

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, April 27, 2015 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7pm.

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

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

PUBLIC HEARING – COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT

Supervisor Livsey asks for a motion to open Public Hearing on the Community Development Block Grant.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to open Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant.

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

Supervisor Livsey announced that the Public Hearing was open and asked if anyone has any suggestions for the Community Development Block Grant.

Council Member Stradley arrives 7:05pm.

Council Member Gunza suggests using the grant to maybe erect a building for the Police Department on the property across from the Fort Montgomery Post Office. Considering they are sharing a tight space with the Ambulance Corp right now.

Mr. Rider said that is a possibility and there are also other grants that could be available for this purpose.

Supervisor Livsey said they would look into the cost of erecting a building, something similar to the new Fitness Center they are building down on 9W, just to get an idea of what it will cost.

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Supervisor Livsey said they had also considered Nicole's Catering Hall as a possible location for the Police, however, it would mean pulling that property off the Assessment Roll and that is something the Town wants to avoid.

Council Member Edsall said there is also consideration of the possibility of the Police Department Consolidation.

Supervisor Livsey said that could be a good thing because there are consolidation grants out there which would help.

Supervisor Livsey said if there are no more suggestions he will ask for a motion to close the Public Hearing.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to close the Public Hearing.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

REGULAR MEETING

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments from the public.

MINUTES

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to approve the minutes from the April 13 Town Board meeting.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey announced the Orange County Partnership is having a commercial Real Estate Summit on May 13, 2015 at Stewart International Airport. The Supervisor said there will be speakers and lunch is provided, but you do need to make a reservation.

Supervisor Livsey announced that Crystal Run Village Foundation is having a wine tasting and Art Show Thurs May 28, 2015 4pm – 6pm at the Warwick Valley Winery & Distillery. The Supervisor said anyone going needs to RSVP.

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Supervisor Livsey said the Town received a copy of a Resolution passed by the Village Board from April 20, 2015 regarding tax exemption.

Mr. Rider said he had seen it in its draft form but did not have a hard copy.

Supervisor Livsey asked Chief Quinn to introduce his two candidates for the part-time police positions.

Chief Quinn informed the Board that he has two vacancies due to recent resignations and after interviewing five candidates he would like the Board to appoint Joseph Cornetta and Cory Pingiczer to the vacant part-time police officer positions. The Chief said both candidates have been pre-approved by Orange County and have a satisfactory background check.

Supervisor Livsey asked Chief Quinn if there would be a problem with Mr. Pingiczer working for two police departments.

Chief Quinn replied no.

Council Member Edsall just wanted to thank Joseph Cornetta for his outstanding service his resume was very impressive.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to hire Joseph Cornetta and Cory Pingiczer as part time police officers with maximum probation and beginning salary.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

FINANCIAL REPORTS, REQUESTS & RESOLUTIONS

Town Hall Efficiency Plan:

Supervisor Livsey stated that, in order for the residents to receive their grants, the Town will need to do an Efficiency Plan, which means keeping the tax base under 2% and saving 1% of the total tax levy (\$28,492,000). The Supervisor said he and the Comptroller realized that this has already been completed and everything is in the process of being approved. The Supervisor was informed by the Comptroller that she had spoken to the State and everything qualifies and it just needs to be certified by the Supervisor and Comptroller.

Supervisor Livsey asked for a motion to sign the Efficiency Plan Application.

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Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall for Supervisor Livsey to sign the Efficiency Plan Application.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

Accounts Payable:

Supervisor Livsey said accounts payable amount was \$87,880.72.

Supervisor Livsey speaks about the Overlook Pump Station and the problems the Town has had there lately. The Supervisor stated that the station needs a new generator as the old one does not have enough horse power to power the new pumps that were put in.

Supervisor Livsey said he has received three estimates TAM Enterprises who did work on the pump station recently came in at \$28,000, Paruolo Electric \$24,900 and Genetec at \$25,690.

Supervisor Livsey suggested that the board accept the lowest estimate from Paruolo Electric.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to accept the proposal and purchase a generator from Paruolo Electric, for the Overlook Pump Station.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gunza, Edsall, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

Supervisor Livsey said he is looking to recycle the old generator for the Town Hall and he will have Michael Paruolo look at it and see how much work is needed and, if indeed, it can be reused.

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Voltaire

Council Member Voltaire reported that she was invited to tour the old Highland Falls Middle school to see what kind of condition it was in and to discuss what might be done with the building.

Council Member Voltaire also stated that The Center is closing its Main St location and she has been asked to chair a committee for community relations.

Council Member Voltaire reported that there was a 5K in Monroe Sat May 2, 2015 to benefit Children's Mental Health Awareness.

Council Member Gunza:

Council Member Gunza highlighted on the subject of the Police Department locker situation.

Council Member Edsall:

Council Member Edsall said he received a call from John Dodson to attend a meeting at Village Hall regarding a large project taking place on West Point. Mr. Edsall said he would not be able to make meeting, but if any of the other board members would like to go that would be great.

Council Member Edsall reported that Council member Gunza and himself met with Charlie Murphy at the Village and they had a conference call with Fred and David Church from the Orange County Planning Board regarding the consolidation of the codes. There was discussion that there needed to be clarity whether the planning boards were indeed going to be consolidated.

Council Member Edsall said he was not sure if the board was copied on the Sewer Plant's yearly inspection. Mr. Edsall said that, other than problems with the lift station, the Town always get a good report.

Council Member Stradley:

Council Member Stradley had nothing to report.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Livsey said that he spoke with Robert Held, Sewer Plant Operations Manager, regarding new hook ups, and he was informed that the plant is almost at full capacity. The Supervisor said he will be attending a meeting tomorrow.

John Bapton questioned the Town why they did not want to send the trailer park up to the village.

Supervisor Livsey stated that was never actually said that, but if that was done, it would free up 30% of the usage and put the Town back in better shape.

Supervisor Livsey wanted to recognize two scholar athletes from O'Neill High School: Carly Lawless and Kyle Walters. The Supervisor said they were named by Orange County Interscholastic League for excelling in both athletics and scholarship achievements.

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Supervisor Livsey noted that there were eleven runners from West Point in the Boston Marathon, however, even more surprising there was a young lady named Nicole Eldridge from Fort Montgomery.

Supervisor Livsey reported that a former Town of Highlands resident, Michelle Favre, was recognized and awarded the 2014 New Hampshire Emergency Medical Dispatcher of the year. The Supervisor said she was being recognized for her actions during a bus accident where she was talking to one of the passengers directing her through the triage and CPR before the ambulance arrived on scene. Supervisor Livsey said her father, David, owns a garage in Fort Montgomery and her brother, David, is the manager at Rite Aid in Highland Falls.

Supervisor Livsey announced, as part of the budget, \$2,000 was earmarked for fireworks to celebrate the 4th of July. The Supervisor said there is about \$2,500 in that line which would leave \$500 for any police officers that want to work that day.

Supervisor Livsey said he has a voucher for \$2,000 for Region Fireworks that he would like to pay. The Board agreed he should pay it.

Comptroller, Kelly Blauvelt, said there was an approval from the board to spend \$45,000 on the Sewer Pump Station, that figure has since grown to \$50,000 to be taken from the Reserve Fund that is going to need Board approval.

Supervisor Livsey asked the Town attorney if we needed a Resolution for that and he advised that the Town should.

Kelly Blauvelt said we can leave it until next meeting.

Kelly Blauvelt said she updated the website and Ponytail, Little League and T-Ball all had their opening days this past weekend and just wanted to mention at Ponytail's Opening Ceremony this weekend they honored Supervisor Livsey for 25 years of volunteering for the Ponytail League.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Supervisor Livsey asked Chief Quinn to speak about the Orange County Youth Bureau Agreement.

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Chief Quinn said that the Town of Highlands Police Department had applied to the Orange County Youth Bureau for grant money. The Chief said that as a first time applicant for the Town of Highlands, they have allowed us an amount not to exceed \$6,000 which will be used in addition to programs that the Youth Officer has in schools already.

Chief Quinn said one of the requirements for this money is to provide the County with a plan. The Chief stated that the Town does not have a Youth Corps, but is working closely with one in Rockland County. The Chief said it has been arranged for two Town of Highlands' students to work with the Town of Haverstraw and Stony Point Youth Corps to learn what the program is all about. The Chief explained the Youth Corps gives Youthful Offenders, under age 21 arrested for a misdemeanor or below a second chance.

Chief Quinn said that if the program implemented is successful there are better and more creative ways to get more money to enhance this program.

Supervisor Livsey stated he has a Resolution authorizing the execution of an agreement between the Town of Highlands and the Orange County Youth Bureau Grant Application.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to execute and sign the Youth Bureau Grant Application.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

Supervisor Livsey needs permission from the Board to sign an Inter Municipal Agreement between the County and Town for 2014 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program.

Chief Quinn said he is always looking for funds to help improve the Police Department and there is a grant being offered by the Sheriff's Office for \$7,000 to purchase two new computers and hardware that will be put into the police cars.

Council Member Stradley made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to sign the 2014 State Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program agreement.

**MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gunza, Edsall, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays**

Police Discussions:

Chief Quinn shared some concerns he had with the overall maintenance of the Police/Ambulance building. The Chief will speak to Highway Superintendent Patterson about these concerns.

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Council Member Stradley asks if the catch basins are ever sucked out by DOT as that could be a problem.

Chief Quinn has never seen that happen and would ask Pat Patterson to look into that.

Supervisor Livsey said that he would ask Pat Patterson to come up with a price for a new awning and gutters.

Chief Quinn said it would probably cheaper if the Highway/Sanitation Department could do it.

Supervisor Livsey said he would check with Pat Patterson to see if that is an option as it is a busy time of year for them.

Chief Quinn will share with Pat Patterson some of the prices he has received from vendors.

Chief Quinn discussed some of the problems they are experiencing while sharing the building with the Ambulance Corp. The Chief said, one of the main problems is the lack of space. The Chief would like to see the ladies bathroom be converted into the police locker room and make the men's bathroom a unisex bathroom that everyone could use.

Chief Quinn says there are a lot of challenges when you come in from shift and try to change out of wet clothes and boots to maneuver and indeed dress appropriately.

Chief Quinn said he knows probably that the Ambulance Corp will have a problem with this but sees no need for two large bathrooms and such a small locker room for Police personnel.

Council Member Edsall asks if the building can be expanded and if there was an existing floor plan.

Council Member Gunza said there is a great need for more room for the Police Officers.

Council Member Voltaire said she is glad we are talking about this situation and would like to see the space in question.

Council Member Voltaire also stated that the female ambulance members have expressed to her that they are not happy with the request to change the bathroom to a locker room for Police Officers.

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Council Member Gunza said maybe the board can visit and see if there are other options maybe move things around in the building to see if there are other options.

Chief Quinn said he has evaluated the building in its entirety and exhausted all options there just is not enough space. Chief Quinn also expressed that he is not trying to be difficult and does not want to upset anyone's work space, he is simply trying to work out a solution and believes this is the only solution.

Council Member Edsall had concerns about the consolidation of Police Departments and whether at this point it would be beneficial to spend time and money on this project if indeed that was going to happen.

Council member Edsall expressed his frustrations with the Village on the slow movement towards consolidation but is assured it will happen.

Supervisor Livsey added that there had been another brief meeting recently and he shared the same concerns and expressed that the Town has exhausted all its resources on consolidation it is strictly with the Village to make a decision.

Supervisor Livsey said we will table the decision on the locker room until next meeting.

Social Media Policy

Supervisor Livsey said there is a policy in place that explains the procedures on using Town equipment and computers, however, in light of recent events we have to consider adopting a Social Media Policy.

Supervisor Livsey said that Chief Quinn gave him a nationwide used Social Media Network Policy to be reviewed and used as a guideline.

Supervisor Livsey said with a few tweaks from the Town attorney, it could be adjusted to reflect the needs for the Town.

Mr. Rider added that it is just wording the policy right and ensuring that we do not invade people's rights. Mr. Rider stated the policy covers some great areas and addresses problems that might occur with Social Media and what procedures the Town wants to take when addressing problems.

Council Member Voltaire had some questions about certain areas of the policy.

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Mr. Rider reiterated that the policy definitely needed tweaking to reflect more usage towards Town employees and that this is only acting as a guideline.

Supervisor Livsey mentioned that Kelly Blauvelt wanted the Board to be aware that the Town does have a Facebook page and in order to post on that page it is advised that that person is referred to the Board before posting anything. The Supervisor said this would also apply to the Ambulance Corp since they also have a Facebook page.

Supervisor Livsey tabled this until the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ramus suggested the Board talk to the Garden Club to help with the drainage problem at the Emergency Services Building. Mr. Ramus said the Garden Club might be able to fix the drainage problem and, at the same time, beautify the building.

Jim Ramus also discussed issues with the planning board consolidation between Town and Village. Mr. Ramus questioned the cost and budget when the consolidation took place.

Council Member Edsall said there were no numbers available at this time. Mr. Edsall said the first year would be a learning curve with a lot of things to hash out.

Supervisor Livsey discussed briefly the extension on the sewer project and said he would need a motion from the Board to extend and give him some latitude.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to allow Supervisor Livsey to give an extension on the sewer project.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, Gunza, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays

Council Member Voltaire made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:25pm.

MOTION CARRIED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Gunza, Edsall, Voltaire, Stradley)
0-nays

Attest,