

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a regular meeting on Monday, February 8, 2010 at Town Hall, 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, NY 10928 at 7pm.

PRESENT:	Edward Magryta	----	Supervisor
	Holly Gokey	----	Council Member
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	Laurie Tautel	----	Council Member
	Mervin R. Livsey, Jr.	----	Council Member
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the regular meeting at 7pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbie Fallon asked if the previous board had been notified by the State Comptroller's Office that the Town was behind 6 years on their audits.

Council Member Tautel received notification on the 2008 end of year report, but nothing on the audits.

Supervisor Magryta said the State Comptroller's office had contacted the attorneys and informed them that the Town was delinquent on the filings.

Justin Rider said the (Previous) Supervisor was notified about all calls received.

Council Member Tautel said that several schedules were put in place to get the End of Year Filings done. The 2004 and 2005 filings were complete in 2009. There was a schedule with a deadline of January 13, 2010 for the remainder of the filings to be done, but they were not complete. The Board is addressing this issue.

Ms. Fallon asked if there were any other increases besides the 2%.

Supervisor Magryta said that all Town employees that are non-contractual received a 2% raise.

Ms. Fallon asked if the Town is saving any money now that the employees are only getting a ½ hour for lunch.

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Supervisor Magryta said that there is a savings, but it also provides better efficiencies.

Supervisor Magryta said that there is still no answer about the \$70,000 transfer that has been discussed in the past and the money has been frozen until an explanation has been received.

Ms. Fallon asked who the liaison is for the Comptroller.

Supervisor Magryta informed Ms. Fallon that he is (as of January 1, 2010).

MINUTES

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the minutes from the January 14 and 21 workshops and the January 25 regular/re-organization meeting.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to accept the Accounts Payable dated January 28, 2010 in the amount of \$179,337.32.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to adopt the resolution for the Ratification of Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

APPOINTMENTS

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to appoint June Patterson as the Registrar for a term of two (2) years.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

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Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to appoint Lynae Mesaris as Deputy Registrar for a term of two (2) years.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to appoint Genean O'Brien to the Recreation Commission to a one (1) year unexpired term.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

UPDATE ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Livsey to explain the updates.

Council Member Livsey said that he is setting up a meeting with the Supervisor, the Fire Chiefs, Ambulance Capt., Highland Falls Police Chief, Town of Highlands Police OIC, Mayor D'Onofrio and Village Board to discuss what the community's needs are.

Council Member Livsey introduced John O'Connor, who has put in an application for the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator job.

John O'Connor gave the Board handouts and informed them of his qualifications. Mr. O'Connor explained a little about the NIMS requirements.

Council Member Tautel asked Mr. O'Connor to verify that if the Town does not have documentation of disaster preparedness, then it won't qualify for certain grants or funding.

Mr. O'Connor said that is correct.

Supervisor Magryta is interested in the State and County requirements for disaster preparedness.

Mr. O'Connor said that NIMS compliance filters from the State to County and then to the Towns.

Supervisor Magryta is concerned that the County is not doing what needs to be done.

Council Member Livsey agrees and he would like to see Dominick Greene, from the County Emergency Management Office, attend his meeting.

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Supervisor Magryta said that the pay for the Disaster Preparedness Coordinator will remain suspended.

AMBULANCE BILLING VENDOR

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board had previously discussed, with Capt. Stroppel, switching ambulance billing companies. E-Evolutions has offered the Town a (2) year contract with an option for a third year and the Supervisor is waiting for the contract to sign.

STATE AUDIT UPDATE

Supervisor Magryta has an appointment tomorrow with the State Comptroller's Office to discuss the situation. They are willing to work with the Town to resolve this issue. The Town has been contacted, again, by the State for non-compliance. The Supervisor has a meeting with the auditors on Wednesday at 2pm.

Council Member Tautel informed everyone that the current issue is not affecting anyone's school taxes.

RESOLUTIONS

Council Member Tautel found a grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) which could enable the Town to put solar panels on the Town Garage. Ms. Tautel has started the application, but needs the Board to pass a resolution authorizing the submission of it.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adopt the Resolution to Authorize Submission of a Grant Application to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority for a Grant Pursuant to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED: 5-eyes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays**

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

Council Member Tautel stated that Building Inspector Marshall and Highway Supt. Squicciarini conducted a fire inspection of the Town Hall recently. The Town Hall failed the inspection, but work is being done to bring it up to code.

Supervisor Magryta stressed that the Town Hall must be complaint.

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Supervisor Magryta has a resolution expressing the Town's opposition to the 9-11 trials being held in Orange County.

The Board was also against the trials being held in Orange County, but there were issues with some of the wording.

Supervisor Magryta tabled this until the next meeting and asked the Board to provide him with any changes they would like to see.

CENSUS UPDATE

Council Member Gokey stated that she met with Mayor D'Onofrio, Supt of Schools Jackson, School Board President Kevin D'Onofrio and representatives from the Census Bureau. It was stressed at this meeting how important it is to have accurate numbers so the community can be given the proper aid.

STAR PROGRAM

Supervisor Magryta asked the Board if they had a chance to read the Star memo from October 1988.

The Board had not read it yet.

Supervisor Magryta will put this on the agenda for the next workshop.

Council Member Tautel received a letter from Colleen Solan that said the County has leftover chassis that are 20" bigger than our current bus and they would like to know if we would like to have one. Ms. Solan said that if we do not accept one of these chassis, then it will be another two years before the Town will receive a new bus.

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Tautel to ask Ms. Solan if the decision could wait until the Town Board workshop.

Council Member Tautel will speak to Ms. Solan and possibly call Rob Parrington from the County.

Council Member Livsey would like to discuss the metal detector at the next workshop. Mr. Livsey also informed everyone that the Village Board budget workshops are at 5pm, but he asked June Gunza to consider moving them to 5:30. Also, the School Board budget workshops are being held and the residents need to get out to them.

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Council Member Edsall informed the Board that the sewer plant capacity load study showed that the Town is using 77,000 out of 125,000 gallons. The Board has time to address this.

Council Member Tautel said that Town Clerk Patterson faxed the resolution for the shared grant to the Mayor D'Onofrio.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to go into Executive Session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation. The Board went into Executive Session at 8:30pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to close the Executive Session. Executive session closed at 10:24pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel, Livsey)
0-nays

Attest,