

# REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

**PRESENT:** Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Brian Johnson, Barbara Sagal, Douglas Cropper, Laurence Ostrander, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Attorney Anthony Buono and Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris.

**MOTION** to approve minutes of the previous meeting (with a correction...in referring to the yellow line painted on Main Street the minutes stated it could be 1 ½ car lengths long it should have read "1 ½ car lengths longer") made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve treasurer's report made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #4, Water Abstract #4, Sewer Abstract #4, Library Abstract #4, T&A Abstract #4, Summit Lake Abstract #4, Summit Heights Abstract #3) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

## **PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Brian Wheeler noted that the longer yellow lines recently painted on Main Street took parking spots away from businesses and also noted that accidents continue to occur at that corner (there was one a few days ago) because the sight distance is still poor. He stated that most of the accidents happened due to driver error and suggested having a few police patrols during the morning school bus runs to get the attention of the drivers (also the cross walks need police attention).

Matt Oakley inquired as to when the trees that were removed from the Memorial Park would be replaced. The Mayor said they would be replaced during the next "planting season" for trees.

It was also noted that there has been occasional parking problems during the Farm Market on Sundays. Sally Baker was present and said that signs were put up directing people to park in the municipal parking lot and vendors were encouraged to "unload" and move their vehicles to a parking area.

Joshua Essig thanked everyone for their help with his Eagle Scout project. He also announced that he is now officially an Eagle Scout (a round of applause came from the audience). The Mayor and Board congratulated him on a fine job.

## **ATTORNEY ANTHONY BUONO:**

He gave a progress report on the Fire Protection Contracts for Hillsdale and Claverack. He also gave Hillsdale's explanation of the \$5000 from Hawthorn Valley School as a "one time" offer. He reported that the rates for Philmont and Claverack would be \$1.24 and Hillsdale would be \$.88.

**MOTION** was made by Trustee Johnson and seconded by Trustee Ostrander to forward the proposed contracts to Claverack and Hillsdale for review and approval. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

He also gave a progress report on the County Tax Foreclosures of properties located in the Village. All information has been forwarded to Columbia County and he is awaiting a reply.

## **ATTORNEY ROBERT FITZSIMMONS:**

No report with the exception of ongoing projects.

## **CLERK/TREASURER EILENE MORRIS:**

Water turn-off took place on Thursday, with 3 properties being turned off and 2 being turned back on again after the minimum amount was paid.

The Village Office will be closed on Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup> for the Columbus Day holiday and will re-open on Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>. A reminder that the October board meeting will be held on that Tuesday.

## **POLICE REPORT:**

The report was given by OIC Doyle (a copy is available in the village office for review). He noted that he would try to schedule a few day patrols to watch cross walks during school bus hours.

## **LIBRARY REPORT:**

The report was given by Director Karen Garafalo (a copy is available in the village office for review). She reminded the board that a new air conditioner will be needed before next summer. She also reported that the "bricks" arrived and are ready to be "carved". The library has received a shipment of chairs paid for through the Berkshire grant received earlier this summer. She also requested that the DPW bring back the bike rack.

She reported that the "Director Challenge" has been met reading over one million pages to "fill" Summit Lake. Story hour will start the first week in October. Also, Philmont will be hosting a Mid-Hudson workshop this week in the Cultural Center. She also thanked DSS for their book donation.

**MAIN STREET COMMITTEE:**

Trustee Ostrander spoke about the PB Inc. Building and the material change for the pocket park and the driveway and when completed the two will appear as one. Unused pavers will be stacked and used at the Community Center. It was requested that Dale Wheeler of the DPW make the railing for the pocket park. Trustee Johnson will have the DPW look at it. Sally Baker (PB Inc.) requested that the DPW bring back the benches that were removed. It was noted that the concrete planters were at the Library. Ms. Baker also announced that PB Inc. received a Main Street Program Grant in the amount of #332,768. At this time Brian Wheeler noted that the last Main Street Program grant forced Mr. Gellert to evict him from his home and feels that it is unfair that there is not more help available for him. Trustee Ostrander noted that the chance of being asked to leave always exists when you are a renter and suggested that he ask DSS for assistance if he needs it.

