

**Borough of Highlands  
Mayor and Council  
Workshop Meeting  
April 2, 2008**

Mayor Little called the Workshop Meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mr. Nolan, Mayor Little

**Absent:** None

**Also Present:** Nina Light Flannery, Borough Clerk  
Bruce Hilling, Borough Administrator  
Joseph Oxley, Esq., Borough Attorney  
Stephen Pfeffer, CFO

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**Executive Session Resolution:**

Mrs. Flannery read the following Resolution for approval:

Mr. Nolan offered the following Resolution and moved its adoption:

**RESOLUTION  
EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the following portion of this meeting dealing with the following generally described matters shall not be open to the public:

- 1. Contract Negotiations: HES, Seastreak, Unions; PBA & CWA, Depuration Plant**
- 2. Personnel: New Personnel Manual RE: Positive Drug Testing Results**
- 3. Real Estate: Shute Vacation on Shore Drive, Blight in Borough, Depuration Plant, Bridge Deeds**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that it is anticipated that the matters to be considered in private may be disclosed to the public at a later date when the need for privacy no longer exists; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that no portion of this meeting shall be electronically recorded unless otherwise stated; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the private consideration is deemed required and is permitted because of the following noted exceptions set forth in the Act:

1. Rendered confidential by Federal law or that if disclosed would impair receipt of Federal funds.

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2. Rendered confidential by State Statute or Court Rule.
3. Would constitute an unwarranted invasion of individual privacy.
- 4. Deals with collective bargaining, including negotiation positions.**
5. Deals with purchase, lease or acquisition of real property with public funds.
6. Related to setting of bank rates or the investment of public funds and disclosure could adversely affect the public interest.
7. Related to tactics and techniques utilized in protecting the safety and property of the public disclosure may adversely affect the public interest.
- 8. Related to investigation of violations or possible violations of the law.**
- 9. Related to pending or anticipated litigation or contract negotiations in which the public body is or may be a party.**
- 10. Falls within the attorney-client privilege and confidentiality is required.**
- 11. Deals with personnel matters of public employees and employee has not requested that the matter be made public.**
12. Quasi-judicial deliberation after public hearing that may result in imposition of a civil penalty or suspension or loss of a license or permit.

Seconded by Mrs. Burton and approved on the following roll call vote:

ROLL CALL:

AYES: Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mr. Nolan, Mayor Little

NAYES: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

The Governing Body then entered into Executive Session.

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Mayor Little called the Workshop Meeting back to order at 8:36 pm.

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present: Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mr. Nolan, Mayor Little**

**Absent: None**

**Also Present: Nina Light Flannery, Borough Clerk**

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**Bruce Hilling, Borough Administrator  
Joseph Oxley, Esq., Borough Attorney  
Stephen Pfeffer, CFO**

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**HBP Video Presentation:**

Carla Cefalo-Braswell, HBP introduced the HBP Video Presentation and explained the purpose is to use it as a marketing tool and investment tool to help attract new investments to Highlands. She stated that it will be updated once a year and will be available on the website shortly.

The Video Presentation then began.

When the video presentation concluded Mayor Little opened up to the Public for comments and questions.

Unidentified Man – who is intended to view this.

Mrs. Braswell explained that it would be on different websites and other intended locations which she further explained.

Connor Jennings – the best way to make this video shorter and sweeter is to remove all of blubs about the restaurants.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

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**Public Participation on Agenda Items:**

Mayor Little advised the public that the only item for public agenda portion is the payment of bills but there were no public comments for this item.

