

# REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

## MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2011

**PRESENT:** Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Brian Johnson, Douglas Cropper, Laurence Ostrander, (Trustee Sagal – absent) Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Engineer Ray Jurkowski, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris.

**MOTION** to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Trustee Ostrander, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve the Treasurer's Report made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #8, Water Abstract #8, Sewer Abstract #8, Library Abstract #8, T&A Abstract #8, Summit Lake Abstract #8, Summit Heights Abstract #5, Building Maintenance Abstract #2) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

### **PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Brian Wheeler asked about the senior tax exemptions and tax rates. The Clerk explained that everything is based on taxable assessed value and senior exemption amount remains low due to the small number of parcels available to "absorb" the necessary tax levy. He also felt it was unfair that the village cleans the sidewalks on Main Street but does not clean them on the side streets. The Mayor explained that the "snow blower" does not fit on all sidewalks, and it would be too costly and timely for the DPW to do every sidewalk in the village. The Main Street is cleared due to the plowing practices of Columbia County (curb to curb) and to keep the business district clean and passable. It was noted that the sidewalk from Cumberland on down is never cleared and becomes a hazard when people have to walk in the road around that corner.

### **ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:**

He reported that there is an issue with reports that need to be filed by the Philmont LDC. There has been no activity and these reports are non-informative...his suggestion was to dissolve the LDC and reorganize if and when the need arises. He noted that he (and the clerk) will handle the audit requirements up to this point. Mr. Davala asked about costs relating to reorganizing the LDC. The attorney noted that there is a filing fee. Mr. Davala also questioned the condemnation of a trailer located on Summit Street. The issue was handed over to the Building Department.

The attorney suggested that he, and the engineer, and a representative(s) of the village board, the clerk and Mr. Mattikow schedule a meeting to discuss the progress of the Summit Heights project. At this point he turned the meeting over to Engineer Ray Jurkowski to give an update on the proposed new DPW garage.

### **ENGINEER JURKOWSKI:**

Mr. Jurkowski gave a progress report on the DPW garage project plans. He noted that the project is ready for bid. There needs to be a presentation to the public as well as an official public hearing which is tentatively scheduled for Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM prior to the regular monthly board meeting. Attorney Fitzsimmons will coordinate with bond counsel.

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

Reported that water/sewer bills were mailed on December 30, 2010 and are due through January 31, 2011 without penalty. She also noted that the village office will be closed on Monday, January 17<sup>th</sup> in observance of Martin Luther King Day. She reminded everyone that the annual village elections are scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from noon to 9:00 PM in the village hall. Independent Nominating Petitions must be turned into the village office by February 8, 2011. The earliest a petition may be handed in is February 1, 2011. She also reminded all that she will need proposed budgets from all departments.

### **POLICE REPORT:**

The report was given by Sergeant James Mayo. A copy is available in the village office for review.

### **LIBRARY REPORT:**

The report was given by Director Karen Garafalo. (Building and Grounds) She reported on the use of the Cultural Center and noted that she purchased calcium chloride pellets for the brick walk-way. The library has "sold" over 100 bricks and has room for another hundred +. (Library Services) Soup sales have

begun and will run for four weeks. You can now “eat in”. The internet safety presentation by Nick Selby has been moved to January 30th at 6:30 pm due to the inclement weather. She also reported that Tai Chi classes with David Haines as master teacher will run for 5 weeks on Mondays at 3:30 PM. There is no charge for the program. (Grants and Donations) The Library received a donation of \$1,500 from the Town of Ghent and a grant of \$1,500 from the Council on the Arts.

ALSO...the soup sale will be held on Thursday this week due to the prediction of a storm. The Mayor suggested that she might try a Chili cook-off next year.

**COMMUNITY CENTER :**

No report

**TOWN/COUNTY REPORT:**

Provided by Supervisor Andrews and given by Clerk Morris. She reported that there will be a special meeting on Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Claverack Town Hall to meet with representatives for GAR, and suggests the village board attend. She noted that public meetings are being planned for the month of February and dates will be announced. (COLUMBIA COUNTY.) There were no committee meetings during the month of December. Tax bills have been mailed and the overall tax has gone down by .14 per thousand in assessment. (TOWN OF CLAVERACK) At the organizational meeting, we moved our workshop meeting to the 4<sup>th</sup> MONDAY of the month. The regular board meetings continue to be the first Wednesday of the month. Our next regular meeting date will include a public hearing for tax exemptions for disabled and elderly.

**MAYOR SPEED:**

Reported that he has attended meetings for the proposed CO-OP at the closed Stewarts property. He has handled many complaints regarding snow and sidewalks. He also noted that the Holiday Banners will be taken down this week (Brian Wheeler offered to assist and was thanked by the Mayor). He also noted it was a busy month with the warehouse break-in and the vandalism to the police car.

**TRUSTEE CROPPER:**

Reported on the Christmas Parade judging, the Philmont Fire Company dinner, the Holiday Lighting Contest. He also has been checking on Forest Lake, all is fine and the gate is now unlocked. He has also been attending Community Day meetings and requests that the village once again contribute to the cost of the fireworks display this year. The next meeting will be held February 7<sup>th</sup> a 7:00 PM in the village office.

**TRUSTEE SAGAL:**

Provided by Trustee Sagal and given by Clerk Morris. She reported that she met with the electrician regarding moving the fire alarm and breaker from the Judge's office to the meeting room downstairs. She also noted that she judged the Christmas Lighting contest and help secure prizes. She also reported one street light out.

**TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:**

Reported that he met with S&F Communications regarding security systems and received two quotes. He suggested meeting with them and the police to determine what type of system would satisfy the needs of the Village. He noted that he enjoyed judging the Christmas Parade and the Holiday Lighting Contest. He stated that the residents do an excellent job decorating their homes.

**FIRE COMPANY REPORT:**

Provided by Chief Vernon Higgins and given by Trustee Ostrander. It was reported that there were five fire calls during the month. It was also reported that the firehouse lock was changed and keys were assigned. The Fire Company also reported on their Christmas Dinner and their Santa visit to Pine Haven Nursing Home and to Richardson's Hall. Fire training, the transfer of the alarm system and a possible mutual aid drill were also discussed.

**DPW/WATER/SEWER REPORT:**

Provided by Supt. Michael Scheller and given by Trustee Johnson. Reported on DPW and Water and Sewer Department activities for the month of December. Mr. Davala requested that the DPW please refrain from blowing snow on the steps of the “American Legion” building as he holds church services there and that entrance serves as a fire exit. Trustee Johnson noted that he has received several compliments on the handling of Main Street snow removal.

## **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to appoint Carol Mossman, Nancy Brousseau and Kurt Basl as Election Inspectors for the upcoming Village Elections to be held Tuesday, March 15, 2011 from noon to 9:00 PM at a rate of \$10.00 per hour made by Trustee Ostrander, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Laura Smith as Election Custodian for the upcoming Village Elections at a fee of \$75.00 made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Ostrander, ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to appoint Renee Maxwell as Assistant Library Director to include a salary increase of \$1.00/hour (to \$11.00/hour) per the request of the Library Board of Trustees made by Trustee Johnson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
4. **MOTION** to spend \$1,193.70 to Morris Associates for engineering fees for Building Design and Septic System design for the proposed new DPW building made by Trustee Johnson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
5. **MOTION** to move funds within accounts as needed made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS**

None

**MOTION** to adjourn in memory of "*Kip*" *Brandow* and *Dominic Tortorici* made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris  
Clerk/Treasurer  
**VILLAGE OF PHILMONT**