

**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**  
**Mayor & Council**  
**Special Meeting**  
**August 5, 2015**

**Meeting Location: Highlands Elementary School, 360 Navesink Avenue, Highlands, NJ 07732**

Mayor Nolan called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

Mayor Nolan asked all to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. Cummins read through the following statement: As per requirement of P.L. 1975, Chapter 231. Notice is hereby given that this is a Special Meeting of the Mayor & Council of the Borough of Highlands and all requirements have been met. Notice has been transmitted to the Asbury Park Press and the Two River Times. Notice has been posted on the public bulletin board.

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: Mr. Card, Mr. Redmond, Ms. Ryan, Mrs. Kane-Wells, Mayor Nolan**  
**Absent: None**  
**Also Present: Carolyn Cummins, Borough Clerk**  
**Tim Hill, Borough Administrator**  
**Pat DeBlasio, Borough CFO**  
**Bruce Padula, Borough Attorney**

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**Resolutions:**

**R-15-164 – Resolution Extending the Lease between the BPA and the Borough until December 31, 2015**

Mrs. Cummins stated that we are adding Resolution R-15-164.

Mrs. Cummins read the resolution R-15-164 into the record.

**R-15-164**

**Resolution extending the lease between the BPA and the Borough until December 31, 2015**

Whereas, the Borough and BPA are parties to a lease agreement for the Clam Depuration Plan which expired on August 15, 2015; and

Whereas, the parties are in discussion concerning the expiration of the lease, each party asserting differing legal positions; and

Whereas, the parties wish to continue that discussion without affecting either party's rights or legal position, but while extending the expiration of the lease to December 31, 2015 and without changing any other term of the lease.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the governing body of the Borough of Highlands approves a lease extension until December 31, 2015 in substantially the form attached hereto and authorized the Mayor to sign the extension on behalf of the Borough.

	INTRODUCED	SECONDED	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
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CARD			x			
REDMOND			x			
RYAN			x			
WELLS		x	x			
NOLAN	x		x			
ON CONSENT AGENDA			YES	x	NO	

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**Public Hearing on the budget amendment Resolution R-15-149:**

Mayor Nolan opened the public hearing.

Mr. DeBlasio explained that we had a resolution to amend our 2015 budget. The reason for the amendment is because we received \$437,062 in State Aid.

Kim Skorka of 315 Shore Drive asked when tax bills will be sent out.

Mr. DeBlasio replied hopefully by next Friday. The due date will be extended.

Kim Skorka read a statement about the finance committee. It spoke of her concerns with only having eight committee meetings and that Mayor Nolan was absent from at least three meetings. She stated that Ms. Kane missed two meetings and was late for two. She further expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of communication. She feels the Mayor’s Town Hall meeting was properly advertised. She continued to explain other areas where there was lack of communication.

Barbara Ianucci of 28 Shrewsbury Avenue asked if the tax increase is still 2%.

Mr. DeBlasio explained that the overall rate will go up 3.5%. He explained that this included the school rates, county rate and local rate. He can’t attest to that until it is certified by the county within the next week.

Barbara Ianucci explained her opposition with the budget. She does not feel that proper due diligence was done. She also stated that she did not know about the Mayor’s Town Hall meeting. She feels we should not approve the budget.

Ed Iseman of 12 Leighton Court, Middletown spoke of the Clam Plant and stated that this is a source of revenue for the town.

Mayor Nolan explained that we have extended the lease to December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Paul Renner of 22 Barberie Avenue asked what it would cost if we go to court with BPA.

Mayor Nolan replied that it will depend on how long it goes on and what is involved.

Mayor Nolan closed the public hearing.

**R-15-163 – Resolution Adopting 2015 Municipal Budget:**

Mrs. Cummins read the title of R-15-163.

Mr. DeBlasio read the resolution R-15-163 into the record.

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**INSERT RESOLUTION R-15-163**

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**INSERT RESOLUTION R-15-163**

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Mr. Card added that he feels this is a travesty to the tax payers of the community to adopt this budget. He further explained.

Ms. Ryan stated that she appreciates the work done by the committee.

Mrs. Wells added that the finance committee did do their due diligence.

Mayor Nolan thanked Mr. DeBlasio.

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**Public Portion:**

Paul Ritter of 22 Barberie Avenue said he was told by a council member that the town would reimburse them for what they put into the Clam Plant.

Mayor Nolan asked who told him that.

Mr. Ritter did not want to say.

Mayor Nolan said that it is hearsay.

Mr. Ritter added that he has spoken to Ms. Kane.

Ms. Kane does not remember that conversation. She was not on the committee.

Mayor Nolan stated that he spoke with Kevin at the Plant and they spoke of capital improvements. He told him to bring it to the council table. This was two or three years ago.

Paul Ritter feels the town will take credit for what they have done.

Ed Iseman of 12 Leighton Court, Middletown, asked if this will be taken into account later.

Mayor Nolan stated that yes; it will be taken into consideration. Bring in all of your documentation.

Mr. Card explained that we extended the lease in the spirit of cooperation. He further explained. We want everyone to be successful.

Ed Iseman said this is like a farmer's co-op.

Mayor Nolan stated that our goal is to have a long term lease agreement and to have the local people working. He further explained that the people on the water should be the highest paid and the town is #2.

Jason Verity of Pineland, NJ, stated that he has been working at another plant for 9 years and has recently started at this plant. He feels that everything is going well.

Mayor Nolan asked about the other plant and how it is run.

Jason Verity responded that it is privately run.

Robert Ruddy of Middletown, NJ asked how December 31<sup>st</sup> was reached as the extension.

Mr. Padula stated that he felt we should do a six month extension.

Mayor Nolan explained that they want to see movement on both sides. The deadline will help to get things done.

Robert Ruddy feels there is a lack of meetings.

Mr. Card disagreed. He would meet every day if necessary. We need disclosure. We have asked for information and it has been slow coming. It took three weeks to get a copy of their By-Laws.

Mr. Card and Mr. Ruddy continued to discuss.

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Mayor Nolan agreed that many times that information was slow in coming. They are just trying to get an evaluation on the assets and long term assets on improvements.

Discussions continued with Mayor Nolan and Mr. Ruddy.

Ronnie Juntunen of Hazlet, NJ worked at the Brooks Plant for 13 years. The Baymen's Plant is so run differently. It is the fairest place.

Barbara Ianucci of 28 Shrewsbury Avenue commented on Kim Skorka's statement. She feels it was a good statement on behalf of the committee.

Kim Skorka of 315 Shore Drive added that she didn't say that she doesn't support the budget. She had a problem with the due diligence by the town.

Carolyn Broullon of 12 Miller Street asked about the Streetscape status.

Mr. Card said the schedule is being work out. It will be any day now.

Carolyn Broullon questioned if the lifeguard money can be used to paint yellow lines.

Mr. DeBlasio said yes. On November 1<sup>st</sup> we can do a budget transfer.

Mayor Nolan offered a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Redmond and all were in favor.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

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Debby Dailey, Deputy Clerk