

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Budget Session and Meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 6:00pm.

PRESENT: Mervin R. Livsey ---- Supervisor  
Tyrone King ---- Council Member  
William Edsall ---- Council Member  
June Gunza ---- Council Member  
Adrienne T. Voltaire ---- Council Member

Supervisor opened the Budget Session at 6pm.

Supervisor Livsey stated that he is not happy with the way the consolidation of the Planning Boards is going. The Supervisor said it is taking too long. Supervisor Livsey said, at this time, the Town Planning Board has only 3 members and it is not fair to the Board or the applicants to not have a full board. The Supervisor said the Town could take over the Village Planning Board if the Village decided to dissolve it.

Council Member Edsall said he understands the Supervisor's frustration and suggest maybe hiring members from the Village Planning Board for the Town Planning Board.

The Board discussed the time constraints of making a decision with the Comptroller.

Supervisor Livsey asked if the Town only budget was populated, could it be converted if the consolidation took place.

Ms. Blauvelt stated that it would need to be done with an inter-fund loan.

Mr. Smith, Town Planning Board Chair, said the process has begun to combine the Village and Town codes. Mr. Smith stated that the vacant positions should be advertised and the best candidate be hired.

Supervisor Livsey said it is up to the Town Board and Village Board whether to consolidate or not. The Supervisor stated that there will not be a big savings if the Boards are combined. The Supervisor asked Mr. Rider if he spoke to the Village Attorney.

Mr. Rider said he has not spoken to her lately.

Mr. Smith said a combined Board with competent people will be good for everyone.

Supervisor Livsey said he is frustrated that there has been no action from the Village.

Council Member Gunza stated that the Mayor is waiting for information about whether a certain project in the Village can be grandfathered in.

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**BUDGET**

**Planning Board**

There were 3 budgets presented, one for Town only Planning Board and Version A & B for the consolidated Planning Board.

Mr. Smith said his overall budget (B-fund) is down a little and his revenue is up a little.

Supervisor Livsey said if the Board goes with the consolidated budget, he thinks Version A is the best.

Council Member Voltaire asked when a decision needed to be made about the fund numbers.

Council Member Gunza stated that Ms. Blauvelt needed those numbers by the end of October.

Council Member Edsall suggested putting \$14,900 in the B-Fund budget for now.

**Registrar, Town Clerk, Elections, Records Management & Town Hall**

The Town Clerk reviewed these budgets with the Town Board.

**REGULAR MEETING**

Supervisor Livsey stated that a popular person recently passed away and he asked Council Member King to comment on this.

Council Member King stated that Sgt. Matthews passed away at 95 years old. Mr. King said that Sgt. Matthews was a Buffalo Soldier and a Police Officer in Highland Falls. Mr. King asked for a moment of silence to remember Sgt. Matthews.

Supervisor Livsey said he attended the ground breaking ceremony for the new Visitor's Center. The Supervisor also mentioned the passing of Cadet Brandon Jackson who played on the Army Football team.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Byrnes, TOH Ambulance Corp., asked the Board to make a decision to allow the extended LOSAP program to be put out for public vote. Mr. Byrnes informed the Board that the reason the payments are what they are is because the payments are being amortized to make up for payments that were not made.

Council Member Voltaire clarified that the reason payments were not made was because the bills were not received by the Town.

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Supervisor Livsey asked Mr. Rider what the time frame was to make this decision.

Mr. Rider stated that it must be no later than 30 days prior to the election and not more than 90 days. Mr. Rider said, it would be best, if the decision was made by the next meeting. Mr. Rider said he would prepare the resolution and proposition for the next meeting.

### **MINUTES**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to accept the minutes from the August 22 Town Board meeting as prepared by the Town Clerk.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to accept the minutes from the August 29 Town Board meeting as prepared by the Town Clerk.

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

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Orange County Office of the Aging inviting the Board to attend the closing ceremony of the Senior Games. The Supervisor said this will be held on September 18 at 9:00am at Thomas Bull Memorial Park.

### **FINANCIAL**

#### **Accounts Payable**

Supervisor Livsey said the Town paid out \$116, 497.01.

#### **Budget Transfers**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$10,000 from Dial-A-Bus full-time driver to Dial-A-Bus part-time drivers.

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

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$350 from Supt. of Highways Salary to Supt. of Highways Seminars.

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

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Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$200 from Youth Programs Contractual to Youth Programs Supplies.

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

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$500 from Other Recreation Revenue to Recreation Supplies.

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

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$470 from Water District #2 other expenses to Water District #2 Health Insurance.

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

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$350 from Other Recreation Revenue to Recreation-Expensed Reimbursed by Participants.

