

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget workshop on Thursday, October 13, 2011 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY 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 budget workshop at 7:30pm.

Council Member Livsey stated that he is opposed to the camera being on at the budget workshops.

Council Member Livsey made a motion to shut off the camera.

Supervisor Magryta said he wanted public comment before the camera was shut off.

Council Member Edsall said that there is no public comment during the budget workshops.

A very long and explosive argument followed.

Council Member Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to turn off the camera during the budget workshops.

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

### **Dog Control:**

Ms. Blauvelt said the Dog Control Officer's budget went from \$25,944 in 2011 to a requested amount of \$23,519 for 2012.

### **Recreation:**

Ms. Blauvelt said that the Recreation budget will go down by \$2,400 if the salaries are approved.

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(Council Member Livsey was called away due to an Ambulance call.)

Supervisor Magryta made a motion seconded by Council Member Gokey to turn the camera back on.

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

### **Planning Board:**

Ms. Blauvelt reminded the Board that the Planning Board budget was moved from the A Fund to B Fund last year.

Ms. Blauvelt explained that the Planning Board budget will go from \$20,472 in the 2011 budget to \$19,930 for 2012 budget.

Chairman Smith said that he is not asking for an increase for the Board, just the secretary.

### **Highway:**

Highway Supt. Squicciarini provided the Board with information pertaining to a new de-icing system. Mr. Squicciarini explained that a representative will be attending the Village Board meeting on Monday if anyone wants to go.

Mr. Squicciarini reviewed his budget with the Board.

Supervisor Magryta questioned the landfill budget. The Supervisor stated that he has a problem budgeting \$325,000 for landfill charges and suggested budgeting \$300,000 instead.

Mr. Squicciarini said the dumpster fees have not been raised in quite some time and asked the Board to review this and let him know what they think.

Supervisor Magryta said he has not problem evaluating what costs have increased and speaking to other communities about this and then make a decision.

Supervisor Magryta said that Mr. Squicciarini is entitled to a Deputy and he hopes one can be hired at a lower pay rate than the current one.

Mr. Squicciarini stressed the importance of hiring someone with the knowledge he has or someone who can learn quickly. Mr. Squicciarini said he would like to have someone hired by January 1 so they can work with Mr. Dean through the winter.

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Mr. Squicciarini informed the Board that Mine Road needs a lot of work and he talked to the Supervisor about using some of the extra money to do it. Mr. Squicciarini said that he will need to add \$45,000 to \$50,000 to the budget to do the work.

Mr. Squicciarini said he put money in the Purchase of Machinery line to purchase a new Tahoe and he would like to give his old one to another department in the Town.

Council Member Tautel would like to budget \$10,000 in the Highway Equipment Reserve fund in the 2012 budget.

Ms. Blauvelt said the Board can do the Reserve Funds at a later date.

Ms. Blauvelt said there is \$10,000 in the Water District #2 budget for Bond Counsel.

Council Member Gokey made a motion seconded by Council Member Livsey to adjourn the budget workshop. Budget workshop adjourned at 10:20pm.

**MOTION DEFEATED: 4-ayes (Magryta, Gokey, Edsall, Tautel)**

**0-nays**

**1-absent (Livsey)**

Attest,