



**BOROUGH OF HIGHLANDS**  
**MAYOR'S MONTHLY REPORT**  
151 Navesink Avenue, Highlands NJ 07732  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025, at 7:00 PM

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Borough Updates from January:

- **Utilities** – The Administration met with New Jersey American Water on 1/30 to discuss upgrades to our infrastructure and future upgrades. We provided information on problem areas around town.
- **Shadowlawn AINR** – The Conditional Redeveloper signed the Interim Agreement & provided escrow on 1/6.
- **Captain's Cove AINR** – The Land Use Board hearing on possible condemnation was postponed for now.
- **Bay Avenue AINR** – The Council appointed the owner of 289 Bay as the Conditional Redeveloper on 1/15.
- **Emergency Services** – Calls answered: First Aid Squad = 38; Fire = 15; Police = 619
- **Code Enforcement** – Summons = 6; Warnings = 6; Reports = 10; Inspections = 22; Permits = 8; OPRA = 4
- **Building Department** – Inspections = 64; Passed = 47; Failed = 8; Not Ready = 2; Permits issued = 36

Current Project Updates

- **Portland Road Drainage Improvements** – DOT grant of \$261,900 was awarded 10/6. NJNG relocation work to be completed in Feb. Contractor started work 1/20 work should be complete by May, weather permitting.
- **Asset Activation James T. White Clam Plant** – NJEDA Grant of \$50,000 for planning upgrades, due 4/18. Scheduled the Public Discussion for 2/5 in Other Business at the Council Meeting. Please participate in our online survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ClamPlant>

Planned Projects for 2025

- **Marine Pl Elevated Walkway East [Sea Drift]** – Monmouth County CDBG grant \$167,000. Bid open 2/27.
- **Washington Avenue Paving** – Mill & pave of Washington Ave from Marine Pl. to Cheerful Pl. To bid 2/21.
- **Shore Drive Pedestrian Safety Improvements** – Waterwitch - Willow sidewalks. DOT \$284,000. To bid 2/21.
- **Frank Hall Park Updates** – Survey & concept plan in works. MCOS \$86,000. Will be bid with Overlook to maximize potential cost savings. Going out to bid soon.
- **Overlook Park Creation [empty lot on NJSH 36]** – Construction docs near finished. MCOS \$148k + DCA \$74k
- **Jones Creek Dredging** – DEP approved 7/31/24, the County will complete, waiting for dates.
- **REPI Living Shoreline & Bulkhead Design & Permitting** - US DOD grant OF \$219,676, permits are approved by DEP. Submitted to Army Corps. After ACE approval, looking to submit for the grant for implementation.

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 to go out to bid.
- **Grand Tour Drainage Improvements** – Project estimate \$1 million, Grant \$217,456. Need to survey the area.

Grants waiting to hear back

- **2022 FEMA BRIC** – Combines flood mitigation and green infrastructure. In pre-award stage now while Environmental Assessment [EA] is ongoing, once EA is completed [around March 2025], final DEP review will begin. Project = \$16,205,280; Grant = \$12,193,960.
- **American Firefighter's Grant** – Pump Truck for the FD, proposal for grant writing submitted on 12/20.
- **T-Mobile Hometown Grant** – To fund the sculpting and installation of a statue honoring Captain Joshua Huddy, a local American Revolutionary War hero. The proposed installation will be located at Huddy Park in Highlands, just 150 feet from where Captain Huddy was hanged in 1782. Should hear by the end of May.

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](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_xlr6_ff-Q)  
Floodplain Design Guidelines can be found here: [bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline](http://bit.ly/CBDFloodplainDesignGuideline)