Legislation to change Retirement Classification.

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

Other News

Supervisor Livsey read a request from Recreation Director, Aaron Falk, to be allowed to access the Town's Facebook page to post events and programs for the Recreation Department.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to allow Aaron Falk, Recreation Director, access to Town Facebook page.

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

Supervisor Livsey said at the Village's last meeting, Mayor Flynn announced that the Town was going to include the Town Historian in our budget.

Supervisor Livsey read an email dated March 5 2015, that he had sent to Mayor Flynn way before the Village's Budget regarding the Town including the Historian in the Town Budget, Supervisor Livsey was in agreement with the Mayor, however, at the Town Board Budget Meeting the Town Board were not. Therefore the Historian was not included in the Town Budget.

Supervisor Livsey said that he spoke to Stella Bailey, Historian, that the Board will revisit Salary Schedule in July.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim DiSalvo approaches the mic congratulating the Town on receiving \$25,000.00 Community Development Grant for Brook's Park.

Supervisor Livsey announced that the Board will be going into Executive Session regarding monetary issues with the Village that might go into Litigation. Also an issue with West Point regarding Colonel Dunham and business with the Recreation Department.

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Supervisor Livsey wished the community Happy Holidays.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to go into Executive Session. Board went into executive session at 7:55pm.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Stradley to close Executive Session. Executive session closed at 8:27pm.

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

ADJOURN

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close regular meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.

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

Attest.