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK/COUNTY OF COLUMBIA:**

**(COUNTY)** Report was provided by Claverack Supervisor Andrews and given by Clerk Morris.

She reported that the County is looking at considering a County Administrator position and would be interested in receiving people's thoughts about this. She also reported that a resolution was passed this month to give preference to using the existing Pine Haven building for Veteran's services (copy of the motion is available in the village office.)

**(TOWN)** Provided a re-assessment project update. Copies were provided to the public and are available in the village office.

**MAYOR CLARENCE SPEED:**

Reported that he attended a Claverack Zoning Meeting regarding cell tower approval. It appears that both cell tower applications will be approved (one on village property and one on private property) which means less financial gain for the Village.

He also reported that he has completed a review of the Philmont Justice Court records (see motions and resolutions). He will set a date for the ribbon cutting for the new dock built by Eagle Scout Joshua Essig. He would also like to schedule a meeting with the Register Star to have a photo of our cross walks taken with the intent of bringing them to the attention of the public.

**TRUSTEE DOUGLAS CROPPER:**

He reported that he has been working with Trustee Sagal to find garbage cans to be put around the village. (it was noted that garbage cans are *expensive!*) He has been patrolling Forest Lake and turning over anything suspicious to the Police. He has also been keeping up with the Upper Dam situation. The dam is privately owned and a private engineer will be reporting to NYS. There has been no major work done yet but it is a "work in progress" and Trustee Cropper will continue to monitor the progress. He and Trustee Sagal met with US Postal representatives regarding the box rents. It appears that anyone living ¼ mile or less from the post office will be eligible for a rent free mail box. Anyone outside the ¼ mile area may be eligible for rural delivery. He is awaiting a final reply in writing.

**TRUSTEE BARBARA SAGAL:**

She reported to NYSEG that six street lights were out. She also attended the Columbia County Board of Supervisor's meeting and noted a Pine Haven Resolution was passed (see correspondence). She also met with Post Office officials and has also been hunting for garbage cans.

**TRUSTEE LAURENCE OSTRANDER:**

He reported that he met with the Philmont Fire Company regarding fire company business including reinstating Brian Wheeler as a driver. He also reported that the fire company won first place in the Chatham Fair Fireman's parade. He noted that membership in the department is growing and everyone seems to be getting along. He stated that the fire company will have an open house sometime in October.

**TRUSTEE BRIAN JOHNSON:**

He gave the DPW, Water and Sewer reports (copies of all are available in the village office for review).

**CORRESPONDENCE – A LIST WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC.**

**MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to reappoint Faith Benson as a member of the Philmont Library Board for a five-year term ending September, 2015 made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

2. **MOTION** to accept the resignation of Robert Macfarlane from the Philmont Library Board made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to approve the appointment of Mary Potts as a member of the Philmont Library Board upon official appointment by the Philmont Library Board to fill out the unexpired term of Robert Macfarlane ending September 2012 made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
4. **MOTION** to accept bids for #2 fuel oil to furnish the Village Garage, the Village Municipal Building, the Philmont Library and the Philmont Community Center with the bid opening to be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:00 PM made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS (bids sheets are available at the village office).
5. **MOTION** to declare that Mayor Speed has conducted the required examination of the Village of Philmont Justice Court records with the intent of improving accountability and controls over justice court finances and records. MOTION made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS (copy sent to Unified Court System).
6. **MOTION** to transfer all funds in the Library Building Account into the Library Operating Account now that the building project is complete made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
7. **MOTION** to approve sponsorship of the following five (5) recruits to attend the Zone 14 Law Enforcement Academy this September (Alexis Beck, Nicholas LaPorta, Brian Laurange, Joseph Turoski and Marie Abraham) made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
8. **MOTION** to waive planning fees for the Greenport Rescue Squad (property located at 83 Main Street) for renovations, etc. made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS:**

Rich Osborn asked about the progress on the new proposed village garage. It was noted that a site plan is now ready.

Trustee Cropper (confirming with Dick Howard) noted that October 18<sup>th</sup> would be the next meeting of the Community Day Committee – 7:00 PM in the village hall.

Sally Baker asked if there would be a pumpkin walk this year. It was noted that there were no plans for a pumpkin walk.

Trustee Ostrander questioned if the village could go further with water turn-off law by requiring that once a bill goes into arrears, the whole bill must be paid? This would involve changes to the local law.

**MOTION** to adjourn in memory of **Arlene Decker** and **Kevin Ryan** made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris  
Clerk/Treasurer  
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT