

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a special meeting on Monday, August 29, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, at 7:30pm.

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

Supervisor Magryta opened the special meeting at 7:30pm.

Supervisor Magryta said this meeting is to discuss the problem with Water District #2 and the lack of a point system for this benefit district.

Supervisor Magryta said the hurricane caused some power outages, minor damage to the roads and flooding. The Supervisor said that some residents have asked if there is any funding to help with the costs of the damages and they were notified to keep a list of everything. The Supervisor thanked the Town employees and First Responders for all that they did.

Council Member Edsall said that the Ambulance and Fire Departments put in long hours and did a great job. Mr. Edsall pointed out that the Garrison Pond and the curbs and drainage projects were money well spent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Livsey gave a brief history of Water District #2. Mr. Livsey stated that he would have no problem with the Settlement Master giving all the money to the Town (with no matching funds) so water could be provided to the residents.

Mayor D'Onofrio said that the Village is there for the Town for any water issues that they might be able to help with. The Mayor said if the Town finds themselves in need of more water they should come to the Village.

Council Member Gokey asked the Mayor that if the Town needed more water for the School if the Village would be willing to help.

Mayor D'Onofrio stated the Village would be willing to review the current water agreement.

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Supervisor Magryta asked the Mayor if the numbers show that the Town needs more than 100,000 gallons would the Village be prepared to consider that.

Mayor D'Onofrio believes the Village would be willing, but the Village and Town would need to sit down and talk.

Mayor D'Onofrio explained that, because of the Hurricane, the Village had to shut down their water plant to allow the water to clear up. The Mayor said the water will be supplied from the storage tanks for a couple of days and asked the residents to conserve.

Mayor D'Onofrio explained some of what happened, in the Village, during the hurricane and asked the Board to have an engineer check School Street Bridge to make sure it wasn't damaged in the storm.

Council Member Edsall believes that was already requested, but he will follow up on it.

Mayor D'Onofrio asked the Board for a copy of the Disaster Plan.

Supervisor Magryta will speak to Patty Pfeister.

WATER DISTRICT #2 WORKSHOP

Supervisor Magryta asked Justin Rider to give the Board some guidance on how to handle this. The Supervisor explained that there are certain things the Board can and cannot do with the district. The ultimate problem is that money is not being collected solely from the users in that district.

Justin Rider said that there are several types of districts and cautioned anyone doing research to make sure they are looking at the right one. Mr. Rider said that there is a short time frame to get this done and that tonight's figures are preliminary. Mr. Rider informed everyone that the district was established in 2000 and the Board has a dual task to create the benefit assessment roll for the various properties. Mr. Rider advised the Board that they need to keep the past and the future in mind when preparing the analysis.

Supervisor Magryta asked how the Town handles the retroactive costs.

Mr. Rider said the legal aspect is that the districts pay for themselves, but this has not been done. Mr. Rider said there has to be a formula for the money to be paid back to the Town funds and he believes that a 10 year error is going to take some time to correct.

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Supervisor Magryta would like this clear for everyone and asked Mr. Rider to verify that, by law, the taxpayers in the water district are the only ones that are supposed to be paying for that because they are the ones that receive the service and that, for the last 10 years, all the residents have been paying for the water district.

Mr. Rider said that was correct and that any resident outside the water district have paid taxes that they shouldn't have.

Supervisor Magryta asked if it was possible for the Town to put a separate line on the tax bill for the resident in the water district to make up for what wasn't paid.

Mr. Rider said he would look into how this could be done.

The Board discussed the cost to the residents and how to charge them and still keep it within the threshold.

Supervisor Magryta said for the next meeting the Board will need the total numbers, where it was paid from, how many users in district, confirm the bundling piece and gather any additional schemes from other communities.

The Board discussed the option chosen.

Council Member Edsall is concerned that the option chosen might not be the most cost efficient nor will it cover the most litigants.

Mr. Rider said that other options can be reviewed, but to change the option now would significantly slow the project down.

Supervisor Magryta said that all of the direction of the path of the project was generated by the engineering firm that the Settlement Master is paying the bills for. The Supervisor said that the Board had to accept that to go ahead with the project.

Supervisor Magryta would like to have another workshop on September 8 at 7:30pm.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to allow up \$3,000, at the Supervisor's discretion, on the engineering firm in relation to the Water District 2 reclamation project.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-eyes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey)
0-nays
2-absent (Livsey, Tautel)

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Supervisor Magryta would like the Board to approve the Cannibal race.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to approve Transportation Alternatives second annual Storm King Cannibal race on Route 218 in the Town of Highlands.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-eyes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey)
0-nays
2-absent (Livsey, Tautel)

PUBLIC COMMENT

June Gunza questioned about how the option was chosen for placement of the pipes.

Supervisor Magryta said there were many factors that determined the option chosen.

Ms. Gunza asked if there was money left from the grant to do Drew Road.

Supervisor Magryta said that there was a \$360,000 EFC Bond money that was available to be utilized for a project forward, but has no evidence that it was directed at Drew Road. The Supervisor said that it was understood that if there was a continuation of the project, Drew Road would be included.

ADJOURN

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

MOTION CARRIED: 3-eyes (Magryta, Edsall, Gokey)
0-nays
2-absent (Livsey, Tautel)