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

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **Council Member Gunza**

Council Member Gunza said she would let the Chief give the report.

### **Council Member Voltaire**

Council Member Voltaire reported that she and Supervisor Livsey attended the Community Engagement Luncheon with the Recreation Director and they were able to meet the Garrison Commander.

Council Member Gunza stated that the Town Police Department has made several arrests lately and they are actively working on the drug issue in the Town.

### **Council Member Edsall**

Council Member Edsall stated that he has been speaking to Orange and Rockland about the double poles and they are O&R's responsibility. Mr. Edsall said 97 have been taken care of and 111 are not ready yet.

Council Member Edsall said he also spoke to Orange and Rockland about the lighting program and they stated they are not aware of any municipality that has taken advantage of this.

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Council Member Edsall said there was a Consolidation meeting last week and the Committee reviewed what was presented to the public. Mr. Edsall stated there was a discussion about using State funds for a police station.

Council Member Edsall said the next Consolidation meeting will be held on October 13.

Supervisor Livsey asked if there were any minutes from the meeting.

Council Member Edsall said there are no detailed minutes, but information is available on the Village website.

### **Council Member King**

Council Member King stated that he attended the Buffalo Soldier's Memorial and the monument has been approved and it set to be unveiled in 2017. Mr. King said there was also a banquet later in the day.

Council Member King said he visited residents in voting district #2 and plans to do this once a month with the other districts.

### **SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

Supervisor Livsey reported that he attended the 9/11 ceremony at Patriot Garden and it was a very nice ceremony.

Supervisor Livsey stated that the new Visitor's Center is being done without tax payer money, they are using money donated by AOG.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

#### **"Vision" – Winterfest**

Supervisor Livsey received a request from Vision to use Memorial Park on December 3, with an inclement weather date for December 4, for their annual Winterfest.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to allow Vision to use Memorial Park on December 4 or 5 for the Winterfest, with the understanding that they must provide the Town (and Village) with a proper insurance certificate

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

Supervisor Livsey asked the Town Clerk to let Vision know it has been approved and to make sure the Insurance Certificate has the Town and Village as additional insured.

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### Brooks Park Bids

Supervisor Livsey said the bids that were received were significantly higher than expected. The Supervisor said the bids ranged from \$150,000 to \$260,000 and the Town only has \$50,000 for this project. The Supervisor said he would like the Board to approve rejecting all the bids.

Supervisor Livsey stated that he informed Mr. Fusco that he still would like to see the drinking fountain, cement path and handicapped porta-potties put in at Brooks Park. The Supervisor explained to Mr. Fusco that the Town only has the \$50,000 and he said that wouldn't be a problem.

Supervisor Livsey would like the Board to approve Mr. Fusco to prepare documents to go out to bid for those items.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to authorize Mr. Fusco to prepare documents to go out to bid on the above mentioned projects for Brooks Park.

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

### LOSAP

Supervisor Livsey said this was already discussed and it will be on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting.

### DCO Salary

Chief Quinn explained to the Board that there is only one DCO providing 24/7 service to the Town. The Chief said he has not been able to fill the second DCO position. The Chief said that if the DCO is called out after her 20 hours she is basically working for free and he doesn't think that is right. Chief Quinn asked the Board to compensate her for up to 29 hours if she is needed after her scheduled hours.

Supervisor Livsey would like the compensation to be in 1 hour increments.

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to allow the DCO to continue to receive the \$25 call out assessment fee and to be compensated for no more than 9 additional hours at 1 hour increments.

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

Council Member Voltaire said she appreciates this and she deserves to be compensated.

### Eagle Valley Cemetery Plot

Supervisor Livsey received a request from Mr. Patterson for the Town to buy back two cemetery plots. The Supervisor said he has the original documentation and the cost of the plots was \$1,530.

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Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to buy back the cemetery plots.

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

### Surplus Gas Tank

Supervisor Livsey received a request from Mr. Patterson for the Board to declare the old gas tank surplus so he can sell it to Cornwall for \$1. The Supervisor said he would like to try to sell it on-line for more money.

### Sewer Plant Inspection

Supervisor Livsey said the Sewer Plant was inspected and it is operating in a satisfactory manner. The Supervisor said it was recommended that the Town install a belt press at the plant.

Supervisor Livsey said he is trying to set up a meeting with Mr. Fusco on Thursday at 9:30am to discuss that.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ramus said he was hoping more people attend the October consolidation meeting.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to go into executive session to discuss attorney/client Town Engineering provider on projects. Board went into executive session at 8:00pm.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 8:48pm.

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

### ADJOURN

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member King to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

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