

REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 2012 – 7:00 PM

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

PUBLIC HEARING – “LOCAL LAW 1-2012 – ESTABLISHING A CODE OF ETHICS FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF PHILMONT”

Attorney Fitzsimmons gave a brief summary of the proposed law. There were two clerical corrections made after questions by Trustee Cropper.

MOTION to close the public hearing was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to adopt “Local Law 1-2012 – Establishing a Code of Ethics for Officials and Employees of the Village of Philmont” made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

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

MOTION to approve the Treasurer’s Report made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #10, Water Abstract #10, Sewer Abstract #10, Library Abstract #10, T&A Abstract #10, Summit Lake Abstract #10) made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: None

REPORTS:

ATTORNEY ROBERT FITZSIMMONS:

Reported that he worked on Local Law #1-2012. He attended a meeting regarding the progress of the Highway Garage noting that it will go out to bid this month and then when the numbers are firm, the village board will do a bond resolution.

CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:

Reported that the village office will be closed on Friday, April 6th for the Easter Holiday. She also reported that the office has been in constant contact with the FEMA Representative and it appears that all projects have met with approval. We now have to sign all paperwork and await reimbursement. Water/Sewer bills will be going out on April 1st. Readings will be taken this week. She also noted that five parcels had their water service terminated on March 8th for non-payment of the October 2011 water/sewer bill. All monthly reports, payrolls, collections of water/sewer bills, garbage sticker sales, etc. have been completed as usual. A reminder that the annual village election will be held on Tuesday, March 20th in the Village Hall from noon until 9:00 PM. She noted that a “special election” will also be held that day from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM in a separate area of the village hall to fill a vacated Assembly seat.

POLICE REPORT:

The report was given by OIC Vernon Doyle. He noted that there is an ongoing investigation regarding the recent “home invasion”. Trustee Sagal requested direction regarding a “neighbor” situation and foul language. OIC Doyle noted that he could speak to them and/or spend some time in the area. It was also noted that the “receiver” for the Moran Trailer Park gave the police permission to enter the park whenever necessary (however he could not give permission to enter any trailers).

LIBRARY REPORT:

The report was provided by Director Karen Garafalo and given by Trustee Sagal. She noted that one more quote was needed for the proposed purchase of security cameras. She also reported that 32 adults, teens and children attended last Friday’s movie. There will be another PG rated movie this Friday. She also reported that the watercolor class (given by Free Columbia) is now full with 12 participants. The Graphic Novels Workshop (sponsored by the Claverack Free Library) is also at capacity

with 15 participants. She also provided a circulation chart which shows that Philmont continues to be one of the most used libraries in Columbia County (at present 3rd out of 11 libraries in the county).

TOWN OF CLAVERACK/COUNTY OF COLUMBIA:

The report was given by Town of Claverack Supervisor Robin Andrews. (TOWN) There will be a public hearing on April 12th at 7:00 PM-prior to the next town board meeting-referencing proposed revisions to the Ethics Law as the town is also looking to use the County Ethics Board rather than create their own board. She also reported that there have been many applicants for the Board of Assessment Review. We will be holding a special meeting this month to do interviews, with the expectation of making an appointment at the April meeting prior to the training for this year. She also noted that there is a special election on March 20th. (COUNTY) The next meeting is this Wednesday. Included in that meeting is a public hearing in reference to the proposed elected officers' salaries. No raises were given to the supervisors. Also the phase II environmental study has been completed on 25 Railroad Avenue (home of DSS). This is a quote from the summary of the report "The results of all the extensive testing and reports have all reached the same conclusion. There exists no contamination or harmful vapors which have penetrated the building. Allegations of harmful vapors in the building are contrary to the exhaustive scientific testing which has been conducted at the site." Most likely, the Board of Supervisors will move forward to purchase the property, so that we will not have to pay the \$30,000 per month rent.

MAYOR CLARENCE SPEED:

Reported that he signed all necessary papers, attended the highway garage meeting and budget meeting. He had the police check some open buildings and other complaints. He also met with Ms. Ambos regarding some plans she has for the "Mill" on Summit Street. He also had the pleasure of meeting with the New York State Commander of The American Legion, Michael Bowen.

TRUSTEE LAURENCE OSTRANDER:

He gave the Fire Company report provided by Chief Vernon Higgins. He also attended the budget workshop and is starting to understand the process a bit better.

TRUSTEE BARBARA SAGAL:

Noted that she reported to NYSEG that two street lights were out in the village. She also attended the Governor's budget meeting in Cairo and spoke with Commissioner McDonald and said that she was very helpful and knowledgeable. She noted that the Governor is interested in ideas on how to trim the budget (brochures are available in the village office).

TRUSTEE DOUGLAS CROPPER:

He attended the "Stewarts Building" meeting and learned that the building would now be owned by PB Inc. Many suggestions were given for the use of the building. He also reported that he has been checking on Forest Lake and all is fine. He also has spent some time at the Summit Lake Community Center and noted that it is all cleaned and painted and new cabinets will soon be installed. He also attended the Philmont Rotary Club's meeting to request financial support for the Philmont Community Day (and was successful!). He requested that the bathrooms at the Philmont Softball Field be opened for Community Day. They need to be cleaned up. Trustee Johnson assured them that they would be working by Community Day. The next meeting will be held April 2nd at 7:45 PM. Dick Howard reported that the use of a tent has been donated and will be used at the Hearth as a food tent. He also expected that there would be more games for the kids this year in the area of the Hearth. Schedules will be made available to the public.

CORRESPONDENCE – A LIST WAS PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **MOTION** to hold the Annual Organization Meeting and the Annual Budget Hearing on Monday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to reappoint Charles Hoag Jr. Esquire for a one year term as Acting Village of Philmont Justice made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to transfer funds between accounts as needed made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustee Ostrander asked Attorney Fitzsimmons what legalities were involved regarding run-down vacant buildings. It was noted that they can be foreclosed upon and put up for auction. The Building Department can also condemn them (with engineer approval) and they can be torn down (at village expense) however it is a complicated process and the cost may never be recovered even though it becomes a lien on the property. The other option was to have the Building Department issue a Notice of Violation and keep fining them, however the owner only needs to make the building safe which usually results in just boarded up windows and fences. The board will consider the options.

With no further business to come before the board, a **MOTION** to adjourn in memory of ***June Maisenbacher, Richard Minkler, Howard Kissel, Mark Gaylord and Dorothy Hoose*** was made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris
Clerk/Treasurer
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT