

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, October 3, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main Street, 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
	Justin Rider	----	Counsel
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk

Supervisor Magryta opened the meeting at 7:10pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Charlie Murphy stated that she spoke to the State Comptroller and the tax cap is now in place.

### MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the minutes from the August 29 meeting.

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

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to accept the minutes from the September 8, 12 and 19 meetings.

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

### AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to accept the A/P Register dated September 9 in the amount of \$57,436.61.

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

## TOWN BOARD

OCTOBER 3, 2011

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the HSBC payment in the amount of \$1,059.33.

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

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to accept the A/P Register dated September 23 in the amount of \$119,542.74.

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

### TOWN BUDGET MEETINGS OVERVIEW AND SETTING OF SCHEDULE

Supervisor Magryta asked Comptroller Blauvelt to explain the budget and the deadlines.

Ms. Blauvelt explained that the Public Hearing must be held the Thursday after the election, which would be November 10. The Preliminary Budget must be filed with the Town Clerk by November 2 and the budget must be adopted by November 20. Ms. Blauvelt said that because November 20 falls on a Sunday, the Board has until November 21 to adopt the budget.

Supervisor Magryta said the available dates for the budget workshops are October 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, 27 and 31.

Ms. Blauvelt would like the Board to avoid scheduling a workshop for October 31 so she will have time to get the preliminary budget ready for the Town Clerk.

Supervisor Magryta would like to schedule the workshops for 7:30pm and leave the option open to begin at 7:00pm. The Supervisor said that on October 6, the Board will do an overview of the budget.

Supervisor Magryta would like to be general when discussing schedules to avoid any executive session material.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would provide the Board with any items that they might need for an executive session. Ms. Blauvelt also said she would like to discuss salaries with the department heads.

Supervisor Magryta said the Board will discuss salaries in general on October 6 and discuss them with the department heads.

## TOWN BOARD

OCTOBER 3, 2011

Ms. Blauvelt said she will prepare a schedule and provide it to the department heads.

Supervisor Magryta said the budget workshops will be held on October 6, 13, 17, 20, 24, and 27. The Supervisor said a budget workshop will be held on October 31 only if needed.

Supervisor Magryta asked if an entity can bond to reduce the tax liability.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would need to look that up.

Bernard Cassidy said he heard from the previous Supervisor that there was money available for Drew Road water and asked the Comptroller if this was true.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would need to look.

Mr. Rider said that Drew Road is a concern, but he doesn't know if there is any money designated to it. Mr. Rider said he would look into it.

### **TOH AMBULANCE CORPS – REQUEST FOR HIRE**

Council Member Edsall has a request from Capt. Stoppel to hire Michael Allen and add him to the pool of EMTs. Mr. Edsall said that there would be no additional cost to the Town.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to hire Michael Allen at a salary of \$14.47 per hour and place him in the reserve pool of EMTs.

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

### **DEPARTMENT TRANSFERS – JUSTICE COURT/AMBULANCE**

#### Ambulance

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to authorize the transfer of \$1,800 from Account SA14540-0473 (Mobile Life) to Account SA4540-0460 (Training).

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

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Tautel to authorize the transfer of \$4,000 from Account SA4540-0473 (Mobile Life) to Account SA4540-0472 (Ambulance Billing).

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

Court

Council Member Tautel said the Court is asking to transfer \$2,000 from the Town's Contingency account to cover the cost of equipment needed to digitize their records.

Council Member Tautel made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to authorize the transfer of \$2,000 from the Town Contingency Fund to the Justice Court account.

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

Council Member Tautel said she met with the Town Justices and Chief Quinn regarding an upcoming trial. Ms. Tautel said this trial will begin on October 18 and all employees are asked to wear their ID Badges for security purposes. Ms. Tautel also stated that there will be two officers in the Court Room and two on the first floor with the Magnometer.

**O&R VEGETATION MANAGEMENT**

Supervisor Magryta informed everyone that beginning October 10, a contractor hired by Orange & Rockland will begin cutting trees down in the Town.

**HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CONTRACT**

Supervisor Magryta said that after some clarifications on some items the contract will be approved by the Board and sent to the Association for approval.

**WATER DISTRICT II DISCUSSION**

Supervisor Magryta said the engineers have been contacted and asked to prepare a scheme. The Supervisor would like the engineers to decide which category the residences come under.

Justin Rider said that this issue needs to be finalized. Mr. Rider explained that once the Town engineer makes his decision and the Board agrees, everyone in the district will be notified and invited to attend the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Magryta asked if the Board agreed with the scheme of three items.

Council Member Edsall said he is not completely on board with needing three options.

Supervisor Magryta said that anyone not in Phase 2, but could be included in Phase 3 should be different than someone where the cost would prohibit them from ever getting water.

## **TOWN BOARD**

**OCTOBER 3, 2011**

Mr. Rider suggested the Board follow up with the engineer and make sure they are getting the information they want.

Supervisor Magryta said that the information that is obtained from the engineer will eventually be used to get the cost.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Bernard Cassidy said it seems like the project is stalling and he would like to see something get done.

Council Member Tautel said the Board is steadily working on it and hopefully the point system will be put together soon.

Council Member Livsey said the Board represents the entire community and they are trying to make it fair to everyone.

Council Member Edsall said he believes that the Town has been mandated to do Drew Road.

Mr. Rider said that, while Drew Road is a complex issue, it is not solely a Town responsibility. Mr. Rider further stated that the Town is working to rectify all the issues to move the project forward.

Supervisor Magryta said that even though the language doesn't mandate this, the Town has an obligation to do what it takes to get water to Drew Road.

Bobbie Fallon doesn't understand the difference between a single well and a well for 13 residents.

Supervisor Magryta said it is looked at like an association and that gives it a different standing

Council Member Gokey said Appraisal Consultants, the company doing the re-valuation, will be here for about three weeks to review the properties and compare with the information on file.

Supervisor Magryta said he is looking forward to the results of the re-val.

**TOWN BOARD**

**OCTOBER 3, 2011**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to go into executive session to discuss 1) matters relating to collective negotiations under the Taylor Law; and 2) matters relating to proposed, pending or current litigation. The Board went into executive session at 8:50pm.

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