

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
OCTOBER 10, 2023  
ELDRED TOWN HALL

PRESENT           SUPERVISOR HAAS  
                      COUNCILWOMAN KAITLIN HAAS  
                      COUNCILMAN FRED BOSCH  
                      COUNCILMAN CHRIS TAMBINI  
Also Present,     Attorney to the Town, Michael Davidoff  
                      Susan Hoffman, Town Clerk

Supervisor call meeting to order – 7:03 pm

Flag Salute

Roll call – all present

**MOTION BY** Councilman Bosch to approve the September 2023 Town Clerks Minutes, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion, motion carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilwoman Haas to approve the September 2023 Financials, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion, motion carried all ayes.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Yulan Fire Department

Highland Lake Fire Department

Highland Ambulance Service

Resignation letter from Scott Reed, resigning as alternate to the Planning Board

Peter Carmeci of the American Legion regarding the Veterans Day Service

**HIGHWAY**

Supervisor Haas states the highway department has been out paving and Chip sealing our roads they've previously paved in last year to approximately six or seven miles of road, lane miles would double that. They are winding down their work season for this year. They will be concentrating on snow removal, which is be forthcoming very soon, probably. The highway department had a very busy year and they've accomplished a lot of projects. As of now there are no new updates in the delivery of the various trucks.

**SUPERVISOR**

Supervisors report we are into budget season, the board members have had the tentative budget in front of them for about a week and a half now. They've been perusing it and we will be scheduling our first Workshop for Thursday night at seven o'clock. Our workshops normally run between an hour to two hours. The budget tentatively stands at a 9.87% increase which will be paired by this board down to where the governor's 2% is acceptable. As I have done and this board has done for the past eight years, we've kept reasonable budgets so there's very, very little strain on our tax base. In we always try to match the rate of growth with the percentage increase in the budget. We are negotiating a highway contract. We will be negotiating that hopefully by the end of the month, then those numbers will be interjected into this budget also. Those negotiations will start after the 16th and negotiating team will be meeting with the union or the highway department and we will be moving forward for a contract.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

John Pizzolato asks: With the negotiating team that's doing the highway department. I'm just curious, why is it an outside team outside of the town board? You know, I was at the meeting a couple Fridays

ago where you picked Michael Davidoff. Supervisor Haas responds: in years past we've hired an Albay firm to do or negotiate with the highway department, they cost us a lot of money. Jimmy Gutekunst and Jimmy Hansen were the last ones to negotiate the highway contract with the Albany Law Firm that negotiated for us. Jimmy G felt like he was able to negotiate that and Michael Davidoff stepped forward he said I would like to be on a negotiating team too.

#### **COMMUNITY PLANNING SENIORS**

Councilman Bosch reports: The meeting went well and we had several candidates speak at the meeting.

#### **YOUTH & PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Councilwoman Haas/Councilman Tambini report: We made our second disbursement to our community partner Koinonia for \$10,000 to support the summer youth programs, the total expenditure for that program on the Town of Highland which did not include any taxpayer dollars was \$17,500. I did submit the paperwork for reimbursement from the county for the county's \$7,500 commitment and award through the youth program. They said our paperwork was so perfect that they use it as the example in the YouTube video on how to complete it.

#### **CODES**

No report

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

Councilwoman Haas/Councilman Tambini reports: Just a reminder that it's getting dark earlier, to watch for people and animals. Our emergency services hosted a touch a truck event over the weekend with the three local volunteer fire departments. I understand they had a really good turnout. That's a nice introduction to the voluntary emergency services which are so important to our town. This week is also Fire Prevention Week. The local departments as well as the ambulance corps will be participating at the McKenzie school tomorrow.

#### **GRANTS**

No report

#### **INSURANCE**

Supervisor Haas reports: This is a big bill. We negotiated it down and it's right in line with our budgetary earmark. We will be paying that this month for next year. We did minor modifications, and we did increase the value of the buildings slightly as per their recommendations. We are staying within the budget line.

#### **BUILDINGS**

Councilman Bosch reports: Michael Parker did an excellent job on the electrical room down at the courthouse for the walls and the ceiling. Herman Wyss came down and installed the ceiling light, emergency shutoff switch for the furnace in the basement.

#### **BEAUTIFICATION/RENAISSANCE**

Supervisor Haas reports: as soon as we hear from Karol we will start the cleanup of the flowers.

#### **PERSONNEL**

No report

#### **WEBSITE**

No report

#### **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

No report

#### **911 HERO'S PARK**

Peter Carmeci reports: We will be holding our Veterans Day Ceremony on September 11, in Hero's Park.

Councilwoman Haas talks about the fiscal stress designation and NYCLASS:

We can just give a review of what we did send out as a we did it as a press release. The state comptroller's office in created a rubric we submit information to, it standardized most of the towns, villages, the county school districts participate throughout the state and the information, which is all budgetary information, expenditures, balances risk is fed into the system. They then produce a fiscal stress score or rating based on the information that you've provided. For the second year in a row, so for 2021 we had a 0.0 score, which is no designation and 2022 we also had a 0.0 score no designation meaning that there's no fiscal stress impacting the town. This is based on the again the Comptroller's fiscal stress monitoring system. The information is their review of our 2022 annual financial report that we complete based on our budget, budgetary expenditures, account balances and revenues. It's something that we as a Board have focused very highly on, it is not bonding out things to be expensive for the future. Taxpayers, expending monies wisely, but while making sure that the essential services and supports are in place. The highway equipment replacement plan that we're on has us replacing the large vehicles and the small vehicles, a schedule that doesn't create increased maintenance needs, and expenses and provides our highway department with really safe and functional equipment to complete their jobs. It's a lot of work. We do spend a lot of time on the budgets and expenditures but it has been paying off, we've also stayed under the tax cap.

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**MOTION BY** Councilman Bosch authorizing the resignation of the Town of Highland Planning Board Alternate member Scott Reed effective immediately, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion, carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilman Tambini authorizing the budgetary transfer to the 2023 Town of Highland Highway Budget in the amount of \$18,332.52, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion, carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilwoman Haas authorizing the budgetary transfer to the 2023 General Budge in the amount of \$4,794.61, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion, carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilwoman Haas authorizing paying General Abstract #9-2023 claims #260-291 in the amount of \$58,498.03, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion, carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilwoman Haas authorizing paying Highway Abstract #9-2023 claims #83-95 in the amount of \$105,763.20, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion, carried all ayes.

**MOTION BY** Councilwoman Haas authorizing paying Eldred Street Lights #9-2023 in the amount of 116.53, seconded by Supervisor Haas, discussion, carried all ayes.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Peter Carmeci comments on the bad lighting at the Senior Center. Councilman Bosch will look into getting better lighting for safety reasons.

#### **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

**MOTION BY** Councilman Tambini to adjourn the October 10, 2023 Regular Town Board Meeting at 8:44 pm, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, motion carried all ayes.

Respectfully submitted

Town of Highland Town Clerk