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**Workshop Meeting:**

**Kavookjian Field – T. Kavookjian**

Tom Kavookjian stated that he the HBP video was great. He spoke about Kavookjian Field located on Highway 36. He stated that a while back in 2004 in took a trip to the field and with aide being taken away from the State so as part of his family giving back they spoke about a Committee. So when Mayor O’Neil was involved we started to get something together and then some personal situations occurred and he had to take a leave of absence. In the past three months he has visited the field and he decided that he needs to get this going again. He spoke about the committee that was formed and he wants to see if we can do something. There is representation from Atlantic Coast Communication so there are a lot of people that are still here. He as spoken to local lumber supply houses that are willing to donate material to the town to build concession stands and restrooms. He spoke with local contractors in the area who are

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willing to donate their backhoes and equipment and labor to do the things that we need to do. The Committee has created By-Laws so we did everything that we needed to do and he is here tonight to say that he knows that we can do this. He spoke about renovating a beautiful field. He has had all of his family sign off on improvements to the property, so they want to dust this project off and try to do something. In the deed it states that should the town not prepare the field in a representable shape then the property reverts back to the family and they don't want the property. So he is here tonight to see if the Council will review the information that he gave them and hopes that this matter can be discussed further at the next meeting. He spoke about the history of Kavookjian field and his hopes for a beautiful field.

Mr. Caizza spoke about the people that were involved with the Committee and stated that he would like to see this move forward.

Chief Blewett explained that this committee kind of came to a halt with the previous council and the negotiations with the Communication Company. He thinks that the Council needs to take some action to get this moving.

Mayor Little – perhaps Councilman Nolan and Councilman Caizza could share this responsibility to have the two of them work on the Borough's responsibility.

Mr. Kavookjian stated that Chief Blewett was appointed as Treasurer to watch the money.

**Zoning Board Recommendations & Annual Report**

Mrs. Flannery stated that the Zoning Board has submitted their annual report and recommendations that they would like the Governing Body to address.

To: Mayor & Council  
Borough of Highlands

February 27, 2008

**RE: 2007 Zoning Board Annual Report &  
List of Recommendations**

Dear Mayor & Council:

Attached is a copy of the 2007 Zoning Board Annual Report which is a summary of all of the applications heard in 2007 and the board decisions made on those applications.

Below is a listing of recommendations for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance:

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1. Move the "Steep Slope" ordinance to the "zoning section" not design standards of our land use ordinance. Variances from the ordinance will require a "C" variance not a "Design Waiver".
2. Regulations for "re-habilitation facilities" and "sexually oriented businesses" should be within the "Zoning" ordinance since they affect land use.
  - a. A clear definition of terms used in the regulations for re-habilitation facilities and sexually oriented business should be established, with a minimum being those two specific uses.
  - b. A clear purpose for the regulations should be composed to give guidance to the Board as to the intent of the restrictions, which are established.
  - c. A review of the proximities of these uses to other facilities and zones need to be modeled to see if there are any permitted locations for these uses.
  - d. Parking Requirements for Re-habilitation facilities and sexually oriented businesses should be addressed.
3. With the intent of clarifying the difference between public (open enrolment) facilities vs. private and re-habilitation facilities, the definitions section of the zoning ordinance should include:
  - a. Athletic Club
  - b. Fitness Facility
4. There are new NJ DEP regulations for review and permitting of "regulated activities" within a "flood hazard area". These should be mentioned in the Flood Ordinance section of our zoning ordinance. For projects within the flood plain, evidence of applications to NJ DEP should be included in the site plan "checklist" requirements for applications to the Zoning and Planning Boards to insure appropriate commercial development within the CBD. Further study of the impact of these investigations on commercial development including: uses below the BFE, height of structures which provide parking below the structure, access by persons with disabilities - flood proofing methods, and the like, should be made by the Planning Board
5. The Borough Flood Administrator should review all applications for development, within the flood plain, prior to the application being directed to the Zoning or Planning

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Boards. With the benefit of this review, the applicant will present plans, which address all flood proofing requirements, and relieve the boards of interpreting laws established by NJ DEP or FEMA.

6. The following definitions should be reviewed:
  - a. Lot Width – currently there is no lot width requirement for corner lots. The Definition needs to be modified - “or in the case of corner lots, the mean distance between front and side yard”.
  - b. Lot Depth – currently there is no lot depth requirement for corner lots. The definition needs to be modified - “or in the case of corner lots the mean distance between front and side lot lines”. There may also be a need to determine which dimension is lot width and which is lot depth.
7. It would be appropriate to clarify to the intent of our ordinance with regard to access to buildings and structures in Section 21-77 PRINCIPAL BUILDINGS and STRUCTURES to include the clarifying text shown in brackets:
  - A. Every principal building or structure shall be built upon a lot with frontage on a public street. The principal building shall have access from that public street.

On behalf of the Zoning Board we thank you for your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Peter Mullen  
Zoning Board Chairman

cc: Planning Board

She then read through some of the recommendations such as the Steep Slope Ordinance being placed in a different location in the Zoning Ordinance.

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Peter Mullen, Chairman of the Zoning Board – explained the request to have the steep slope require a variance verses a design waiver.

Mayor Little stated that she does believe that the policy needs to be addressed and she is leaning towards moving forward with the recommendations and adding to that with additional work.

Mr. Nolan stated that the next two items on the agenda (Slopes & Valley St. Hill and Zoning, Master Plan, Utilities & Grants) we had some conversations in Executive Session tonight that we are going to come to with the list from the Zoning Board with one ordinance and so he does not want us to do several amendments he would rather do everything in one amendment.

Mr. Oxley stated that the most appropriate way to go about this is to get the recommendations from the Zoning Board to the Council then you can agree or disagree with those recommendations and he thinks that this items the Steep Slope can be done easily.

The Governing Body had a discussion the zoning amendments with Peter Mullen.

Mayor Little stated that Councilwoman Burton has been working on steep slope and the shade tree ordinance and perhaps that information should be shared.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation #2 to the Governing Body and the Governing Body discussed them.

Mrs. Burton agreed with item 2-a.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation 2-b but there were no comments from the Council and Mayor Little stated that it sounds like something that they could do.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation 2-c. but there was no discussion.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation 3 but there was no discussion.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation item 4and Mayor Little agreed.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation item 5 and the Governing Body thought that this was a good idea.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation item 6a and 6b but there were no comments.

Mrs. Flannery read recommendation item 7 but there were no comments.

Mr. Urbanski offered a motion to accept the Zoning Boards recommendations, seconded by Mr. Nolan and accepted on the following roll call vote:

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**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Mrs. Burton, Mr. Nolan, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mayor O'Neil  
**NAYES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

Mayor Little – I think that we are going to need to work on Steep Slope and then we are going to have to get back to the Zoning Board with regard to that.

**Slopes and Valley Street Hill – Robert Bucco, P.E., Borough Engineer Presenting**

Mr. Bucco explained that Council last year had an emergency sewer break and at that time the break was repaired we then came to slope stability concerns. Mayor and Council authorized PM K Group to do a subsurface investigation and they made recommendations for repair to that slope. After that the Council authorized T & M to prepare some proposals for Geo Technical Engineers to provide a design services based on PMK's report. The slope is still in bad shape and recently we were called out because there are some sink holes developing as a result of some drainage issued from the State Highway. So at that point he felt that it was necessary to bring this back to the attention of the Governing Body. It does need to be addressed and it would be his recommendation that the Borough go out again for cost proposals from Geo Technical Engineers to provide a cost to implement the recommendations based on PMK's report and move to get this stabilized. The first step would be for the Council to allow him to prepare an RFP for Professional Services Geo Technical services to provide him a cost to implement the PMK recommendations. Then we would receive bids and make a recommendation on what was the best proposal. We can go to state about this once we receive the RFP and try to negotiate with them.

The Governing Body had a discussion about this issue with the Borough Engineer.

Mr. Nolan offered a motion to authorize the Borough Engineer to move forward with this matter, seconded by Mrs. Burton and approved on the following roll call vote:

Mr. Caizza questioned the cost for the Borough Engineer to send out the RFP.

Mr. Bucco – about \$500 to \$600.

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES:** Mr. Nolan, Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mayor Little  
**NAYES:** None  
**ABSENT:** None  
**ABSTAIN:** None

**Zoning, Master Plan, Utilities & Grants – Mr. Nolan, Mr. Urbanski**

Mr. Nolan explained that he and Councilman Urbanski for the past three months have been looking at a few changes in town. They are also trying to make this a stimulus package and



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trying to get Wi-Fi and underground utilities going in town. We put in on tonight's agenda to kind of let everyone know what we are doing. He stated that nothing is set in stone and the entire Governing Body had copies of what they are doing and we are getting their recommendations and then we will send this to the Planning Board and Zoning Board. He hopes to have this presented at the first meeting in May.

