

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a workshop on Monday, January 24, 2011 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
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the workshop at 7:30pm.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

TOWN FINANCIAL AUDIT – AUDIT FIRM DISCUSSION

Mr. Craven from Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGovanni and Weddell explained the audit process to the Board.

Supervisor Magryta asked Mr. Craven how a baseline is established since an audit hasn't been done in 6 years.

Ron Klum explained that there were two approaches the Town could take. The Town could ask the State if they will allow them not to file for 2005 – 2009 or the bank reconciliations could be looked at.

Supervisor Magryta asked if the bank reconciliations from 2006-2010 are necessary to perform the audit.

Mr. Klum said that if all the statements, and back-up information, is here it is possibly that they could look back one year to see what checks are outstanding.

Council Member Edsall asked if the Town should complete some things in the proposal before they come in.

Mr. Klum said that the Town should.

ADDITIONAL RE-ORGANIZATION

Designate Accounting Officer:

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to appoint Kelly Blauvelt as the Accounting Officer for fiscal year 2011.

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

Petty Cash:

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to give each Court Clerk \$100 for petty cash.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT – HIRE REQUEST

Supervisor Magryta has a request from OIC Bailey to hire Barrett Magistro and Everett Erichsen as part-time Police Officers.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to hire Barrett Magistro as a part-time police officer.

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

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to hire Everett Erichsen as a part-time police officer.

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

JUDICIAL MATTER

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to go into Executive Session to discuss a Judicial matter. Board went into executive session at 8:05pm.

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

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to close the Executive Session. Executive session closed at 8:20pm.

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

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Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to re-open the workshop. Workshop re-opened at 8:21pm.

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

Supervisor Magryta explained that the Board discussed the judicial decision. The Supervisor asked if the Board had anything to say before the appointment was made.

The Board agreed that the all candidates that applied were very good, but felt it important that an attorney was appointed so they could begin immediately.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to appoint Konstantinos G. Fatsis as Town Justice to fill the unexpired term of Eric A. Stewart.

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

Supervisor Magryta asked Mr. Fatsis to contact Justice Donaldson.

LIBRARY BUILD OUT PROPOSAL – DISCUSSION

Supervisor Magryta would like the Board to consider the proposal received from the Library offering the use of some of their space.

Council Member asked if this included moving material out of the basement.

Supervisor Magryta said it did not and that Council Member Gokey is working on a remediation plan for the basement. The Supervisor said the back door needs an awning to prevent water coming in before anything is done in the basement.

Council Member Livsey doesn't believe that now is the time to do this and he is against it. Mr. Livsey said he would rather see something for the seniors put there.

Council Member Edsall said it seems like an expansion of government which is not the way the Board wants to go.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Supervisor Magryta to consider joining the Library to use the space.

**MOTION DEFEATED: 2-ayes (Magryta, Gokey)
3-nays (Livsey, Edsall, Tautel)**

OUTSTANDING COMMITTEE ISSUES

Council Member Tautel:

Council Member Tautel gave the insurance papers for the Orange County Planning Grant to the Supervisor.

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Tautel to follow up with Ellen (her contact for the grant).

Council Member Tautel said she e-mailed Supervisor Magryta the Dial-A-Bus Safety Plan and put the original in his box Sunday night.

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Tautel if she was satisfied with the plan.

Council Member Tautel said she was.

Supervisor Magryta said he will review and sign it.

Council Member Tautel said she is still waiting to hear if the 2004 grant will be amended.

Council Member Livsey:

Council Member Livsey will be meeting with contractors next week and he will be having a meeting with Council Member Edsall about sewer.

Supervisor Magryta said that if any Board member has an ongoing committee issue, he would like them to finish it.

Council Member Gokey:

Council Member Gokey said the sewer points were re-done for the old Trading Post property which is owned by the State. The State has requested confirmation of the charges.

Council Member Livsey:

Council Member Livsey has a bill from the school, for the use of the gym, that he would like paid. Mr. Livsey explained that because of the school budget, a fee was charged to the parents when they signed their children for basketball. Mr. Livsey said that this fee was to pay the school for the use of the gym.

Supervisor Magryta said the documents do not support an additional fee. The Supervisor would like Counsel to look at it and decide what to do.

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Supervisor Magryta:

Supervisor Magryta asked Council Member Tautel to speak with Justice Donaldson about the Peace Officer.

Council Member Gokey:

Council Member Gokey received a letter from Greg Maher, from the Fort Montgomery Fire Dept., requesting permission to hold an ice skating party on Garrison Pond. Mr. Maher said that the Fire Dept. will provide the Town with a certificate of insurance before the party.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to approve the Fort Montgomery Fire Department's request to hold an ice skating party on Garrison Pond.

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

BUILDING DEPARTMENT FEE SCHEDULE

Council Member Edsall said that no adjustments were made to the submitted fee schedule and that the Town was in the mid to low range for fees. Mr. Edsall said that on the last page it refers to refunding application fees and he would like to give some latitude to this.

Supervisor Magryta would like to hold some accountability for resources used.

Council Member Edsall said the current proposal is if the applicant changes their mind, they are refunded the application fee minus \$50.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to accept the 2011 Schedule of Fees contained in the document provided by Council Member Edsall.

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

SIGNAGE

Council Member Edsall would like the Boards opinion on the Sewer Points, Clothing Drops and Signage.

Council Member Livsey said the most difficult is the signage.

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Supervisor Magryta said the Board should be careful about being too aggressive, especially with the re-valuation coming. The Supervisor would like to possibly relax some parts that are counterproductive.

Council Member Edsall would like to relax certain areas to make enforcement easier.

VETERANS EXEMPTION – DISCUSSION

Council Member Gokey said that the County offers many exemptions. Ms. Gokey said that the Town does not offer an Alternative Veteran's Exemption, Disabled Exemption or Cold War exemption.

Supervisor Magryta said it is a problem that the Town doesn't offer a Veteran's exemption and wondered what the numbers should be if the Board agrees.

Council Member Gokey said the Board has choices that are given by the Office of Real Property.

Supervisor Magryta would like to consider this and asked Council Member Gokey and Ms. Talman to see what formulas other Towns are using.

Council Member Edsall said that something needs to be done quickly.

Supervisor Magryta would like something for the next meeting. The Supervisor said that the Town of Highlands has a responsibility to do something.

PUBLIC COMMENT

June Gunza said that the Village hasn't heard anything back after the meeting with the Town on Roe Park.

Council Member Livsey said that he and Council Member Gokey are very interested and it will be brought up and discussed.

Supervisor Magryta said it will be discussed to see what the numbers are. The Supervisor is concerned with paying for something that the Town has no jurisdiction over.

June Gunza believes that things go through the Recreation Department first and she believes that an agreement can be worked out.

Supervisor Magryta said it will be discussed.

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Council Member Gokey met with the Mayor about a sanitation district.

Supervisor Magryta said maybe Roe Park and Sanitation can go hand in hand.

Supervisor Magryta said that there have been talks about combining the Police Departments and the Planning Boards. The Supervisor is in favor of as much intermunicipal agreements as possible.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to go into executive session to discuss: 1) Current, pending or proposed litigation; and 2) Matters relating to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law. The Board went into executive session at 9:55pm.

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

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to close the executive session. Executive session closed at 11:12pm.

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

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to adjourn the meeting. Workshop adjourned at 11:13pm.

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

Attest,