

## TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, December 8, 2014 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Mervin R. Livsey ---- Supervisor  
William Edsall ---- Council Member  
June Gunza ---- Council Member  
Adrienne T. Voltaire ---- Council Member  
Justin Rider ---- Counsel  
Kelly Blauvelt ---- Comptroller  
Lesley K Peterson ---- Deputy Town Clerk

ABSENT: James Stradley ---- Council Member

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:03pm.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

### MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the minutes from November 24, 2014.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Voltaire, Gunza)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the minutes from December 1, 2014.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Voltaire, Gunza)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

### COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey said he received a letter from Raymond Brown, who had been a member of the Board of Assessment Review for the last 20 years, informing him that he no longer wants to be a member. Supervisor Livsey asked anyone interested in this position to submit a letter to the Town Clerk's Office.

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Supervisor Livsey announced that Kathy Hamill from the Hudson Valley Land Trust is in the audience and would like to say something.

Kathy Hamill presented a copy of the Hudson Valley Land Trust 25<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Book to the Town Board. Ms. Hamill said will be also providing the Library with a copy and if anyone wishes to purchase one they are \$85.00.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**Accounts Payable:**

Supervisor Livsey said the total amount paid was \$137,427.34.

**Budget Transfers:**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$1,543.65 from Health Insurance to Health Insurance Buyout.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$10,000.00 from Assessor Legal Action Fees to Assessor Tax Certiorari.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$4,432.08 from Assessor Personal Services to Assessor Tax Certiorari.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$800.00 from Ambulance Service Award Program to Ambulance Supplies.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$92.73 from Health Insurance to Health Insurance Buyout.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

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Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$2,800.00 from Snow Removal Materials to Snow Removal Personal Services.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$82.39 from Snow Removal Materials to Snow Removal Health Insurance Buyout.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$350.00 from Sewer Service Fees to Sewer Fica Expense.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Supervisor Livsey asked Comptroller Kelly Blauvelt to talk a little bit about correspondence she received regarding WEX Government.

Comptroller Blauvelt explains that WEX Fleet Company is a credit card company for fuel use. Ms. Blauvelt said they are State Bid and offer 1.5% to 1.58% off a gallon and the Town would not be restricted to only using the Mobile in Fort Montgomery. Ms. Blauvelt would like the Board to submit the application to WEX Fleet Company as soon as possible.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to submit the application to WEX Fleet Company.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Ms. Blauvelt said she received two e-mails State; the first one was regarding the Town's 2013 AUD and the second one stated that the Town's Tax Cap calculations for this year were being audited and they need more information. Ms. Blauvelt stated that she attended a webinar on Tax Freeze that is due in January.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**Council Member Voltaire:**

Council Member Voltaire reported that the Winterfest that was scheduled for this past weekend has been rescheduled for this weekend.

Council Member Voltaire also thanked Cpt. Stroppel for inviting her to the Ambulance Installation Dinner. Ms. Voltaire said it was an enjoyable evening and thanked the Ambulance Corp for all they do.

Supervisor Livsey asked Council Member Voltaire if the School had presented her with any information to help the Town and School with consolidating services.

Council Member Voltaire said she was thinking about that and was about to ask the school about it.

**Council Member Gunza:**

Council Member Gunza reported that Chief Quinn, Supervisor Livsey and she were in the process of replacing two court officers. Ms. Gunza said there were two good candidates and they will address at the next meeting.

Council Member Gunza said she is researching the position of Dog Control Officer; looking at what the position involves, how much it cost and if there is a need for a second Dog Control Officer.

Council Member Gunza also thanked the Ambulance Corp for a wonderful evening the other night. Ms. Gunza thanked them for the service they do and also for recognizing, not only their own members, but other people including police officers that have assisted them.

Supervisor Livsey highlighted on a recent incident where both Firefighters, Ambulance and Police Officers responded to a scene and how amazing it was that nobody had to speak to each other. The Supervisor said they all just worked in unison and got their jobs done, which can be attributed to good training.

Council Member Edsall also thanked Captain Stroppel.

**Council Member Edsall:**

Council Member Edsall spoke about a trip that he and Mr. Rider took to New York City regarding the Sewer Plants. Mr. Edsall explained that there are three Sewer Plants within a 10 mile radius which are all managed separately. Mr. Edsall said John Dodson informed him that there is a National Development Society that helps communities and Municipalities to help manage their programs more efficiently. Mr. Edsall said West Point is looking for a Resolution from both the Town and Village to retain the National Development Council.

Mr. Rider explained a little about the work the National Development Council have done with other projects across the country and expressed the positives with the Sewer Plant issues and possibilities of saving money if they privatize. Mr. Rider said the immediate need is to communicate and cooperate with the Village and have the two Boards agree that this collaboration would work.

Council Member Voltaire interjected and asked if we abandon our original plan.

Council Member Edsall replied that they would probably run parallel. Mr. Edsall said the Town cannot bet on anything right now, but it would be a fantastic opportunity for the Town and Village.

Mr. Rider agreed that both plans should run parallel because ultimately the plant is going to be upgraded and therefore money wouldn't be wasted this way.

Council Member Voltaire asked who suggested using the National Development Council.

Mr. Rider said Mr. Dodson saw an opportunity for the Town and the timing was right as West Point was in the process of upgrading their sewer plant in the amount of \$75,000,000.

Supervisor Livsey said the whole thing sounds very complicated, but at the same time very exciting.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Supervisor Livsey stated that he had the pleasure of swearing in all the officers of the Ambulance Corps and the board needs to approve the election of William Stoppel as Captain, Martha Byrnes as Assistant Captain and Christina Englese as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to approve the above elected officials for the Ambulance Corps.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)  
0-nays  
1-absent (Stradley)**

Supervisor Livsey reported that the administrative officers were President Gina Borra and Vice President Larry Fall.

**MOA FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT THPBA**

Council Member Gunza said that she, Council Member Voltaire, Mr. Rider and a PBA Representative met approximately 5 times to discuss the agreement and they have arrived at an agreement that has been presented to the Board. Ms. Gunza is suggesting that the Board approve this agreement.

Council Member Gunza reviewed the agreement with the Board.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to accept the Memorandum of Agreement for the PBA.

**MOTION CARRIED: 3-eyes (Livsey, Gunza, Voltaire)  
1-nay (Edsall)  
1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Edsall explained that his vote is mainly due to the D Line.

**NEW AMBULANCE BID SPECS**

Supervisor Livsey said a lot of time and thought has been put into the new specifications. The Supervisor said he has spoken to Cpt. Stroppel, Mr. Rider and two of the previous bidders about the specs.

Supervisor Livsey said he tried to make the bid more generic and would like to put the bid out in this week's paper with an opening date of December 19 at 1pm.

Supervisor Livsey addressed the board to consider Diesel versus Gas there will be \$12,000.00 difference.

Mr. Rider said within the bid specs it should read that the Town may waiver deviations from the specifications that do not impact the credibility of the bid process.

Council Member Edsall asked if, when reviewing the bids, the Town required to follow such strict rules even if we see examples in other company's bids that we prefer.

Mr. Rider said that Competitive Bidding stature requires that you take the lowest bidder.

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Council Member Edsall said he feels that the Ambulance Corp would prefer diesel, although at this time he is leaning towards a gas engine at this time. Mr. Edsall assured the Ambulance Corp that it will not sway his decision.

Supervisor Livsey expressed that there were some issues with Diesel.

**OTHER BUSINESS NON AGENDA**

**Resolution – Closing Postal Distribution Center:**

Supervisor Livsey announce that he has a Resolution proposing closure of United States Postal Office, the Mid-Hudson Processing Distribution Center in Newburgh, NY.

Supervisor Livsey announced that the Town Board of the Town of Highlands does reject the proposed closing of the Mid-Hudson Processing Distribution Center.

Supervisor Livsey reads the Resolution.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to reject the proposed closing of the Mid-Hudson Processing Distribution Center.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

**\*\*\*\*RESOLUTION ATTACHED\*\*\*\***

**Resignation – Court Officers:**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to accept the resignation of Court Officer Andrew Russian.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to accept the resignation of court officer Angelo Fernandez.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

**Brook's Park Grant:**

Supervisor Livsey announced that he requested an extension to Parks and Historic Preservation for our grant for Brook's Park. The Supervisor said the Town has until December of next year approx. \$8,000 which we would have to match so it would be a total of \$16,000.00.

**Police Car Accident:**

Supervisor Livsey said one of the police cars has been totaled. The Supervisor said he has a letter from the insurance company offering the Town two options; to keep the car and receive a little less money or to give the car to the insurance company and receive a little more money. The Supervisor said he thought about using the car for the sewer department, but it needs approximately \$5,000 worth of repairs because of the accident. Supervisor Livsey suggested the Town allow the insurance to take the car.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to have the Insurance Company keep the police vehicle and accept the sum of \$13,150.00 and pay for the removal of the radios and police equipment and put the remainder into Police reserve.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were comments.

**ADJOURN**

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adjourn meeting at 8:03pm.

**MOTION CARRIED: 4-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire)**  
**0-nays**  
**1-absent (Stradley)**

Attest,

RESOLUTION

OF

DECEMBER 8, 2014

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE PROPOSED  
CLOSING BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE  
OF THE MID-HUDSON PROCESSING AND DISTRIBUTION CENTER  
IN NEWBURGH NEW YORK

Councilman/Councilwoman **Edsall** moved the following resolution which was seconded by Councilman/Councilwoman **Voltaire**.

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board of the Town of Highlands in Orange County, New York has a record of advocating for protection of quality of life and necessary services to support the residents and businesses of this Town; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Board has been informed that the United States Postal Service plans to close the Mid-Hudson Processing and Distribution Center located at Stewart International Airport in Newburgh, New York; and

**WHEREAS**, this plan may severely delay all classes of mail delivery, and

**WHEREAS**, the delay of mail would negatively affect residents and local businesses, and would harm our community, and

**WHEREAS**, the closure is not in the public's best interest, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

1. That the Town of Highlands Town Board does hereby object to the proposed closure of the Mid-Hudson Processing and Distribution Center.
2. That the Town Board of the Town of Highlands in its capacity as governing body of the Town, does hereby request that our Federal elected officials provide immediate assistance in keeping the processing and distribution center open; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be delivered by the Town Clerk to the Hon. Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Senator, the Hon. Charles E. Schumer, Senator, the Hon. Sean P. Maloney, Representative for the 18<sup>th</sup> District; and

4. That the foregoing resolutions shall take effect immediately.  
The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

James Stradley, Councilman voting **absent**

June Gunza, Councilwoman voting **aye**

Adrienne T. Voltaire, Councilwoman voting **aye**

William Edsall, Councilman voting **aye**

Mervin R. Livsey, Supervisor voting **aye**

The foregoing constitutes a true and complete copy of a resolution duly made, seconded and adopted at a meeting of the Town Board, Town of Highlands, on December 8, 2014.

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Lesley Peterson, Deputy Town Clerk