



BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS
MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 7:00 PM

Borough Updates from November:

- **New Website Address** – Reminder that our new website address: www.highlandsnj.gov
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 34; Fire = 24; Police = 620
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 5; Warnings = 3; Reports = 18; Inspections = 15; Permits = 10; OPRA = 5
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 71; Passed = 53; Failed = 11; Not Ready = 1; Permits issued = 37
- **Grants** – Awarded amount so far in 2024 is \$1,980,410
- **Borough Events** – Tree Lighting Friday 12/6 at 6pm; First Aid Squad Santa Run Sunday 12/8.
- **Referendum #1** – Floodwall Question was defeated by 77% of the electorate [Yes = 579, No = 1,959]
- **Referendum #2** – Regionalization Question to continue was approved by 86% [Yes = 2,510, No = 360]
- **Assessments** – The 2025 preliminary assessment is \$1,422,507,600, up over \$260 million from 2024.

Current Project Updates – Dates are weather permitting

- **REPI Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Design & Permitting** - US DOD grant, pre-construction documents submitted, working on vegetative list Grant = \$219,676. Permits have been submitted and are expected by end of 2024.
- **Portland Road Drainage Improvements** – DOT grant \$261,900. Awarded 10/6. Working to resolve conflicts regarding depth of gas lines with NJNG.
- **Asset Activation James T. White Clam Plant** – NJEDA Grant for \$50,000 for planning upgrades, awarded 10/16.
- **US DOT Safe Street & Roads for All** – Comprehensive transportation safety action plan for the entire Borough spanning 28 months by the County, \$1,475,000 total cost, Fed grant = \$1,180,000 + County grant = \$295,000.

Planned Projects for 2025

- **Overlook Park Creation [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k
- **Frank Hall Park Updates** – We received the Monmouth County Open Space grant for \$86,000.
- **Jones Creek Dredging** – DEP approved 7/31/24, the County will complete, waiting for dates.
- **Marine Pl Elevated Walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,000.
- **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Sidewalks from Waterwitch to Willow. DOT \$284,
- **Washington Avenue Paving** – Mill & pave of Washington Ave from Marine Pl. to Cheerful Pl.

Grants won – projects to be permitted & awarded

- **Linden, WW, Bay & Snug Harbor** – Estimated \$1.7 Million project to improved Drainage on these roads \$1.3 Million from DOT Local Aid. Waiting for DEP approval of the project.
- **Grand Tour Drainage Improvements** – Project estimate \$1.7 million, Grant \$217,456.

Grants waiting to hear back

- **2022 FEMA BRIC** – Combines flood mitigation and green infrastructure. In pre-award stage while Environmental Assessment [EA] ongoing, once EA completed [around March 2025], final DEP review will begin. Project = \$16,205,280; Grant = \$12,193,960.
- **Reconnect Communities** – Planning grant elevated walkway, Waterwitch to Kavookjian. Submitted for \$111,780.
- **American Firefighter's Grant** – New radios for the FD, submitted for \$160,725.
- **American Firefighter's Grant** – Pump Truck for the FD, proposal for grant writing submitted by Colliers.

Community Rating System [CRS] Update

We continue the CRS Certification process and work with property owners in the flood zone to build resiliently. Floodplain Town Hall workshop, watch it here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_xlr6_ff-Q
Floodplain Design Guidelines can be found here: bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline