

TOWN OF HIGHLAND
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2023
ELDRED TOWN HALL

PRESENT SUPERVISOR JEFF HAAS
 COUNCILMAN FRED BOSCH
 COUCILWOMAN KAITLIN HAAS
 COUNCILMAN CHRIS TAMBINI

Also present, Attorney to Town Michael Davidoff
 Town Clerk Susan Hoffman

Supervisor calls meeting to order

This is the postponed meeting for the monthly Town Board Meeting for March 14, 2023 which was postponed till March 15, 2023 at 8:30am due to inclement weather, the Governor declared a state of emergency.

Flag Salute

Moment of Silence

Roll Call

MOTION BY Councilman Tambini to approve the February 2023 Town Clerk Minutes seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

MOTION BY Councilman Bosch to approve the February 2023 Financial Report seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion motion carried all ayes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Received and read Highland Ambulance Service monthly report.

Received and read Highland Fire Department monthly report.

Received and read Yulan Fire Department monthly report.

HIGHWAY REPORT

Everything looks good after the storm, no major breakdowns and hopefully springs around the corner.

SUPERVISOR REPORT

We're still working on the grant application reimbursement for the grant application. I would just like to share with you the events of the last week with the one bank failing actually the two banks that have failed around the country and if anybody was worried about our investments. Our investment portfolio is put forward through New York class, which is a federally protected municipal investment company born in New York State, many, many schools, townships counties are involved in this it's 100% collateralized and they have assured me that there is no problem with our investments. But having said that, I asked him for a report and did receive one. Budget lines for our interest in on our CDs and our investment portfolio. We budgeted about \$9,000 this year. Well, with the interest rates going up in the investment portfolio that they have for us and the monies we have invested. We've accumulated through February \$16,644. So, we're 193% of our interest budget. So, we're really in good shape there.

If that continues, we'll have some surplus monies there that we'll be able to put forward back into the budget. New York Class Fund is a wonderful fund, like I said, born out of municipalities in New York State. Jimmy G got us involved in this and myself, probably three years ago when the CD market had gone into the tubes and into the dump. We were looking for another investment portfolio. So, it's not open to everybody. It's only open to municipalities and school districts. We're very happy to be part of it. It's working for us. Now I'll entertain any public comment on the agenda items, any items related to the agenda.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

COMMUNITY PLANING/SENIORS

Councilman Bosch reports everything is going well.

YOUTH AND PARK DEVELOPMENT

Councilwoman Haas/Councilman Tambini report we submitted the two vouchers to the county for the \$10,000 reimbursement for the summer youth program.

CODE

No report.

PUBLIC SAFETY

No report.

GRANTS

No report.

INSURANCE

LOSAP has been submitted to the VFIS people in conversation with the town clerk she is going to call today to make sure the LOSAP is being processed so we can get it back in the hands of the people that need to fill out their forms.

We also have a resolution for the ambulance corp. which will be explained by the town attorney.

RESOLUTION:

Well, previously the town had adopted a resolution back in 2004 establishing the service award program. That's what LOSAP is Service Award Program to the American Legion Post. And copy that is and that's the resolution. We've been in touch Chris and I have had a number of conversations with the controller's office as well. As with our plan administrator on the correct method to continue that program without any interruption or changes. The state controller like I said, I think personally I remember calling about four or five times with them. Finally, they indicated that they would agree to accept just the resolution since you're just a transfer, because if you don't do it, if you have to start over again, you have to do it from scratch and it becomes a lengthy process. So, they finally agreed that they would accept the resolution I prepared, which basically says that there was a new corporation formed to continue the ambulance service in the Town of Highland. The new corporation the Highland Ambulance Service has assumed the agreement asset transfer agreement dated December of 2021. They acquired and assumed the assets and obligations from the American Legion Post and that the Highland ambulance service to complete an investiture from the American Legion is posted and will continue offering ambulance service to the residents. and then there's an agreement between the ambulance to Town a Highland dated November 1 2022 and the new Highland Ambulance Service, whereas formerly all qualifying volunteer members and American Legion ambulance service was enrolled in the service

program and whereas the Town of Highland is desirous of continuing the service award program and LOSAP adopted by the Town of Highland back in 2004 and adopted by the town board back in September 2004. Without any changes to the LOSAP program and with no impact on the participants for all volunteer members of the new corporation Highland Ambulance Service. Now therefore, the Highland Town Board approve for all of the volunteers of the Highland ambulance service. That continuation of the service award program LOSAP adopted and established by resolution at the Town of Highland on September 13 2004. As the next year to the resolution shall take place to meet me. Now. I did send the proposed resolution which I just finished a couple of days ago to the plan administrator. I don't suspect there to be any change or any problem but I suggest you go ahead and adopt now and then if they have any suggestions, we can always amend that later on. That's the resolution.

Okay. Moving forward. Do any of the Board Members have any questions for the town attorney on this? This is something we've been working on for quite some time now. It's pretty straightforward in changing from Eldred American Legion Ambulance to the Highland Ambulance. The plan is administered by the Town of Highland so it should be a pretty smooth transition we're hoping for they are satisfied with this resolution.

Town Clerk Roll Call vote:

Supervisor Haas: Aye

Councilman Bosch: Aye

Councilwoman Haas: Aye

Councilman Tambini: Abstain

Yes. So having three Ayes. Motion passes.

BUILDINGS

Councilman Bosch reports, we replaced the carpet in the Code Office. During the move one desk was severely damaged and that has been replaced with a new desk. Everything is fine.

BEAUTIFICATION/RENAISSANCE

Councilwoman Haas reports, we did receive notification from Katie Hartford at New York State D O T, and they have signed off on the permit for the Kate project. So, I'm just waiting to receive that in hardcopy. She said she was sending it in the mail.

PERSONNEL

No report.

WEBSITE/IT CONSULTING

No report.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

No report.

911 HEROES PARK

No report.

OLD BUSINESS

Dumpster for the highway shop. Nothing new, two quotes from different company's need to be obtained. We just have one from Thompson.

Motion by Councilman Tambini to go into Executive Session for mitigation personnel for purposes of litigation, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion carried all ayes.

Motion by Councilman Tambini to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion carried all ayes.

Town Attorney, Michael Davidoff reads the Resolution.

Resolution, which is authorizing the Town Board to retain Michael Davidoff to represent defendant The Town of Highland in regard to a lawsuit commenced by Marc Anthony plaintiff against Jeffrey Haas, Supervisor of the Town Board and Town of Highland. Kaitlin Haas and the Town Board in Town of Highland index number 82 2023 -260 Whereas a summons of complaint, dated and verified February 13 2023 was served on the Town of Highland on March 13th 2023, whereas said lawsuit who seeks various relief against the town of Highland. Jeff Haas, Supervisor of the town board of the Town of Highland, Kaitlin Haas of the town board of the Town of Highland and whereas necessary to retain legal counsel to defend the interests of the town with regard to the allegations contained in said lawsuit in regard to the various claims, whereas the Town of Highland town board is desirous of retaining Michael Davidoff represent and defend the town in addition to the summons of complaint has been forwarded to the town's insurance company. Now therefore it is resolved that follows all whereas paragraphs are incorporated herein by reference as those set forth and full herein section to the town board the town of Highland seeks to retain Michael Davidoff to represent and defend the town with regard to the lawsuit instituted by Mark Anthony against Jeffrey Haas Supervisor of the town board tonight. Kaitlin Haas of the town board in the Town of a Highland, Sullivan County index number 2023- 260 in the Supreme Court, and Michael Davidoff shall be compensated at the rate of \$20 to \$25 per hour and shall be reimbursed for any cost disbursement he incurs on behalf of the Town of Highland in connection with said action. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

Okay, you've heard the resolution. Some would like to move that. Councilman Fred Bosch makes the motion, seconded by Councilman Chris Tambini. Moved and seconded. Is there any discussion on the motion? Call for a vote. Town Clerk takes a roll call, let the record show that the roll call vote was unanimous.

Okay, moving on to the rest of the proposed resolutions. Okay, we have a motion in front of us to approve Town of Highland engineer Joseph Gottlieb to prepare an updated updated site plan in the amount of point \$200 That would be for the topo rendering as well as the salt shed and highway shop on our piece of property and also for the town engineer to provide us with plan for full stormwater pollution. And I'll read from that. Whereas the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Dec White Plains offices requiring the town to submit a full Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan the entire site including the town barn stockpile, area and Salt Lake has submitted an estimate to prepare an updated site plan and the amount of \$2,200 That's the survey with a maximum balance of an additional \$7,800 for this work plan. And the next proposal dated March 8 2023, and whereas the town of Highland town board does hereby accept the proposal and authorized you about LEED PE PC to prepare the updated site plan and sweatpant pursuant to the attached March 8 proposal, so we've got an additional \$7,800 there that he may need to spend total amount not to exceed \$10,000 for the rendering of the map as well as the swip plan so we can submit to the DEC as the last document that they need for our \$112,000 reimbursement on the last payment of the salt chef. So Would someone like to move that? Okay, that motion has been moved and seconded by Chris and Caitlin, that

we hired Joe to complete the rest of this work. All in favor All right. Well against and that's passed. Thank you. All right. As per to be highway superintendent, he's asked us to advertise for bids for crushed ledgestone and process gravel. Sealed Bids will be accepted at the highway shop at 719. State Route 55 out of New York, or mail to the town of Highland highway PO Box 66 over New York until 11am. On April 10 2023 a copy of the specs Rob you're going to put those out or do you want sue to put those out? Drop them off. Okay, we have we have one copy of the specs here. But Sue will make additional copies or Robbie got copies. Okay, so they can either pick them up from you or so and then to get them back at that time. On the motion. Would someone like to move that? Oh my god motion. Moved and seconded. To advertise for bids. All in favor? Aye. All against and that's passed. Okay. So, for the record, it's nine o'clock and I'm okay. Great. Thank you, Kaitlin. Motion to approve for all of us. We already did that one. Motion to approve the town board of withdrawing the designation of the River Report, no one's going to move that. Hearing that no one will move that that motion dies. Okay. I'll entertain a motion to approve the Steve Stolte to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and John Marciano Sr. as the alternate. Steve Stolte is a town resident has expressed interest in serving on any of our boards and we have room on our Zoning Board of Appeals as we have no alternates. John Marciano is somewhat sick and also winters in Florida. So, John would like to be moved from the sitting position to the alternate position. And Steve would move into the sitting position on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and he will take his classes as required by law. Oh my god motion. That's moved and seconded to move Steve Stolte as sitting Zoning Board of Appeals member and John Marciano as the alternate zoning board of appeals all in favor? Aye. Everybody votes aye. Because there's only three of us. Very good. So, all three of us voted aye. Thank you. Motion passes. Okay, a motion to approve Andy Boyer as a Litter Leader again for the Upper Delaware Council's annual cleanup. Andy, he came up with this. An incentive I guess it gives us a what would be called an incentive to clean up along the highways along Route 97 and other roads in the corridor. To keep the litter off of them and so on and so forth. It's a program that happens in the springtime, and each town adopts a litter leader. And since Andy came up with the idea, we've always adopted him to be the litter leader, and we'd like to do that again. So let her take that motion. I'll make that motion. Moved by Chris. Seconded by Fred. All in favor, aye. All against and that's passed. On? Okay. Sue wants to go to school., So it's a motion to approve town clerk Susan Hoffman to attend the So, on that motion, I'll move that. Do I hear a second? All in favor, aye. Fred, all right. All right. Then that's passed.

Motion to adjourn, all ayes