

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, May 12, 2008

PRESENT: Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Brian Johnson and Douglas Cropper, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris (Trustees Robin Andrews and Barbara Sagal were absent), and Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons was absent).

MOTION to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve Treasurer's Report made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #12, Water Abstract #12, Sewer Abstract #12, Library Abstract #12, T&A Abstract #12, Summit Heights Operations Abstract #5) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Sherry Ritchie thanked the board, the police and the many organizations that work so hard to make the village of good place to live, however...there are a few areas that need attention. She had several complaints...people actually urinating on Main Street by the Car Wash and Scoops, and feels that the Village is being overloaded by Welfare recipients that have no respect for the property of others. She felt the Community needed to learn to work together again for the good of the village and the village needs to come down on welfare landlords to keep their tenants in line. People need to be fined and tickets need to be issued. In summary she felt the "disgusting" behavior needs to stop.

The Mayor noted that he feels that getting a neighborhood watch program up and running again will be a priority. OIC Doyle is willing to assist any way he can. He feels it would be helpful to have more "eyes" to report problems. Ms. Ritchie wanted it known that Video Cameras are now installed at the car wash and the surrounding area and she will be recording the activities of anyone on her property. An inquiry was made about the crosswalk on Main Street. The Village is waiting for NYS DOT to paint the lines. It was also noted that the "kid problem" on lower Main Street is becoming an issue again and suggested more "walking" and "bicycle" patrols by police. Trustee Cropper noted that these quality of life issues need to be examined. He noted that he along with the Mayor will sit down with OIC Doyle and examine what can be done. Sherry Ritchie assured the board that she is not complaining about the police and feels that they do a good job but realizes that they cannot be every where. She said she would like to be involved in the neighborhood watch program. Matt Perry noted that there are "nuisance laws" in other communities that penalize the owner of a property with a "point system" when they break the laws – felt it was something to look into.

There was a complaint regarding kids playing basketball in the street with basketball hoops set up on the sidewalks. He asked the police to “crack down” on this practice considering the danger to the kids playing in the street.

Henry Casivant said that if he should need a tenancy inspection he does not want to go to either building inspector Koloski or Callahan for the inspection because he does not want them on his property and he feels they are not ethical. After much discussion on Mr. Casivant’s part, the Mayor told him that the village had no plans on hiring a “special inspector” just to inspect his properties, so he had only the two inspectors to choose from. For other charges made by Mr. Casivant, the Mayor noted that these issues would have to be brought up to the court or the police and not the village board. Mr. Casivant wanted it noted for the record that he did not want Mr. Koloski or Mr. Callahan on his property.

Dolores Gallagher, new Recreation Co-Director of the Community Center introduced herself and requested that the board consider fund raisers to replace some of the broken equipment as well as providing supplies for crafts, etc. She suggested a “Harlem Wizards” benefit basketball game. She is looking at the week of October 20th for scheduling the event. It will cost \$1200.00 down and 50% of the ticket sales. She noted that a \$300.00 deposit must be paid to hold the date. There also may be a room fee for the team and a fee for the use of the Taconic Hills gym. She will await the board’s decision. She also reported that she has many more ideas for fund raisers and has pledged to work for the kids to keep them off the street. In order to do that they need games and programs to interest them. (note – an audience member agreed to donate a game table and a basketball hoop). She also complained that the DPW was not picking up the garbage at the center. She stated that there are four garbage cans up there and that only encourages people to bringing their house garbage there. She suggested that two of the cans be removed and the other two be emptied every week. The Mayor praised Ms. Gallagher's enthusiasm. He noted that the board will consider the “Wizards” benefit and let her know. She requested that the village write a letter asking businesses for \$100.00 for the fund raiser. (Clerk is not sure how legal this is and will check with attorney...she may have to go through the LDC or the Friends of Library group as they are non-profits and not government entities).

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:

1. The Village Office will be closed on Monday, May 26th for Memorial Day.
2. The annual village taxes will be mailed on June 1st for the fiscal year 6/1/08-5/31/09.
3. Water turn-off is scheduled for June 12th for those still owing their January, 2008 water/sewer bills.

DPW/WA/SW REPORTS:

Reports given by Trustee Johnson. Copies are available in the Village Office for review

He thanked the Town of Claverack for the use of their backhoe while the Village's was being repaired.

At this point Henry Casivant inquired about being charged sewer for a leak he had at one of his properties. The Mayor noted that he would pay for whatever goes through his meter.

POLICE REPORT:

Report was given by OIC Vernon Doyle. A copy is available in the Village Office for review. He addressed issues brought up by Ms. Gallagher (sex offender, neighborhood watch, community center patrol, bicycle safety course). He also addressed Ms. Ritchie's complaints about the car wash area and will pass on their concerns to the other officers.

It was also noted that there were many kids riding bikes without helmets and the police were asked to stop them and remind them of the "helmet law".

LIBRARY REPORT:

Report was given by Matt Perry. A copy is available in the Village Office for review.

TRUSTEE ANDREWS:

Her report was read by Trustee Cropper. A copy is available in the Village Office for review.

MAYOR SPEED:

Stated that he attend a "Main Street" meeting in Hyde Park at the FDR Library and noted that he "starred" in a "Main Street" movie!!! He said the meeting was interesting and informative. He also noted there were several meetings coming up. He also reported writing letters and signing many necessary papers. He pledged to get the neighborhood watch up and going again.

TRUSTEE JOHNSON:

Reported he is working on having the lights at the ball field repaired and attended Summit Heights meeting.

TRUSTEE CROPPER:

Nothing new to report...ongoing projects.

CORRESPONDENCE – LIST PROVIDED FOR THE AUDIENCE

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **MOTION** to appoint Karen Garafalo to the Philmont Local Development Corp. Board made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Dolores Gallagher along with Cari Naftali as Recreation Co-Directors at a rate of \$10.00 per hour each with a maximum of 10 hours per week each made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to schedule an end-of-year meeting for the purpose of paying all end of year bills for May 28, 2008 at noon at the Village Office made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
4. **MOTION** to renew the lease for the office copier for a 3-year term ending May, 2011 made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

John Blaauw asked when the back parking lot would be cleaned up. Trustee Johnson said he will have the men schedule it. Mr. Blaauw also noted that there has been no progress on the Rescue Squad situation and he is tired of the meeting room being used as a bedroom. He feels that the board needs to start pushing the rescue squad. The Mayor suggested one more “final” meeting with both groups. Trustee Johnson will contact Rick Tracey (Rescue Squad) to set up a date and he will let the Mayor and John Blaauw know.

It was decided that a property clean-up solution will be studied. The Mayor will check the laws already on the books. Matt Perry noted that the “point system” law is being used in Hudson Falls if a sample is desired. Also, Delores Gallagher expressed an interest in joining the Neighborhood Watch Program and will speak to OIC Doyle.

MOTION to adjourn in memory of Mickey Babjeck and Clarence Wildermuth made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris
Clerk/Treasurer