

TOWN OF HIGHLAND  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
APRIL 11, 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  
Flag Salute  
Moment of Silence  
Roll Call all Members Present

**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**

Highland Ambulance Service  
Yulan Fire Department  
Highland Lake Fire Department

**SUPERVISOR REPORT**

I would like to thank the members of our local First Aiders in our fire departments on the horrible call that we had on Sunday night where a life was lost in the house. The members of all the departments and agencies worked flawlessly and tirelessly doing the best job that they could do in unbelievable circumstances to the outcome that came forward. And I know it's very trying and very hard for the volunteers to deal with things like this on a regular basis. And you can probably hear my voice how it's affected me. But the agencies that I'm talking about the Highland Ambulance Service, the Yulan Fire Department, the Narrowsburg fire department, Highland Lake Fire Department, Lumberland Fire Department, Welcome Lake, Beach Lake, Lake Huntington, White Lake, Port Jervis all came together to affect the outcome that we had and try to save what we could of the structure that was involved and the lives that were involved, heroic efforts were made. We do have wonderful, wonderful, wonderful volunteer services and emergency services in this community that have come forward. I'd like to thank them from the board on the job that they did. Thank you. Kaitlin, do you have anything that you would like to add as I was on vacation and you ran the last workshop. We have the resolution that's included to be reviewed, we did spend some time discussing that. We did not yet receive although it was granted the D O T permitting for the Kate project. They're supposed to be mailing us a hard copy we will have to

follow-up with Katie Harford and we did discuss at the workshop entering into an agreement with a company for a year's term for repeat inspection and repair of the heating system at the highway garage. Since the highway building was built there had not been appropriate attention to the management of that system. So, this company came in addressed an issue and then will maintain the system. The discussion amongst the board members at the workshop was that this was an emergency repair. They do come from quite a distance. It's a very specific system. But putting this contract in place would allow us some time to look for other alternatives that if there's a local alternative that we can find to service it after this term of the contract is completed.

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING/SENIORS**

Councilman Bosch reports that everything is going well. For the senior citizens meeting the people or one of the persons with a walker had trouble opening the door and not having assistance. It was tough to get assistance because everybody was inside and talking. Peter Carmeci suggested we install an automatic door opener, but being as frugal as we are, that would have cost \$3,000 or \$4,000 instead we've installed a speaker type doorbell system for \$63 to press one button, it'll ring inside right where a person sits and if you press the other one you can talk and I think that has solved the problem.

### **YOUTH & PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Councilwoman Haas/Councilman Tambini reports that we are going to have a planning meeting with our community partner Koinonia, we did get the draft of \_\_\_\_\_ invitation from Sullivan County Bureau to submit our grant proposal for this upcoming year. Last year we applied for \$15,000, we received \$10,000 from the county and \$10,000 from TC energy. We were able to provide a subsidized program for the summer. This year they are looking to extend it so it'll be the entire summer term. When the kids are not in school it will continue to be full day with the option for elite pickup. We will be reviewing the policies and procedures for the subsidies. Also, they did approach Lumberland about participation so that Lumberland could subsidize their youth to attend but Lumberland declined. They're going to continue to run their summer program in town hall. The printed materials will still read the Town of Highland are able to be subsidized by the town and everyone else will have to pay their rate that is set by Koinonia.

Anyone who's a resident/taxpayer in the Town of Highland will by their address be able to receive that subsidy. We are going to talk about extending into they've started an aftercare program on a small-scale aftercare program, and I think they're looking to expand that in the fall. So that'll be part of our discussion.

We had a pilot program that went pretty well. So, they are looking to expand that. Hopefully that's something we get involved with as well.

### **CODES**

Councilman Bosch/Councilman Tambini report that the Code Office is doing a really well and staying on top of everything and are very busy. First round of Short-Term Rentals went through already they're on their second round.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Councilwoman Haas reports just to echo what Supervisor Haas has indicated about the fire on Sunday evening and the tremendous I mean, I think their response time from when they left Yulan and to call it

on scene was maybe seven minutes, it was superfast and really gave the best opportunity for the best outcome possible, including our ambulance service working until they can rendezvous with mobile medic. These are all people who got up the next morning and reported to their regular lives and their jobs after having worked about 10 hours at an intense fire and worked together. We have a wonderful community, you really can't put a value on all the volunteer first response team that is as skilled as -----, people volunteer their time not just to respond to emergencies but to train for emergencies to train to work together. We're heading into the busy river season this is another you know an impactful season for the first responders upcoming and they've really kept on top of their skill set and we are very lucky to have them.

#### **GRANTS**

Supervisor Haas reports I have a letter from our consultants Laberge group asking about ARPA reporting. They are consultants handling our reporting for us. we will be dealing with that by the end of the month to show them where we spent the money and what we've done with the other unallocated funds. They need to know the obligated and expended funds by April 30.

#### **INSURANCE**

No report

#### **BUILDINGS**

Councilman Bosch reports that the termite re charging for the year has been done yesterday.

#### **BEAUTIFICATION**

No report

#### **PERSONNEL**

No report

#### **WEBSITE & IT CONSULTING**

No report

#### **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

No report

#### **RESOLUTIONS**

**Motion by** Councilman Bosch authorizing entering into an agreement with the Yulan Fire Department concerning providing for use of a portion of the Emergency Services Building of the Town of Highland, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** to authorize the replacement of the oldest pickup truck in the Highway Department fleet. A Quotation from Joe Basil Chevrolet, for the purchase of a 2024 Chevrolet Silverado 3500 HD, 4WD Crew Cab for the sum of \$66,985.00, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilwoman Haas authorizing amending designation to one of the town official newspapers, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilman Bosch authorizing bids for Crushed Ledge Stone and Processed Gravel from all bidders (6). Highway Superintendent Tom Ebers is to use the lowest bidders, if unable to do so, the Board will need a written explanation and verification as to why he could not use the lowest bidder, seconded by Councilman Tambini.

**Motion by** Councilman Bosch for Lawn Maintenance at payment set forth in the budget to begin mowing on May 15, 2022 and end mowing by October 15, 2022, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilman Tambini authorizing the Town Clean Up Day for May 20, 2023 from 8:00 AM to Noon at the Town Highway Garage, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilwoman Haas to pay Highway Abstract #3-2022, claims #23 to #35 in the amount of \$38,619.64, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilwoman Haas to pay General Abstract #4-2023, claims #87 to #113 in the amount of \$18,686.77, seconded by Councilman Bosch, discussion carried all ayes.

**Motion by** Councilwoman Haas to pay Eldred Street Lights #4-2023, claim #4 in the amount of \$126.84, seconded by Supervisor Haas, discussion carried all ayes.

Supervisor Haas states We are going to have to go into Executive Session for litigation matter. No business will be taking place in Executive Session. But it is a litigation matter. I'll entertain a motion to go into Executive Session for purposes of discussion of litigation. Motion by Councilman Tambini, seconded by Councilwoman Haas, discussion carried all ayes.

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

**Motion by** Councilwoman Haas to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Tambini, discussion carried all ayes. Meeting is adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Susan Hoffman Town Clerk  
April 11, 2023