

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a Public Hearing on the 2011 Budget, on Thursday, November 4, 2010 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

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

Supervisor Magryta opened the Public Hearing at 7:35pm.

Supervisor Magryta reviewed the budget with the public and explained that the 2011 budget is lower than the 2010 budget and the taxes will be less.

Council Member Edsall said that part of the savings has to do with the bonds that were budgeted for and not needed. Mr. Edsall stated that he does not agree with the proposed raises for the Board and Supervisor.

Council Member Tautel said she is against the large raises being proposed.

Council Member Livsey said that there is a great decrease to the taxpayers and he applauds the Supervisor and Comptroller for their work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Judith Taylor said that the Board has done a good job, but the salaries are out of line for this Town and she would like the Board to take another look at them.

Pharobe Ripa strongly urged the Board to reconsider the raises. She stated that the Board knew what the pay was when they took office.

Annie Scott commended the Board for finding the surplus in the budget, but doesn't believe that huge raises are needed to attract talented people and thinks that the raises being asked for are exorbitant.

Richard Zzie said that, in this bad economy, the raises are an insult to the taxpayers.

Supervisor Magryta said he didn't take the job to get a raise, but believes that better compensation will get better talent.

Council Member Edsall doesn't believe that better money will attract better people. He also doesn't think that three (3) people are needed, in the Comptroller's office, to manage a \$5 million budget.

Council Member Gokey has the 2010 salary rates and will give the Town Clerk a copy for the public.

Annie Scott would like to see the salaries with the stipends included.

Bobbie Fallon said the Board is doing a great job, but she is against the raises.

James Thomson is against the raises.

Julie Hood is horrified by the raises and is concerned about how money is being spent.

Supervisor Magryta said that no program will be decreased and there will be no cuts from the Recreation or Senior programs.

Altti Piirsoo said the Board has done a good job, but it is too early to have earned the raises.

Jeff Gathers said that it is terrible for the Board to double its salary in 10 months.

Supervisor Magryta said the Board respects all the opinions.

Town Board:

Council Member Livsey it is not about the money, but he does support the raises.

Council Member Tautel said that she wishes that the Town Budget was a public vote and she is against such huge raises.

Council Member Gokey said that it is not fun to vote on your own raise, but the Board has a job to do. Ms. Gokey hopes that the public trusts her to make the best decision.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to close the Public Hearing. Public Hearing closed at 10:30pm.

******Regular Meeting******

Supervisor Magryta would like to change the November meeting dates as follows: The regular meeting will be moved from November 7 to the 15 and the Workshop will be moved from November 21 to the 29. The Supervisor said that on November 8 the Board will vote on the Budget and discuss Dial-A-Bus issues and on November 15 State and County representatives will come to the meeting to speak about a re-val.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the following changes to the November meetings: November 8, 7:30pm, Budget vote and Dial-A-Bus issues; November 15, 7:00pm, Regular meeting; November 29, 7:30pm, Workshop.

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

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to go into executive session to discuss proposed or pending litigation. Board went into executive session at 10:30pm.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 10:45pm.

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:46pm.

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

Attest,