

## **TOWN BOARD**

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Special Meeting on Thursday, June 3, 2010 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY 10928 at 7:30pm.

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

Supervisor Magryta opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Magryta stated that this is a workshop to further discuss the budget recovery plan.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ann Marie Feducia informed everyone that on Saturday, June 6, from 11am to 4pm, the Battlesite will be holding a program with lots of activities for all.

Patricia Riedel from the Town of Highlands Garden Club asked for some financial help from the Board to re-build the two gardens.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Board is looking at the Beautification Fund to see where that money was allotted and then the Board will decide where the funds should go. The Supervisor told Ms. Riedel that if there is any extra money, the Board will discuss helping the Garden Club.

Chris Byrnes, Town of Highlands Ambulance, proposed that the Town Board leave the Ambulance budget alone. The Ambulance is its own district and any money returned could not be used to help the A Fund.

Victor Crapanzano is against the cell tower being placed by the Holiday Inn.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Planning Board just received a proposal for the cell tower. This proposal is not in the Town Board's jurisdiction, but the Town Board realizes that it is a very sensitive issue and will handle it accordingly.

Council Member Edsall said that the Planning Board meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

**SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS**

Supervisor Magryta stated:

1-As of now, it looks like the State parks will remain open.

2-Supervisor Magryta spoke to the State Comptroller's Office and the Procedural Audit will take place. There will be a kick-off meeting, with William Fletcher, tomorrow at 10am at the Town Hall.

3-There is a difference in what Chase says the Town owes and what was budgeted for in Debt Service. If the numbers are correct, there is approximately \$21,000 surplus in Debt Service.

4-Supervisor Magryta met with Tina Stradley and Comptroller Blauvelt to discuss water billing. Water District #2 is not being charged for the bond and the Town is losing money.

5-The Town received a check for Parkland Fees and the Supervisor is not sure where to deposit it.

Council Member Edsall believes that it would be deposited in the Parkland Reserve account.

Council Member Tautel asked Town Clerk Patterson to provide the Board with a copy of the resolution that created the Parkland Reserve Account.

**BUDGET RECOVERY**

Supervisor Magryta said that most, if not all, of what Mr. Byrnes said is correct, but the Board is looking at all aspects of Town government.

Council Member Gokey said that Capt. Stroppel put a lot of effort into reducing his budget and she feels comfortable with what he has presented.

Council Member Tautel asked if the Ambulance money will be able to be used to offset the \$175,000.

Supervisor Magryta will contact legal counsel for that answer.

Council Member Edsall is concerned that the Department Heads have cut too much from their budgets.

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Supervisor Magryta said the Town has a contingency budget to cover any shortfall that should arise.

Supervisor Magryta said that Capt Stroppe has offered to reduce his budget by \$9,761.

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Tautel to contact the Dog Control Officer and ask him for his proposal.

Supervisor Magryta said that the Supervisor and Town Board (Legislative) are not properly compensated for all they do. The Supervisor stated that he will make an effort to increase those salaries in the 2011 budget.

The Board discussed reducing the Legislative budget.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to reduce the Legislative, Other Expenses, by \$1,500.

**MOTION DEFEATED: 2-eyes (Tautel, Edsall)**

**3-nays (Magryta, Gokey, Livsey)**

Supervisor Magryta said that, as time goes on and more money is needed, the Legislative budget will be revisited.

Supervisor Magryta said that Comptroller Blauvelt figured \$6,000 would be saved if the Department Heads returned their raises.

Council Member Edsall and Council Member Tautel would like to leave the salaries alone.

Council Member Gokey doesn't believe anyone should have an increase because of the heavy burden already on the taxpayers.

Council Member Livsey would like to leave the increases for this year, but he will oppose any raises for the next budget.

Supervisor Magryta agreed that at the 6 month mark it would not be worth taking the raises back and risk demotivating the employees.

Supervisor Magryta would like to hold the meeting on Thursday instead of Monday next week.

Council Member Livsey and Council Member Gokey both have another engagement on Thursday and won't be able to make the meeting.

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**JUNE 3, 2010**

Supervisor Magryta said that the budget will be brought up again at the regular meeting on June 14, 2010.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

June Gunza is happy that the kick-off meeting for the procedural audit is being held tomorrow.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to go into Executive Session to discuss: 1) the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matter leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation; and 2) proposed, pending or current litigation. Board went into Executive Session at 9:50pm.

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

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 11:03pm.

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

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adjourn the special meeting. Special meeting adjourned at 11:04pm.

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

Attest,