

## **REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MONDAY, MARCH 11, 2013 – 7:00 PM**

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

**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 Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to approve payment of bills (General Abstract #10, Water Abstract #10, Sewer Abstract #10, Library Abstract #10, Trust and Agency Abstract #10, Summit Lake Abstract #10, Summit Heights Abstract #6, DPW Garage Abstract #9) made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

### **PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Chris Hoppe inquired about the burned out houses on Summit Street. The attorney noted that all that can be done is being done. He explained the process and the extended time period it would take to accomplish any results. Mr. Hoppe suggested giving tickets (for not shoveling their sidewalks) to get their attention. The board and the building department will continue to work on the problem within the limits set by the law.

### **REPORTS:**

**ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:** Noted that he has been working on the derelict building situation with the board and the building department. He has also been meeting with the Planning and Zoning boards and is also looking into the FEMA Flood Insurance program as well as ongoing projects.

**CLERK/TREASURER MORRIS:** Reminded all that village elections will be held on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from noon to 9:00 PM in the village hall to elect one mayor and two trustees for two years each. She also reported that the proposed budget is ready and available in the village office for review. She also noted that the village office will be closed on Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> for the Easter Holiday. Water termination is scheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup> for those still owing their October, 2012 water/sewer bill. Also, all the usual items have been completed (paid bills, reports, water/sewer collections, garbage sticker sales, bookkeeping, budget preparation, etc.)

**POLICE REPORT:** The report was given by OIC Vernon Doyle. A copy is available in the village office for review. Officer Doyle also expressed his concern about the "Big UP" show to be held at the Hemlock Hollow Farms (in the Town of Claverack) in August. He feels that all officers will need to be on duty most of that weekend as he expects similar behavior as to what has followed this type of event in the past. The attorney noted that the promoter has indicated that he will have private security, a full medical staff on site and will also handle traffic control.

**LIBRARY REPORT** – None

**COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT** – None

**TOWN OF CLAVERACK/COUNTY OF COLUMBIA:** The report was provided by Town of Claverack Supervisor Robin Andrews and given by Trustee Sagal.

(**TOWN**) The next town meeting is Thursday at 7:00 PM. We have further information on the cost to repair the Millbrook Bridge. The town will be considering resolutions to apply for a grant to support shared costs for water districts and will also consider a resolution in opposition of the SAFE ACT. The Planning Board approved the site plan for the "BIG UP" festival to proceed (in August) at the Sam Wright property. Concerns and issues were discussed and a hot line will be set up. Also, Claverack is celebrating its 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary and hope to have many events throughout the year (a copy of the official proclamation was provided). All help with events is welcome.

(**COUNTY**) There will be a public hearing in reference to a cell phone tax on Wednesday at 7:20 pm just prior to the regular board meeting. It will determine whether the funding for 911 fees will be through this cell phone tax or through property taxes. All are encouraged to attend the public hearing and offer comments. We will also be considering a resolution in opposition to the SAFE ACT.

Supervisor Andrews expressed deepest sympathies and regrets for the great loss of Vernon Higgins, Philmont Fire Company Chief. The fire company has done an outstanding job in honoring him and the role that the fire company played in his life.

**MAYOR SPEED:** Noted that Aruba was great with 90 degree weather every day. He called the office on a regular basis to check in. He noted that he attended the calling hours and funeral of Chief Higgins (sympathies to his family) and attended the budget workshop.

**TRUSTEE CROPPER:** Has regularly checked properties. All is fine at Forest Lake and he reminded all that the ice is not safe. He handled an issue with the Community Center furnace with the help of Dave Carl (at no charge!). In the absence of the Mayor he attended the Dare Program at Taconic Hills School (brochure on file). He also attended the Community Day meeting and the Budget workshop. Dick Howard gave a progress report for Community Day and the attorney noted that waivers would need to be signed by participants in the "hot dog eating" contest. Trustee Cropper also gave the DPW, Water and Sewer reports. At this point the Mayor asked Trustee Perry about the sludge being hauled to Hudson. Trustee Perry will look into the possibility.

**TRUSTEE PERRY:** He reported that he is looking into the replacement of the Library roof. He also attended the budget workshop. He has also been working on adjusting fines and penalties for laws. He also attended Chief Higgins' service. He indicated that he is considering sending a letter to the Register Star updating current events for the village.

**TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:** Noted he attended several meetings during the month. He has also been working with contractors to get quotes to replace two doors in the municipal building and fix the kitchen cabinets and sink area. He is also working on the repair/replacement of the drainage line located in the fire company parking lot.

**TRUSTEE SAGAL:** Reported she attended the Budget workshop, the Community Day meeting and Library Board meeting. She also noted that she checked the street lights.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE – A LIST WAS PROVIDED FOR THE AUDIENCE**

#### **MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to approve Brandon Rice and Ryan Maisenbacher as members of the Philmont Fire Company (upon completion of all requirements) made by Trustee Ostrander, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Perry. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to transfer funds between accounts as needed made by Trustee Sagal, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to adopt a resolution to support the preservation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment – Right to Bear Arms – threatened by the enactment of the NY SAFE ACT. (see full resolution attached to original minutes) made by Trustee Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. 4 AYES, 1 NAY (Trustee Sagal).
4. **MOTION** to hold the Annual Organizational Meeting and the Annual Budget Hearing on Monday, April 1, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Village Hall made by Trustee Ostrander, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
5. **MOTION** to re-appoint Charles Hoag as Associate Justice with a term beginning April 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014 made by Trustee Cropper, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
6. **MOTION** to appoint William R. Michael as a (certified) part time Philmont Police Officer to replace Officer Corey Cox who has relocated made by Trustee Perry, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Trustee Sagal suggested that a banner be used for the "special street" for the Holiday Lighting contest. The board felt that a metal sign would be easier to attach to the street sign than a banner would be. Also a notice will be put in the April water/sewer bills to educate people regarding the proper way to recycle. It was also noted that many garbage containers were being left out at the curb and they ask that people move them back off the sidewalk area. Mr. Zitto noted that people were regularly parking on the sidewalks and asked that it be addressed. Trustee Ostrander asked what the status was on the Sam Wright property on Highland Avenue (the property was demolished but the debris has not yet been taken away). The attorney reported that another summons has been issued and

Mr. Wright will return to court. The building department will continue to site the property until it is cleaned up (daily fines should apply).

**NEW BUSINESS:** Trustee Cropper requested that a copy of the resolution passed in opposition of the SAFE ACT be forwarded on to all political representatives and to the Philmont Rod and Gun Club (clerk will do so). Also, Trustee Cropper and the Clerk will work on updating the Emergency Management Plan and asked for OIC Doyle's assistance in providing any pertinent information relating to the update. Trustee Cropper also expressed his disappointment regarding the lack of programs being provided by the Community Center. He felt that there should have been more programs during the school break and activities should have been planned for the Easter holiday and St. Patrick's Day. The fire company plans to flush hydrants during their drill night. They will check with Mike Scheller regarding the process and to have him provide a map of lines and location of hydrants. Mr. Zitto noted that he felt that the "location rods" that used to be on all hydrants should be replaced. The fire company was reminded that the public must be notified prior to hydrant flushing as it sometimes disrupts and discolors the water. Trustee Sagal noted that the reasons she was not in favor of the resolution in opposition of the SAFE ACT was that she felt the size of the magazines should be reduced - but gradually and she also believes that all guns should be registered (working much the same way as the registration of vehicles) and considered that as a reasonable request.

**MOTION** to adjourn in memory of **PHILMONT FIRE CHIEF VERNON HIGGINS** was made by Trustee Sagal, and seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris  
Clerk/Treasurer  
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT