

TOWN BOARD

The Town Board, Town of Highlands, held a meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016 at Town Hall, 254 Main St, Highland Falls, NY at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: Mervin R. Livsey ---- Supervisor
William Edsall ---- Council Member
Tyrone King ---- Council Member
June Gunza ---- Council Member
Adrienne T. Voltaire ---- Council Member
Justin Rider ---- Counsel
June Patterson ---- Town Clerk

Supervisor Livsey opened the meeting at 7:00pm.

Supervisor Livsey reported what will be happening in 2016:

- **Consolidation:** The Town is waiting for the results from the study on consolidation. After the results are received the Town will determine if/what consolidation will result in a tax savings or more efficient services. The consolidation of the Village and Town Planning Boards is not being studied, but is still a part of the consolidation effort in combining the Town and Village. A few wrinkles need to be ironed out and that should be done by this summer.
- **Fort Montgomery Sewer Improvement Area:** The Fort Montgomery Sewer Improvement Area will have be embarking on major updating, disaster prevention and renovations of the facilities, including the waste water treatment plant and pump stations that have not already been updated. The financing of the plant will be through EFC grants and low interest bonding. The pump station on Fawnwood and 9W will be funded within the district.
- **Water District 2:** The new master meter has been order and should be installed very soon. This will be funded by the Settlement Trust. The supplementary chlorinator will be installed in the spring in a to be determined location and also funded by the Trust. Corbin Hill is looking for funding so as to hook up to the Town's water system and if they should hook-up, the chlorinator might be put in an existing building on Corbin Hill that serves as a housing for their system filters. The Town is exploring erecting a water tower in a predetermined location on Corbin Hill. The Fort Montgomery School has municipal water ready to be hooked up, however, some intensive work inside the school needs to be funded and accomplished. The work at the school will probably be done over spring break. The Trust is looking to hook-up litigants on Miles Lane and a few in the area of Canterbury near Miles Lane.

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- **Disaster Preparedness Committee:** The Disaster Preparedness Committee is in need of leadership. The job of Disaster Coordinator is vacant. Council Member Gunza is working to keep the committee updated, however, we need a person to take over the job of disaster coordinator.
- **Community Development Grant:** The Town has \$50,000 in community development grants for handicapped improvements at Brooks Lake Park. Things like a road to the upper gazebo and dog park with handicapped parking above and a drinking fountain by the ball field.
- **Mine Dock Park:** Work will continue at Mine Dock Park. The Park is still in the formal planning stage with PPPC expected to take over from Scenic Hudson with the Town still remaining managers. Mine Dock Park now has their 5013C and can now accept donations.
- **Recreation:** There are many new ideas and programs coming for the residents from the Recreation Department. Some of these will be discussed later in the meeting.
- **Taxes:** The Town will continue to try to improve the services to the community and keep within the budget constraints. Taxes are high in the community and the Town Board is very aware of this and are doing the best they can with what they have and trying the best they can to keep taxes as low as possible.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

MINUTES

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to approve the minutes from the January 11, 2016 meeting.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Livsey asked Ms. Blauvelt to explain the new alert system.

Ms. Blauvelt said the new alert system gives everyone more options and an employee only group. Ms. Blauvelt stated anyone can sign up for these alerts by going to the Town's website.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the School District requesting street lights be installed on Morgan Farm Road. The Supervisor passed this request on to the Highway Supt.

Supervisor Livsey received a letter from the Village requesting the use of the Town meeting room one Monday a month for their regular meeting. The Supervisor said, if this is approved, they will need to pick up a key from the Town Clerk on the morning of the meeting and return it the next morning.

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Supervisor Livsey said the Board has been invited, by the Orange County Human Rights Commission, to nominate someone.

FINANCIAL

Accounts Payable

Supervisor Livsey stated that the Town paid out \$47,107.96.

Budget Transfers

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$25,392 from 23 separate line items to different department salaries.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$425 from Assessor Other Board Review Exp. to Assessor Certiorari.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$67 from Zoning Seminars to Assessor Other Exp.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to transfer \$1,000 from Highway Purchase of Machinery to Highway Other Exp.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to transfer \$1,202 from Police Training to Police Vehicle Maintenance.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$55 from Town Hall Equipment to Town Clerk Other Exp.

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

Supervisor Livsey made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to transfer \$177 from Assessor Salary to Assessor Clerk Salary.

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

BOARD REPORTS

Council Member Edsall

Council Member Edsall reported that he is on the Consolidation Committee. Mr. Edsall said he met at the Sheriff's office recently with Orange County Legislature DiSalvo to get information for the Committee.

Supervisor Livsey asked if the Committee was looking into getting proposals from the Sheriff's office.

Council Member Edsall said he would like to see more at the County level at some point.

Legislator DiSalvo stated that there are a lot of moving parts for anything like that to happen. Mr. DiSalvo said the Sheriff recommended taking a shot at consolidating locally first before going to the County level.

Legislator DiSalvo asked if the Committee was concentrating on consolidation of the police services only.

Council Member Edsall said he is not sure and informed Mr. DiSalvo that the first meeting is soon.

Legislator DiSalvo said the Committee should come up with a Mission Statement.

Council Member Edsall said the proposal says police and highway.

Council Member Edsall reported that the Highway Department did a great job during the snow storm. Mr. Edsall said it was nice to see the kids sledding at Brooks Park.

Council Member Edsall said he read an article in the newspaper about double poles.

Mr. Rider said the Town is making slow progress on that issue.

Council Member Edsall informed everyone that Bob Bryant passed away recently. Mr. Edsall said Mr. Bryant was a very interesting and great guy.

Council Member King

Council Member King reported that he is receiving positive feedback from the community on Mr. Falk's (Recreation Director) work. Mr. King said Mr. Falk is doing a good job.

Council Member Gunza

Council Member Gunza reported that there was another Hazard Mitigation meeting and a list of projects has been submitted to Orange County.

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Council Member Gunza thanked the Fort Montgomery Fire Dept. and all the mutual aid companies for the great job they did at a recent fire.

Council Member Gunza stated that the Police Department wanted to let the Highway Department know that they did a great job during the recent snow storm.

Council Member Gunza said that we have to get together with the County about the Zoning Code.

Council Member Voltaire

Council Member Voltaire reported that The Center is looking for members for their Committee and they will be having a meeting on January 29 at 6:30 to be followed by a Fun Night for adults.

Council Member Voltaire said the Department of Social Services is looking for people to serve on different committees and if anyone is interested to please send a "letter of interest" to the new Commissioner.

Council Member Gunza said every Monday morning The Center has a history lesson with refreshments.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Livsey reported that everything went well with the storm and there were no breakdowns in the Highway Department.

Supervisor Livsey said the Fire Departments did an excellent job at the recent fire.

Supervisor Livsey said Time Warner Cable is working on an updated contract for the Town. The Supervisor said the Town will receive a Franchise Fee of 5% of the gross receipts and it will state, in the contract, that Time Warner will take care of the equipment.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Recreation

Supervisor Livsey said a Recreation Advisory Committee was established previously. The Supervisor said it is a 6 person Committee with 3 year terms. The Committee members and their terms are: Fran Lawless – 3 year, Jeff Gathers – 2 year, Jody Downey – 2 year, Jenean O'Brien – 1 year, Trish Hannigan – 1 year.

Council Member Edsall said he would like to move the terms around.

Mr. Rider said these are the terms for now, but going forward ever term will be three years.

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Supervisor Livsey agreed to give Jeff Gathers and Jenean O'Brien three year terms.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to approve the members of the Recreation Advisory Committee and their terms.

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

Supervisor Livsey said that Mr. Falk has given the Board a list of fees he would like raised.

Council Member King said Mr. Falk is spot on with this, but before making any decision, he would like to see the fees from surrounding areas so it can be explained to the residents.

Supervisor Livsey said the Board would discuss this at the next meeting.

Supervisor Livsey said Mr. Falk is requesting an Assistant and there is \$15,000 in the budget for that. The Supervisor said Mr. Falk has figured he will need \$13,000 for that person. The Supervisor said he has no objections to Mr. Falk hiring an assistant.

Council Member King said there definitely needs to be more than one person with all that is going on.

Mr. Falk said he could open more things if he had help.

Supervisor Livsey asked Mr. Falk to get someone and bring the name to the Board.

Council Member Gunza said the position should be advertised and Council Member King should sit in on the interviews.

Supervisor Livsey said Mr. Falk has requested a new desk because his is falling apart.

Mr. Falk stated that he would be holding off on that for now.

Mr. Falk said he received a donation of a copier.

EnerPath

Supervisor Livsey asked Council Member Edsall if the Town had to do this.

Council Member Edsall said he looked at this last week and it looks good. Mr. Edsall said the Town will buy the new light fixtures and the company will install them.

Supervisor Livsey said the Town's investment is \$3,000 and, with a savings of \$1,400 a month, should start seeing a savings in about 3 years.

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Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to authorize Supervisor Livsey to sign the contract with Ener Path.

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

Resolution – Local Law

Supervisor Livsey said he has a resolution to introduce Local Law #1 of 2016 “Residency Requirements for certain offices of the Town of Highlands”.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Voltaire to set the public hearing for Introductory Local Law #1 of 2016 for Monday, February 22, 2016 at 7:00pm.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED: 5-eyes (Livsey, Edsall, King, Gunza, Voltaire)
0-nays

****RESOLUTION ATTACHED****

Planning Board Consolidation

Supervisor Livsey said a draft of the Planning Board consolidation was sent to the Village. The Supervisor said they received it on their meeting night and he doesn't know what happened.

Skating Party

Supervisor Livsey said he has a request from the Fort Montgomery Fire Dept. to hold an ice skating party on Garrison Pond sometime during the winter. The Supervisor said the letter states they will provide the Town with an insurance certificate before the party is held.

Council Member Gunza made a motion seconded by Council Member Edsall to approve the Fort Montgomery Fire Department's skating department.

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

V&T Prosecutor Extension

Supervisor Livsey said he sent a letter to Mr. Fatsis extending his termination from the V&T prosecutor position until March 31. The Supervisor said this was a request from Judge Stewart.

John Hager – Resignation

Supervisor Livsey said he has a letter of resignation from Building Inspector John Hager.

Council Member Edsall made a motion seconded by Council Member Gunza to accept Mr. Hager's resignation effective February 1, 2016.

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

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Arrests

Council Member Gunza reported on two separate arrests made recently in the Town.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. DiSalvo asked the Board when the last time they met with the Village.

Supervisor Livsey said about a year ago.

Council Member Voltaire said about two years ago.

Council Member Gunza said she sat in on a meeting about six months ago.

Mr. Ramus said the Village didn't bring up the consolidation agreement. Mr. Ramus said there are some contradicting things in the agreement and he would like to see the Mayor, Town and Village attorneys and he have a meeting. Mr. Ramus asked Supervisor Livsey to set up a meeting with Eric Smith and the attorneys and he will be there.

Mr. Rider said the Town has no intention of not having a comprehensive agreement.

Mr. Ramus asked about the training money in the Town's budget for the consolidated Planning Board. Mr. Ramus said he didn't see it in there and asked if the Board would reconsider.

Council Member Gunza said she is in favor of training and she doesn't think it will be a problem.

ADJOURN

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

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

Attest,

RESOLUTION
OF
JANUARY 25, 2016

A RESOLUTION TO INTRODUCE AND
SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING TO RECEIVE
PUBLIC COMMENTS CONCERNING THE ENACTMENT OF
A LOCAL LAW PROVIDING FOR THE RESIDENCY
REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN
OFFICES OF THE TOWN OF HIGHLANDS

Council Member **Edsall** moved the following resolution which was seconded by Council Member **Voltaire**.

BE IT RESOLVED, that INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2016 entitled “A Local Law Providing for the Residency Requirements for Certain Offices of the Town Highlands” be and hereby is introduced before the Town Board of the Town of Highlands in the County of Orange and State of New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that pursuant to Municipal Home Rule Law Section 20, a public hearing shall be held to receive comments concerning the enactment of said Local Law on February 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall located at 254 Main Street, Highland Falls, New York, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk give notice of such public hearing specifying the time when and the place where such public hearing will be held by publication and posting in accordance with the Municipal Home Rule Law.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call which resulted as follows:

Tyrone King, Councilman	voting	Aye
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 January 25, 2016.

June Patterson, Town Clerk