

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010 – 6:30 PM

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Barbara Sagal, Douglas Cropper, Laurence Ostrander, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Attorney Anthony Buono, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris (Mayor Speed-on vacation).

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

MOTION to approve treasurer's report made by Trustee Cropper, 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, Library Building Abstract #10) made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

BID OPENING:

- 1 – Knapheide Truck Body: (One Bid Received)
Unicel - \$4,085.00
- 2 – Truck Cab & Chassis: (No Bids Received)

It was decided that no award would be made at this time and the purchase of a vehicle will be discussed further at the workshop.

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Robert Macfarlane felt that the “sidewalk shoveling law” was not being enforced and he also complained about the lack of fairness because the village shoveled the Main Street sidewalks and everyone else in the village is responsible for their own sidewalks. He felt that the people on Main Street should also be held responsible for their own shoveling rather than having the village do it. Deputy Mayor Johnson noted that the situation would probably not change, and that it all started when there was such a build up of ice and snow on Main Street sidewalks due to the Columbia County plowing practices. Mr. Macfarlane noted that the village often plows from curb to curb as well and covers sidewalks that have already been shoveled yet the resident/owner is responsible for clearing it off (again) and does not have the luxury of having the Village do it. Brian Wheeler noted that he usually shovels his own sidewalk (on Main Street) but has had issues with the County coming through Main Street and recovering it. Deputy Mayor Johnson said that it will be discussed further at the workshop, and he would speak to the police about enforcing the “shoveling” law.

Brian Wheeler reported that people **STILL DO NOT STOP** at the crosswalks on Main Street. He inquired with the NYS DOT and was told that the Village would have to send a request for crosswalk signs on the village letterhead and the request would be processed. Deputy Mayor Johnson will handle the situation.

Bill Blaauw stated his concern for the safety of the village police officers, as they still are not wearing safety vests during traffic stops, accidents, etc. He assumed that these vests have not yet been provided to the department. He felt strongly that the vests be purchased and worn by the officers for their safety. He also expressed concern about the lack of a carbon monoxide detector in the fire/rescue rooms. He noted that the furnace is located there and the vehicles are stored there and rescue squad personnel sleep there. This combination makes for a dangerous situation without a carbon monoxide detector in the quarters. He also noted that when the fire alarm goes off in the municipal building it is not connected anywhere else such as 911.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:

No report – deferred to Attorney Buono

ATTORNEY BUONO:

Gave a progress report on the fire protection contracts with Hillsdale and Claverack. It was noted that the amounts were computed incorrectly (on *full* assessed value instead of *taxable* assessed value). It was decided that the board would go into executive session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss the situation.

CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:

- * Water/sewer turn-off notices went out today to 39 accounts that have not yet paid their October, 2009 water/sewer bill. Water turn-off is scheduled for March 10, 2010.
- * The village office will be closed on Monday, February 15th for “President’s Day”.
- * Still in need of budget proposals from a few departments. I will set up a workshop after numbers are received.

DPW/WATER/SEWER:

Reports provided by Supt. Michael Scheller and given by Deputy Mayor Johnson. Copies are available in the village office for review.

POLICE:

No report – no officer available

LIBRARY:

Report was given by Interim Director Karen Garafalo. Copies are available in the village office for review. (Reported on the progress of the building addition, story time and soup sales.)

COMMUNITY CENTER:

Report was provided by Renee Maxwell and given by Trustee Ostrander. A copy is available in the Village Office for review. (Reported on building and grounds, programs and activities including attendance).

MAYOR SPEED:

No Report – on vacation

TRUSTEE CROPPER:

Reported that he provided press releases to the Register Star from last month’s meeting (appointment of Laurence Ostrander as Trustee and the “Thank You” to Mr. & Mrs. Wassenhove). Noted that he delivered the Emergency Preparedness Plan to Columbia County Emergency Management. He also has been checking Forest Lake on a regular basis and all is fine. He has worked on the Union Contract and on concerns of residents on several matters.

TRUSTEE SAGAL:

Called NYSEG regarding two (2) street lights that were not working. She noted that anyone can report street lights out by going to NYSEG.com.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:

Reported that he helped Karen out at the Library with paint and for the most part is still learning the ropes.

DEPUTY MAYOR JOHNSON:

Reported that he has been working on finding a new truck for the DPW and noted that repairs have been made to other trucks.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST – PROVIDED TO THE AUDIENCE

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

1. **MOTION** to take action against delinquent water/sewer users who still owe the October, 2009 bill made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Nancy Brousseau as a member of the Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals for five (5) years (term to end March, 2015) and as Chairperson of the

Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals for one (1) year (term to end March, 2011) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

3. **MOTION** to appoint Mary Prazma as Chairperson of the Philmont Planning Board for one (1) year (term to end March 2011) made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

TOWN & COUNTY REPORT:

Provided and given by Town of Claverack Supervisor Robin Andrews. A copy is available in the village office for review. (Reported on town meeting night changes, exemptions, reassessment, citizens' committee. Also reported on county wood boiler recommendations, county emergency management plan, and the county actively pursuing the idea of a VA Nursing Home in the Pine Haven building).

UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:

Deputy Mayor Johnson stated for the benefit of the public and for PB Inc. (Sally Baker) that the warehouse on Canal Street IS NOT FOR SALE and will NEVER BE FOR SALE as it represents an important part of the mill history of the village. He wished to make this point clear at a public meeting. Sally Baker replied that she never assumed that the building was for sale.

It was noted that the Village is looking for someone to be Chairperson for Community Day. The Deputy Mayor noted that the village would help in any way they could, however could not be responsible for taking control of the event. Sally discussed the use of the Pocket Park. It was also noted that the loss of Jeff Bancroft as a member of the LDC and Robin Andrew's now limited time, there has been a big void left in the committee. Therefore it needs someone to come forward and take over the planning of Community Day. Sally Baker noted that her next PB Inc. meeting would be held in May and she would be willing to work with a Community Representative on Community Day. Trustee Cropper will do a press release asking for assistance from the public. It was also verified that Ron Decker would be running the fishing derby.

Mr. Osbourn asked the board if the Village would be eligible for any of the Stimulus funds. Deputy Mayor Johnson will look into it.

Prior to going into executive session to discuss the Fire Protection Contracts a moment of silence was held for William McNeil who recently passed away.

MOTION to go into executive session to discuss fire protection contracts made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACTS

MOTION to close executive session made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to instruct Attorney Buono to respond to Hillsdale via letter that the contract amounts will remain as they are in the **signed contract**. A new contract can be renegotiated next year (a similar letter will be written to the Town of Claverack as well) made by Trustee (Deputy Mayor) Johnson, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to adjourn in memory of William McNeil made by Trustee (Deputy Mayor) Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,
Eilene Morris
Clerk/Treasurer
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT