

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2009

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Barbara Sagal, Douglas Cropper, Robin Andrews, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris

(Mayor Clarence Speed – in Aruba with “Flat Henry”).

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

MOTION to approve treasurer’s report made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #9, Water Abstract #9, Sewer Abstract #9, Library Abstract #9, T&A Abstract #9, Summit Lake Abstract #9) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

BID OPENING – WOOD CHIPPER

(One Bid Received)

NYNE Equipment dba Vemeer Northeast.....\$ 27,500.00

(less 3 months of rental payments made due to ice storm urgency)

MOTION to accept the bid made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

At this time Al Wassenhove spoke to the board and audience in reference to the Pine Haven Nursing Home moving out of the Village. He noted that this is the “kick-off” campaign to keep Pine Haven in Philmont. He feels strongly that fighting for this is the right thing to do. He noted that he has petitions at 19 locations and people lining up to help with the project.

He thinks the right thing for the Columbia County Board of Supervisors to do would be to renovate/rehabilitate/restore and if necessary add on to the current building which is located on 40 acres of land. It was also noted that the Philmont Rescue Squad will be negatively impacted if this closing takes place. It could very well put the Rescue Squad out of business. The Philmont Rescue Squad’s response time for the area is 4 minutes...other responders can take up to 15 minutes to reach Philmont. The Village cannot afford to loose the Rescue Squad. Mr. Wassenhove also addressed the “down-side” for the Valatie area as well. Their water/sewer system will be threatened. It is also possible that the stability of the Barnwell Health Facility will be in jeopardy. He felt that overall it was a very bad decision and urged residents to fight with him to keep Pine Haven in Philmont.

Deputy Mayor Johnson noted that Trustee Andrews and Trustee Cropper have been designated as Village representatives for this issue and will attend all meetings in reference to the situation.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Robert Macfarlane complained about the number of unshoveled sidewalks and asks that the police start ticketing those who are not obeying the law that is on the books. He feels that walking in the village is dangerous and that the board has not been active enough in enforcing the local law requiring that sidewalks be cleared of ice and snow within 24 hours of completion of a storm. He said those people on Main Street that have their sidewalks plowed by the Village need to “finish” the job and clear off what is left there before it turns into ice. Mr. Oakley also complained about the sidewalks, especially the abandoned Hilltop Hotel property. Trustee Sagal suggested that they contact the realtor (sign on the property) to complain about the situation. OIC Doyle addressed the snow situation noting that several warnings were given out...Deputy Mayor Johnson instructed the police to start issuing tickets to the offenders, as he felt the time for “warnings” was over. OIC Doyle will notify his officers.

Brian Wheeler complained about neighbors feeding stray cats, and allowing them to rip open garbage bags. The same neighbors walk their dog and allow it to “dirty” the front of his apartment and the stairs leading to it. OIC Doyle noted that these people have been “spoken to” and suggested that Mr. Wheeler come to court on Thursday night and sign a complaint as a witness.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:

No report with the exception of on-going projects.

CLERK/TREASURER:

Reported that the Village Office will be closed on Monday, February 16th for President’s Day. She also reported that water turn-off is scheduled for March 12, 2009 for those still owing their October, 2008 water/sewer bills.

DPW/WATER/SEWER:

All reports given by Deputy Mayor Johnson. Copies are available in the village office for review.

POLICE REPORT:

Report was given by OIC Doyle. A copy is available in the village office for review.

LIBRARY REPORT:

Report was given by Interim Director Karen Garafalo. A copy is available in the village office for review.

MAIN STREET COMMITTEE:

Trustee Robin Andrews noted that there was no meeting in January and the next meeting was scheduled for February 16th to discuss Community Day.

LDC:

Trustee Robin Andrews reported that 2009 Goals, Philmont Clean-Up Day and the 2009 Business Networking Social (to be held at Pine Haven) were discussed at their last meeting.

PHILMONT COMMUNITY CENTER:

A report was prepared by Director Mathew Perry. (Report was not available)

MAYOR SPEED'S REPORT:

(On Vacation) Left word that He and Flat Henry (and Winnie) were at the beach and all were having a nice time.

TRUSTEE CROPPER:

Reported that he is working on the changes to the Emergency Preparedness Plan. He also reported that all is fine at Forest Lake.

TRUSTEE SAGAL:

Noted that she attended an "Educational Artistic" meeting which hopes to offer programs to the 16 to 22 age group. She said that it is still in the planning stages and could possibly turn into a mentoring program similar to the type that is operated by Timothy Smith (stone works). She also reported that she attended the Library Board Meeting.

TRUSTEE ANDREWS:

Noted that she *also* attended the "Educational Artistic" meeting. She also met with Habitat for Humanity. She voiced her concern about the price of turning the ball field lights on. It was very expensive because of the "surge charge" to turn them all on at once. She wondered if it would be cost effective to install four separate switches to turn the lights on which would mean less of a "surge charge". The cost of turning the lights on is discouraging anyone from using the field (softball, etc.). Deputy Mayor Johnson suggested this be discussed further at the workshop meeting.

TRUSTEE (DEPUTY MAYOR) JOHNSON:

Reported that he will continue to urge the DPW to keep “chipping” away at the brush. He noted that the weather has not been cooperative and asks that the residents be patient and eventually the brush will be chipped up and taken away.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST – PROVIDED TO AUDIENCE

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **MOTION** to authorize Mayor Speed to renew a 10-year license to the American Legion for parking purposes on Village property adjacent to the American Legion Hall made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

2. **MOTION** to appoint Ian Nitschke as custodian for the Village Election to replace Laura Smith who is unable to serve as custodian this year made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

3. **MOTION** to appoint Kurt Basl as election inspector for the Village Election to replace Phyllis Nichols who is unable to serve as inspector this year made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

4. **MOTION** to appoint Renee Maxwell as temporary fill-in and back-up for programs at the Philmont Community Center at a rate of \$10.00/hour for hours worked made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

5. **MOTION** to enforce the Water Termination Law for those properties still owing the October, 2008 water/sewer bill with turn off scheduled for March 12, 2009 made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

6. **MOTION** to reappoint the following:

Judith Tice – Member of the Philmont Planning Board – Term to expire 3/1/2014

Mary Prazma – Chair of the Philmont Planning Board – Term to expire 3/1/2010

Karen Garafalo – Member of the Philmont Zoning Board – Term to expire 3/1/2014

Nancy Brousseau – Chair of the Philmont Zoning Board – Term to expire 3/1/2010

Made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Andrews. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

7. **MOTION** to officially oppose the closing of the Pine Haven Nursing Home in the village of Philmont. We, as a board, feel that it would be a tremendous hardship to the Village and to our residents not only in the loss of water/sewer revenue, but in the loss of convenience for those many residents who are employed by Pine Haven. Closing Pine Haven will be a blow to the

community and to the economy of the surrounding areas. We ask that the Columbia County Board of Supervisors consider the impact this decision will have on their constituents in the Philmont area. **MOTION** is made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper. **ALL AYES, NO NAYS.** (copy to be mailed to Columbia County Board of Supervisors, Town of Claverack Board, and Register Star Reporter Jamie Larson).

8. **MOTION** to appoint Patrick Mayo as a part-time police officer replacing the vacancy left by the resignation of William Michael made by Trustee Andrews, seconded by Trustee Cropper. **ALL AYES, NO NAYS.**

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Deputy Mayor Johnson agreed that there was a “stray cat problem” in the village. It was suggested that he contact the Animal Control Officer. Trustee Andrews also said she will speak with Mindy Gardner (animal rescue).

Richard Osbourn inquired about the progress on recent generator thefts and other break-ins around the village. OIC Doyle noted that most were being handled through the Columbia County Sheriffs’ Department and he will check on the progress.

MOTION to adjourn in memory of **Evelyn Robertson, Donald Johnston and Florence Hawver** made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. **ALL AYES, NO NAYS.**

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris

Clerk/Treasurer