

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a budget workshop on Monday, August 3, 2015 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 6:00pm.

PRESENT:	Mervin R. Livsey	----	Supervisor
	William Edsall	----	Council Member
	June Gunza	----	Council Member
	Adrienne T. Voltaire	----	Council Member
	Kelly Blauvelt	----	Comptroller
	June Patterson	----	Town Clerk
	Vincent Donaldson	----	Town Justice
	Greg Stewart	----	Town Justice

Supervisor Livsey opened the workshop at 6:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey expressed his concern about the tax cap.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey took \$5,000 out of the equipment line and left the Contracted Services the same.

COURT

Judge Donaldson lowered the Court Officer salary a little and asked for no increases anywhere else.

The Board discussed the Court revenue and decided to leave it at \$230,000.

Ms. Blauvelt mentioned the Training line.

Judge Donaldson said there has been talk of Court Clerks needing to be certified, and if that is the case, more money will be needed for this training.

SUPERVISOR

Council Member Gunza stated that she is against stipends getting increased. Ms. Gunza also questioned the \$100 in the equipment line.

Supervisor Livsey said it was for a new phone and that nothing else was increased.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 3, 2015

TREASURER

Stayed the same.

PATRIOTIC OBSERVANCES

Ms. Blauvelt left that the same which is \$2,000 for the fireworks and \$500 miscellaneous.

SENIORS

Council Member Gunza said the line in that budget shouldn't be named for the Senior Center.

Ms. Blauvelt said it says Miscellaneous Services.

Council Member Voltaire questioned if this money is needed since only \$76 has been spent this year.

Ms. Blauvelt said it is needed. Ms. Blauvelt explained that this \$2,000 was taken from the \$8,000 for bus trips and if that line runs short, it can be taken from the \$2,000.

BEAUTIFICATION

Ms. Blauvelt said that money is split as follows: \$500 for Garden Club, \$2,000 for Vision and \$1,000 miscellaneous.

Council Member Voltaire asked about the \$1,000.

Supervisor Livsey said that would be for the triangle, but the people who did it did not charge.

Council Member Voltaire suggested cutting Beautification by \$500.

Supervisor Livsey was okay with that.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Council Member Gunza said she moved \$2,000 from equipment to Other Expenses. Ms. Gunza said the County is working on a Hazard Mitigation Plan and they are asking for information that is not known, so she has spoken to Todd Atkinson about getting a price for his help.

Ms. Blauvelt questioned whether there was still a Coordinator.

Council member Gunza said it is still Tim until he is replaced.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would check the salary schedule.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

AUGUST 3, 2015

Water & Sewer Points

Supervisor Livsey said he is determined to not have the Sewer and Water Points rushed at the last meeting.

LEGISLATIVE

Ms. Blauvelt distributed the Board their budget.

Supervisor Livsey said to remember there will be a new person next year that will need to go to training.

The Board discussed the raises from last year.

Ms. Blauvelt did some calculations and if there was a 1% raise the cost would be \$5,500 and a 2% raise would cost \$11,000. Ms. Blauvelt explained that this would not include Department Heads or Boards.

Ms. Blauvelt suggested voting on the raises this year, so it is in the minutes and there is no confusion later.

The Board discussed salaries.

Ms. Blauvelt said the Contractual line should be increased to allow the new Board Member to attend school.

Council Member Gunza suggested raising it to \$1,000.

Ms. Blauvelt said she is going to rename that line Training.

The Board discussed the cell phone reimbursement.

The cell phone budget line for the Board was left at \$900.

The Board reviewed the Legislative budget.

Ms. Blauvelt said the Police & Dog Control budget workshop need to be rescheduled.

Supervisor Livsey suggested moving them to September 21.

Ms. Blauvelt was okay with that.

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LEGAL

Ms. Blauvelt stated that Mr. Rider charges \$60,000 per year which doesn't include the charges for Water, Sewer, Tax Certiorari and Dog Control. Ms. Blauvelt said all except Dog Control have money budgeted for legal fees and she would like to discuss that.

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to put that on for September 21 when the Chief comes in.

Ms. Blauvelt discussed what has been spent for Dog Control and asked, if possible, to include the attorney fees as part of the owner's restitution for dog cases.

MISCELLANEOUS

Ms. Blauvelt said she has been thinking of ideas to possibly help the budget. Ms. Blauvelt said the Board could look at the Library fund, Recreation fees, and Department Head vehicles.

Supervisor Livsey said he is impressed with the Summer Recreation Program.

Ms. Blauvelt also suggested possibly using part-time people to do the Cemetery grass cutting.

Supervisor Livsey said that was not a good idea.

Ms. Blauvelt continued by saying something could be written up that if a Police Officer or Court Officer leave within a certain amount of time they would be responsible to pay the Town for the cost of their uniform.

Ms. Blauvelt said she spoke to Capt. Stoppel about looking for a different billing company that doesn't charge the Town as much as the current company.

ZONING

Ms. Blauvelt said the Chairman left the budget the same.

Supervisor Livsey pointed out that they have hardly spent anything.

Ms. Blauvelt was told by the Chairman that he expects more legal expenses next year.

Supervisor Livsey would like their Legal budget to be lowered to \$2,700.

The Board discussed legal expenses.

Ms. Blauvelt said it might be able to be lowered a little.

BUDGET WORKSHOP

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Council Member Edsall suggested the money go into General A Fund Legal.

Revenue was kept the same.

BUDGET OFFICER

Ms. Blauvelt said she kept the stipend the same and lowered the Other Expenses line.

PERSONNEL

Ms. Blauvelt reduced this line to \$500 and stated that the Employee Handbook needs to be redone.

The Board discussed updating the Employee Handbook.

Ms. Blauvelt said she would call Marshall & Sterling and Paychecks to get prices to have this done.

Supervisor Livsey asked the gentleman from Legacy Valve if he would be willing to run a water line into Brooks Park and he agreed.

ADJOURN

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to adjourn the budget workshop. Budget workshop adjourned at 7:35pm.

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

Attest,