Mr. Urbanski encouraged all of the Council to review the package and if there are concerns we can take it all in. Hopefully we will have a good document when completed.

Mayor Little – will the public have any input.

Mr. Nolan – sure, we had some input from the Board Members and we are going to send the documents back to the board. We are trying to save Attorney fees by presenting one package and present it to the public before any votes. He hopes to have the document ready for the public by the second meeting in May.

Mr. Urbanski stated that there would be a public portion at the Planning Board Meeting.

Mayor Little – the consensus is that we are going to allow this to move forward at the first meeting in May and hopefully soon after the public would have some document to review and then two weeks later they can comment on it.

**Mercantile License Regulations – Review & Recommendations**

Mrs. Flannery stated that she supplied the Governing Body with a copy of the current Mercantile License Ordinance in the meeting packets. We spoke at the last meeting about making some changes to the ordinance.

Mrs. Burton stated that she is interested in hearing what the Borough Attorney says about this ordinance.

Mr. Oxley – we are still researching that and certainly between now and May he anticipates having it. He then spoke about the work he has done so far on this matter.

Mayor Little – I think that it would be best if we waited for the recommendations from the Borough Attorney on this matter.

**Roadway Conditions: Highland Avenue & Willow Street**

Mayor Little – basically we have two separate issues here. Highland Avenue she thinks that we were looking at speed limits, speed bumps.

Mrs. Burton – she recommended that there were speeding problems and cross walks. Bruce was supposed to get speed limit signs up there.

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Mr. Hilling questioned Mr. Bucco about speed humps and if they were legal.

Mr. Bucco explained that there are speed tables and they are very effective which he further explained. Pros and Cons, it does work and slows the traffic down and if built in conjunction with the reconstruction of the roadway they will work very well. If you try to put them in without reconstructing the road you will have the ability for them to break up. The DPW expressed concern about the snow plows. The benefit outweighs the inconvenience. We are looking into obtaining funding for the reconstruction of Highland Avenue and he could submit something for this by June of this year.

Mayor Little – why don't we include the speed humps in with the application for the reconstruction of Highland Avenue.

The Governing Body continued to discuss speed humps being installed on Highland Avenue and Shore Drive with the Borough Engineer.

Mr. Bucco suggested that the Governing Body poll the neighborhood residents for their opinion.

Mayor Little – so is it the consensus of the Governing Body to put this on another meeting

Mrs. Burton wanted to know if there was a temporary solution for the safety concerns.

Mr. Bucco explained a temporary solution and the pro's and con's of it and discussed it with the Governing Body. Mr. Bucco did not recommend temporary ones.

Mayor Little – can we add some signage in the interim on Shore Drive and Highland Avenue.

Mr. Urbanski questioned if the bridge was going to cover the cost for Highland Avenue.

Mayor Little – she believes it to be 100% funding from the State. We need to come up with something for Highland Avenue for the interim.

Chief Blewett spoke about Highland Avenue and the speed limit being 25 miles per hour and he does not feel that people are speeding on Highland Ave.

Mayor Little stated that speed limit signs need to be installed.

The Council discussed speed limit signage.

Mr. Hilling – we will post the speed limit signs.

Mayor Little directed the Borough Administrator to buy some additional signs with the Chief and bring this matter back if there is no movement.

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Mrs. Burton requested “children at play” signs be also installed.

Mr. Bucco suggested that the Council discuss at the next meeting the T & M Proposal for Shore Drive resurfacing because there is a deadline of August 31, 2008 that it has to be awarded. He suggested that in order to get the Shore Drive Project moving he suggested that the Recycling Yard be separated from it and he stated that he would modify the Shore Drive proposal to include the traffic volume tables.

Mrs. Flannery stated this is scheduled for the next meeting.

Mayor Little stated that we should reach out to the people on Shore Drive and Highland Avenue which regard to the speed tables and get some public comment on that. She would like to do this at the next workshop meeting. She then directed the Borough Clerk to do a mailing the residents of Highland Avenue and Shore Drive. We will move the venue of that meeting to the Highlands Elementary School for that meeting.

Chief Blewett stated that he will put up the speed indicator up on Highland Avenue.

Mr. Pfeffer suggested that the he get the cost estimate from Mr. Bucco and move for a Bond Ordinance for Shore Drive at the next meeting.

Mayor Little offered a motion to authorize the CFO to prepare a bond ordinance for the next meeting for the Shore Drive project, seconded by Mr. Nolan and all were in favor.

**Willow Street**

Mayor Little stated that there were some complaints at a Planning Board Meeting with regard to the signs being faded.

Mr. Nolan – the complaint that people were making was that people weren’t stopping, the ferry traffic.

Chief Blewett – we did receive two complaints and we may need to look into making both streets stops.

The Governing Body discussed this issue with Chief Blewett. Mayor Little wants a recommendation for a solution for the residents down there.

Chief Blewett stated that he will have his traffic officer research this.

Mr. Nolan offered a motion to put a stop sign up, seconded by Mrs. Burton and all were in favor.

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**Policy RE: Borough Vehicles**

Mrs. Flannery stated that she put the current Borough Vehicle Policy in their meeting packets. She then read the following from the current policy: Municipal vehicles are to be used for official business only. Personal use of municipal vehicles is prohibited and shall be cause for disciplinary action. Only authorized Borough personnel or persons conducting business with the Borough may be transported in municipal vehicles.

Mrs. Flannery then stated that this issue was brought up at a prior meeting to toughen this policy up.

Mr. Oxley – I have done some work on a more comprehensive policy. Certainly the County did a very comprehensive policy and he would be happy to sit down and make changes to the Personnel Policy Manual with the Borough Administrator and then bring it forward to the Council.

Mayor Little – I think that this needs to be looked at.

Mr. Oxley suggested that this be another workshop item.

Mrs. Burton questioned if the Fire Chief car is different than a Borough car.

Mayor Little – I think that this policy needs to be looked at because what we have is a simply policy and there is no reference to where the vehicle needs to be parked and we should look at the County or other municipalities policy's. This should be discussed further at another Workshop Meeting. We should put this on the June Workshop Meeting for further discussion.

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**Committee Reports:**

**Finance**

Mr. Nolan – between the two school budgets it looks like a \$.05 increase. The vote is on for April 15<sup>th</sup> and he advises everyone to look at the budgets. He reviewed the High School Budget with Mrs. Burton and members from the board and he didn't see too much in there which he further explained. One other issue is the other car for the Police Department.

Chief Blewett – we have money in our Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund which a portion can be used to obtain equipment and we have enough money to buy a car. If we don't use it then they will look at our spending which may affect the future.

**Public Safety**

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Mr. Nolan – last week part of the new Command Center came in which is a plus. We have also been talking about a cell tower at Kavookjian and possibly at the Grammar School to help with some dead spots and the need to cover those spots for Police Communications.

Chief Blewett – the St. Patrick’s Parade went very well. The Neighborhood Watch has completed two Workshop Sessions with Municipal Alliance. In May our Department will have a meeting to asses our goals and objectives that we established three years ago and the Council and Neighborhood Watch will be invited to the meeting. Some of our equipment has been delivered and construction is coming along for the new dispatch room. He then spoke about the police arrest that were made last month. He also stated that they have been walking mostly every shift which is good for the community. There were a total of 619 calls for service last month.

Mr. Caizza stated that they are going to put up a new whistle at the new fire house in the next week or two.

**Department of Public Works**

Mrs. Burton thanked the DPW and Borough Administrator for all of their cooperation for getting ready for the parade and Spring time.

**Building & Housing**

Mr. Caizza stated that the Code Enforcer has picked up a lot and he thinks that he has improved over the past few months.

Mr. Nolan – we had more than two dozen applications for the part/time position.

**Parks & Recreation**

Mrs. Burton stated that all the parks have been cleaned and are ready for Spring. HBP has started the improvements to Miller Hill. Recreation, our tennis court net has been installed so the court is now open.

Mr. Hill – connecting sidewalks at the center he stated that DPW is moving along.

**Highlands Business Partnership**

Carla Cefalo-Braswell, HBP thanked everyone for their help with the St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

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**Payment of Bills:**

Mrs. Flannery stated that the Payment of Bills is available in the Clerk’s office for anyone wishing to review that.

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Mr. Nolan offered the following Payment of Bills and moved on its approval for payment:

**RECAP OF PAYMENT OF BILLS  
04/02/08**

<b>CURRENT:</b>		\$ 557,732.72
Payroll	(03/15/08)	\$ 126,987.76
Manual Checks		\$ 114,035.80
Voided Checks		\$
<b>SEWER ACCOUNT:</b>		\$ 19,693.35
Payroll	(03/15/08)	\$ 11,794.78
Manual Checks		\$ 4,226.38
Voided Checks		\$
<b>CAPITAL/GENERAL</b>		\$ 1,364.80
<b>CAPITAL-MANUAL CHECKS</b>		\$ 44,100.00
<b>WATER CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>		\$ 1,156.75
Manual Checks		\$
<b>TRUST FUND</b>		\$ 3,180.86
Payroll	(03/15/08)	\$ 1,780.00
Manual Checks		\$
Voided Checks		\$
<b>UNEMPLOYMENT ACCT-MANUALS</b>		\$
<b>PENSION FUNDS</b>		\$ 255,417.00
<b>DOG FUND</b>		\$
Voided Checks		\$
<b>GRANT FUND</b>		\$
Payroll	(03/15/08)	\$
Manual Checks		\$
Voided Checks		\$
<b>DEVELOPER'S TRUST</b>		\$
Manual Checks		\$
Voided Checks		\$

**THE COMPLETE PAYMENT OF BILLS IS AVAILABLE IN  
THE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR ANYONE THAT WISHES TO REVIEW THE LIST.**

Seconded by Mr. Caizza and approved for payment on the following roll call vote:

**ROLL CALL:**

**AYES: Mrs. Burton, Mr. Caizza, Mr. Urbanski, Mr. Nolan, Mayor Little**

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**NAYES:**     None  
**ABSENT:**    None  
**ABSTAIN:**   None

Mr. Pfeffer left the meeting for the night.

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**Public Portion:**

Roberta McEntee of 55-B Fifth Street questioned if there is any information about the grease traps that she has been asking about.

Mr. Oxley – the Council has asked me to look at this and he anticipates in the next month that he will come back with a comprehensive review and recommendations.

Roberta McEntee requested to know what the bow and arrows are of the ordinance.

Mr. Oxley and Ms. McEntee discussed the concerns with grease traps with the Governing Body.

Mayor Little suggested that the Borough Attorney reach out to Dave Palmara of the AHHRSA with regard to the Grease Trap Ordinance.

Roberta McEntee questioned the cost of a recent sewer problem with the Clam Plant. She also complained about the maintenance of the clam plant lot.

Michelle Pezzullo of 115 Highland Avenue in reference for the Geo Proposal for the Hill stabilization is there any way to recoup that back from the State since it's their drainage that is causing the problem. She questioned the reconstruction of Highland Avenue. She then spoke about the forged signature with regard to the Bridge Project.

Mr. Bucco explained that the \$500 to \$600 RFP cost as not being totally because of DOT's problems. With regard to reconstruction of Highland Ave means looking at Sanitary Sewer,

water mains, storm drains and contacting the utility companies. They will be replacing the sidewalks, curbs, the roadway which he further described.

Mayor Little spoke with regard to the falsifying the signature of our Borough Clerk and stated that it's a legal issue.

Mr. Oxley spoke about the deed with the forged signature in question and the recent press release on this matter.

Michelle Pezzullo continued to discuss the forged deeds and the ramifications for such forgery with Mr. Oxley.

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Mayor Little – the deed itself is a summary of the action of the Governing Body and if the action taken by the Governing Body was done correctly than the deed can be fixed and recorded properly but if the action did not take place here properly than we have a problem.

Pauline Jennings of 27 Ralph Street questioned the speed monitors for Highland Avenue and requested that the Borough make sure that they work properly because the one on Linden did not work properly.

Chief Blewett explained that it does not activate until the speed is exceeded.

Pauline Jennings questioned the purchase of a car that the Chief spoke about during the Committee Reports.

Chief Blewett explained the Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund and the purchase of a police car.

Pauline Jennings suggested that we use the DPW for more than just collecting the garbage.

Carla Cefalo-Braswell explained that there is a Clean Communities Grant for plantings in Highlands.

Connor Jennings of 27 Ralph Street spoke about the newspaper report today about the Borough Clerks forged signature and questioned if there wasn't a public hearing for the transfer then would that render the deed illegal.

Mr. Oxley – if there wasn't any public action then the deed itself is invalid and we are looking into that.

Maureen Kraemer of 200 Portland Road wanted to know if the Mayor received her letter today and wanted her response.

Mayor Little – we will look into that at the next meeting or you can contact the Borough Administrator.

Maureen Kraemer spoke about the forged deeds and wanted to know if the Borough is trying to stop any further bridge action. She said that the State owes the Borough Clerk a public apology.

Mayor Little – the Borough is concerned and will do what we can legally do.

Donna Callaghan of 29 South Bay Avenue – on March 24<sup>th</sup> she emailed Mayor Little and she didn't receive a response. This was about a letter she received from JH Reed and signed by DOT Project Engineer it says that the bridge construction is going to start soon. She also stated that the DOT has not come to inspect her house yet and she said that this inspection is just another over site of the DOT. She then expressed her frustration with the Council and the DOT. She then spoke about her neighbors sidewalk damaged that occurred and wants to know who is responsible. The DOT did not put additional signs up for the speeding on Route 36.



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Mayor Little – advised her that her sediments are noted for the record. She also advised the public if there are any problems to call the Borough Administrator.

Chris Francy of 36 Fifth Street questioned the bridge deeds and if the public dock and piece of land was deeded to Highlands by Twin Lights and it was not ours to give away to the DOT. He stated that the land is also an issue because it's historic in nature.

Mayor Little – I was not aware of that but as she recalls it the hearing was about the South Bay was made as public land as a park using green acres funds.

Mr. Hill – no, it's part of our recreation and open space inventory.

Mr. Francy – there needs to be a stop with the bridge until this stuff gets resolved.

Mrs. Burton spoke about the bridge going ahead with or without us and she spoke about how Highlands is invited to the meetings.

Mayor O'Neil – we are invited to the meetings but are not required to be.

Fran Benson of 30 S. Bay Avenue – reiterated with Ms. Callaghan that there has been no preconstruction inspections for the bridge project. She then expressed her frustration with the DOT with regard to the entire bridge project process.

Mayor Little explained the process and that she will take a look at what has newly been exposed and that we will do what we can legally do.

Lori Dibble of 32 Paradise Park commented on the Willow Street traffic safety and suggested that another stop sign be installed at the intersection of Willow and Locust Street. She also questioned the status of the Environmental Commission and the status of Dale Leubner giving the public a presentation about the new flood regulations. She also stated that there was a fire drill at Paradise Park and she was frustrated that the residents were never notified of this drill.

Rebecca Kane of the Highlands Fire Department stated that the Fire Department did write a letter to the residents and it was given to Mr. Bollerman for Mr. Coberg to distribute to the residents.

Mayor Little stated that the Environmental Commission will be addressed at the next meeting.

Larry Thornon of 88 Highland Avenue questioned the time frame for any roadway improvements to Highland Avenue. He also expressed his concerns with traffic safety and speeding.

Mayor Little explained the time frame to obtain state funds for roadway projects.

There were no further questions or comments from the public.

**Borough of Highlands  
Mayor and Council  
Workshop Meeting  
April 2, 2008**

Mr. Nolan offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Urbanski and all were in favor.

The Meeting adjourned at 11:15 P.M.

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**CAROLYN CUMMINS, DEPUTY CLERK**

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