

**REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2013**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Clarence Speed, Trustees Barbara Sagal, Douglas Cropper, Laurence Ostrander, Matthew Perry, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Clerk/Treasurer Eilene Morris

**MOTION** to approve minutes of the previous meeting made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. 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 #8, Water Abstract #8, Sewer Abstract #8, Library Abstract #8, T&A Abstract #8, Summit Lake Abstract #8, Summit Heights Abstract #4, DPW Garage Abstract #7) made by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:** (None)

**REPORTS:**

**ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:**

Reported only ongoing business – no new business

**CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:**

She reminded all that election petitions must be turned in no later than February 12<sup>th</sup> (and no earlier than February 5<sup>th</sup>) for the March 19, 2013 elections.

The clerk also noted that the village office will be closed on January 21<sup>st</sup> for Martin Luther King Day.

She asked that proposed budgets for each department should be turned in as soon as possible so that we can start work on the budget for the next fiscal year (June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014).

All the usual items (paid bills, reports, water/sewer bills, garbage sticker sales, bookkeeping etc.) have been completed.

**POLICE REPORT:**

The report was given by OIC Vernon Doyle (a copy is available in the village office for review). He noted that warnings were issued for parking violations and after the snow came, tickets were issued. He also asked what the rules were for ice fishing at Forest Lake. It was determined that *village residents* will be allowed to ice fish.

**LIBRARY REPORT:**

The report was given by Director Karen Garafalo.

*(Buildings and Grounds)* The Columbia County Photography Club will be the next display in the Cultural Center. The show's opening will be Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30.

*(Services)* Soup Sales started last week. We sold out and after expenses cleared over \$200. This week we have 13 different soups scheduled. Also, the Storycrafters will be performing their new Snow Queen program on February 18<sup>th</sup> with a snow date of February 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM.

*(Grants and Donations)* The Art Sale has been taken down. We have netted over \$1,000 for the "Friends" group who in turn donate the money or pay for items like the coffee or other supplies. The library has received \$1,500 from Ghent again this year and has also received several donations recently from patrons. We will be applying for a grant from the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for funds for chairs to be used in the pavilion.

*(The Director also provided a "December Check-outs" comparison graph to show circulation for 2010, 2011 and 2012)*

**COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT:**

Report was provided by Director Kevin Maisenbacher and given by Trustee Ostrander.

Reported that Anthony Krein is no longer with the Community Center.

Also, the Ice Rink was suppose to be set up at Memorial Field this past Saturday but the field was not plowed so the installation had to be rescheduled. The rink was donated by the Town of Claverack.

Equipment is being set up at the Community Center for the Cardio class and will need brackets hung for the bags.

The community center walls have been painted, and new curtains, rods and brackets have been installed. Outlet plugs have been put in place with the exception of one which needs to be moved.

The Yoga class will require all participants to have a waiver signed prior to taking part in the class.

In coordination with Dr. Howard at Taconic Hills, an “after school” tutoring program is being considered. He has requested an update on the motion sensors/security lighting/cameras at the center. He also asked for a meeting with Trustee Perry to discuss including the Community Center on the village web site.

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

Reports were provided by Supervisor Robin Andrews and given by Trustee Sagal.

She wished all a “Happy New Year”.

(*Town of Claverack*) Provided a list of town board liaisons assigned at the annual organizational meeting. She also noted that the regular monthly meeting will continue to be the second Thursday of each month at the Town Court/Hall and the workshops will be the last Tuesday of the month at the Town Office on Church Street (both to begin at 7:00 PM).

At the January 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, the town made a motion to offer the Village of Philmont use of the skating rink parts we had (Louie said the liner is fine) and Louie offered to help put it up.

The town is seeking a new Town Historian, since Sal Cozzolino has resigned. If anyone is interested, please submit a letter of interest to the Town Clerk and the Supervisor.

(*County of Columbia*) She reported that the first Board of Supervisors scholarship for Columbia-Greene Community College students was given to Claverack resident Spencer Winters. His award was based on his essay on “Why Is Local Government Important and How Can Citizens Get Involved”.

The Columbia County budget was passed with a .4% decrease in the tax levy. Tax bills have all gone out. Tax information is also available on line at the [TownOfClaverack.com](http://TownOfClaverack.com) website.

**MAYOR SPEED:**

He reported contacting residents regarding what they feel the problems are in the Village. Most felt the biggest issue was the burnt-out houses that are left standing (also abandoned buildings). He plans to work with the attorney and the building inspectors to find a solution.

He also checked on water breaks (one on New Year’s Day) recently. He also decorated and provided his flatbed truck for the “Santa Claus Parade” and visit with children. He assisted with taking down banners on Main Street. He also noted that he performed a marriage this past weekend (he has now performed 15 marriages). He also signed necessary paperwork, etc. in the village office.

**TRUSTEE PERRY:**

He received a complaint regarding the light on the plow truck. He also received complaints regarding the burned out houses. It was also noted that he has some information regarding a business that is interested in coming to the village and will follow up. He met with Building Inspector Stanley Koloski regarding derelict properties and possible solutions. He also reported attending the Santa Claus parade and the Community Day meeting.

**TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:**

Reported attending the Community Day meeting and noted that he and Trustee Sagal will be in charge of the fishing derby this year. He has had contact with Sally Baker of PB Inc. regarding progress with the RFQ process for the Summit Lake Grant. S&F Communications will be attending the January workshop to discuss security possibilities for the village municipal building. He also met with Director Kevin Maisenbacher regarding Community Center issues and the proposed Ice Skating Rink donated by the Town of Claverack.

**TRUSTEE SAGAL:**

She reported one street light out to NYSEG. She helped judge the Holiday Lighting Contest and noted that Highland Avenue received “honorable mention” and it will receive either a banner or street sign noting the honor. (Contest winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> Place is Al & Nancy Brousseau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place is Starr/Miller, 3<sup>rd</sup> Place is Joseph Haag).

**TRUSTEE CROPPER:**

He thanked Mayor Speed for driving the board around the village to judge the Holiday Lights. He has been checking on Forest Lake and all is fine. He attended the recent co-op meeting and was impressed with the results. They are moving slowly and with caution. He gave the DPW, Water and Sewer reports (copies are available in the village office for review). He discussed the recycling process with Mike and attended the Community Day meeting. Dick Howard gave a progress report on the Community Day plans thus far. Their next meeting will be February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM.

**CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED TO THE AUDIENCE**

## **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to identify the Village Meeting Hall, located at the rear of 124 Main Street, Philmont, NY as the polling place for Village Elections to be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2013 with polls being open from 12:00 noon until 9:00 PM made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Nancy Brousseau, Kurt Basl, and Karen Garafalo as Election Inspectors for the March 19, 2013 Village Elections to be held in the Village Meeting Hall from 12:00 noon to 9:00 PM at a rate of \$10.00 per hour made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to appoint Peter Groll as Election Custodian and Machine Custodian for the March 19, 2013 Village Elections to be held in the Village Meeting Hall from 12:00 noon to 9:00 PM at a rate of \$75.00 for machine set up and \$75.00 for machine opening and closing made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
4. **MOTION** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Mary Potts as a member of the Philmont Library Board effective March 1, 2013 made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
5. **MOTION** to move funds within accounts as needed made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
6. **MOTION** to accept, with regret, the resignation of Anthony Krein as program coordinator for the Philmont Community Center made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

## **FIRE COMPANY REPORT:**

Report was given by Assistant Fire Chief Mark Beaumont. A copy is available in the Village Office for review.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

Jenna Lamond thanked the Philmont Fire Company for their ability to get immediate control of the recent fire on Summit Street. It was noted that no cause has been determined yet. She also asked what the plan would be for demolishing and removing the burned-out shell. The board will work with the attorney and the building department to find a solution. The attorney spoke of various options for burned out and derelict buildings. It was noted that the buildings should be boarded up. Trustee Ostrander asked about the status of the "Pinto" property (will have to determine who holds the estate). It was noted that Columbia County is foreclosing on the "Brothers" property on Summit Street. Ms. Lamond wondered if there could be grants for demolishing these buildings, and the board felt it was unlikely.

Chris Hoppe inquired about sidewalks being shoveled after the storm. He also noted his concern about the burned out and derelict buildings.

The board decided to invite Building Inspector Stanley Koloski to meet with them and Attorney Fitzsimmons on January 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM to discuss the derelict building situation.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

It was reported that the Fire Company drain is plugged up and needs to be flushed. Mike will be asked to look at it. It was also noted that the Fire Company will be having a breakfast on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Village Hall.

**MOTION** to adjourn in memory of Walter Stahowski, 50-year member of the Philmont Fire Company (a moment of silence was observed) made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

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