

## **REGULAR MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013 7:00 PM**

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

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

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

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

### **PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Mr. Alexander asked the status of the street light he requested in the area of Church Street and Garden Street. The Mayor said he has been looking into a "dawn/dusk" light on the concession stand by the ball field where a light already exists. He is hoping that this will resolve the issue, however if it does not, they will look into installing a street light in the area (Trustee Sagal checked on the fees and it would cost an additional \$10.00/month for a street light). Mr. Alexander also asked that the high, overgrown areas be mowed down. The areas are a catch-all for garbage which he picks up on a regular basis. He noted that sometimes the garbage just gets mowed over. The board will speak to the DPW about the matter. He also noted that criminal activity and vandalism continues in the area and he has been in contact with the police.

Karen Garafalo said she has had problems reaching the police. When she calls the police phone number the machine is always full and can no longer take messages. OIC Doyle will speak to S&F Communications regarding the problem. He noted that the machine is not full, but malfunctioning. He also suggested that while he is having the problem corrected people can call the sheriff's department and request that the Philmont Police contact them. Karen also reported that she requested that the DPW trim weeds and overgrowth at the Library especially in the Memorial Brick area. She has had no response. Another man in the audience also complained about high weeds not being tended to. It was also reported that there are broken grates on Block Street and on Ham/Prospect Street. All of the above will be reported to the DPW.

### **ATTORNEY ROBERT FITZSIMMONS:**

Reported working on Union negotiations and other ongoing business.

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

The July water/sewer bills were mailed out July 1<sup>st</sup> and are due through July 31<sup>st</sup> without penalty. The Annual Report for the Department of Audit and Control has been completed and forwarded to the State of New York. A copy is available in the village office for review. All quarterly and monthly reports have been completed. Annual Taxes are now overdue and a 5% penalty will be applied through the end of July. **A HUGE "Thank You" to everyone for the pleasure of serving you for the past 33 years...It has truly been an honor!**

### **LIBRARY DIRECTOR KAREN GARAFALO**

**(Building and Grounds)** The brick walkway/patio in back of the library is in desperate need of weed control which was requested a month ago. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> she **formally** requested that the DPW weed the area however nothing has been done yet. We are awaiting estimates on the roof and once they are in we will apply for a library construction grant (50/50). Trustee Perry indicated that he would write the grant.

**(Services)** We are preparing for the book sale and the Schroeders will be letting us use the building again for just the cost of electric. The Summer Reading Program has over 40 signed up which is an increase of 25% over last year.

**(Grants and Donations)** The library was notified by Mid-Hudson Library system that all libraries in Kathy Marchionne's district will be receiving \$1,600.00.

### **OIC VERNON DOYLE:**

Gave the police report. A copy is available in the Village Office for review. He noted that all was good at Forest Lake. He reported that the department is getting ready for the "Big Up" and plans to have

several officers on duty. The Board will also ask that Judge Tracey make himself available for the event. Vern also stated that he will get the phone repaired as soon as possible (per Trustee Cropper's request).

**COMMUNITY CENTER DIRECTOR JULIE VERONEZI:**

The report was given by Trustee Cropper. An American flag was purchased and installed at the center. Game nights took place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Participants enjoy fishing in the reservoir during the summer months. Yoga continues throughout the month. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Green Counties sponsored a program – Stories of the Stars and Sky/Astronomy. The activity used Native American legends and science facts to understand the night sky. Plans continue for the Community Shower to be held on July 17<sup>th</sup> and flyers have been posted. The Cooperative Extension will be sponsoring a "Choose Health" program (positive nutrition) for children on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, August 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> from 2:30PM – 4:00 PM. She also extended her best wishes to Clerk Morris in her retirement and thanked her for her guidance and expertise. Trustee Cropper noted that the front windows at the Community Center need to be replaced and also the flood light needs to be repaired. Electrician Jerry Jennings will be contacted as Leggett Electric has not gotten back to anyone regarding the issue.

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

The report was given by Town of Claverack Supervisor Robin Andrews.

**(Town of Claverack)** The 6 week Youth Program began this week. Also the 23B Bridge closure signage has been discussed and it is noted that only emergency vehicles are being allowed across Web Road. The bridge will be reopened no later than August 30<sup>th</sup>. She also has discussed, with Ken Flood, a bus route once a week from Philmont. With the help of Mike Johnston the possibility is being looked into. She is working to set up a meeting with the Philmont Fire Company to review where the district lines are. She gave an overview of recent Planning/Zoning issues (Big Up, restaurant and shops at 66/9H, Ginsberg's proposal to move to Commerce Park).

**(County of Columbia)** A vote to move forward with design and site plans for Pine Haven passed. The County Home Health Aide program will be reviewed this week as the cost is about \$750,000 a year and there are currently less than 10 patients being served by the program. She also stated that the budget in the County is doing fine; it is the CASH available that is a concern as there is a lot of outstanding income owed to the County. There will also be a committee to oversee staffing and developing a strategy for filling vacant positions. She also noted that as always, it was an honor to participate in the Memorial Day event and Community Day in Philmont. They are some of her favorite annual events. She thanked all the organizers who do a great job and thanked Dick for the shout out from "Elvis".

**MAYOR CLARENCE SPEED:**

Reported that he attended Community Day and a good time was had by all and he got to ride with Supervisor Andrews in the parade! He thanked Dick Howard and Doug Cropper for all their hard work. He also noted that Larry Ostrander is a "good cook"! He enjoyed speaking with Congressman Gibson and the representative of Senator Marchione and missed seeing Judge Nichols at the festivities. He noted that all seemed to enjoy the fireworks display! He reported that he handled an issue of couches being dumped on Main Street. He will expect some type of punishment for the offense. He also noted that ditches by the Bolevice property have been cleaned out. He thanked Clerk Morris for all her help and noted that she will be missed. He also stated that he and Robbie picked up the bleachers from the site of the fireworks, welded some of the weak areas and returned them (all fixed) to Claverack.

**TRUSTEE BARBARA SAGAL:**

She reported receiving a complaint that several people who use Forest Lake do not live in the village. She said that she has checked the area but did not find anyone there who did not belong there. The Police have been actively patrolling the area and will continue to do so. There was also further discussion regarding a street light at Garden and Church Streets. She noted that she attended a rally for Pine Haven Home at 401 State Street and attended the County meeting after the rally. She has also been attending meetings for the BOA Grant and Request for Proposals are written up and will be mailed soon. She has also reviewed the overall BOA Grant process.

**TRUSTEE MATTHEW PERRY:**

He noted that estimates for the library roof are expected soon. The library is also looking into high speed internet and phone service from Verizon. He reported that he worked on the 5K Run and the Fishing Derby on Community Day and all went well. He felt Community Day was a nice reflection on the Village. He also noted that he is very impressed with how well the Community Center is being handled. He reported receiving complaints regarding properties not being kept-up and it seems that these are the same properties that harbor criminal activity.

**TRUSTEE DOUGLAS CROPPER:**

All went well on Community Day. (Dick Howard will provide a more detailed progress report when it is completed). He also reported that he attended Union negotiation meetings. He received a trash complaint about 109 Main Street and all was cleaned up. He reminded all that Forest Lake will be locked during the "Big Up" event. Village residents can get a key (combination) at the village office. He has been checking on Forest Lake and all is going well. He is also working with Rich Guliano trying to secure internet service for the new DPW garage and thanked Mr. Guliano for his help. He also called the DA's office regarding the arrest for "theft of water" from the village made approximately one year ago. He was told that the case has not yet come before the court. He also gave the DPW, Water and Sewer reports. Copies of all are available in the village office for review.

**TRUSTEE LAURENCE OSTRANDER:**

He called on Fire Chief Mark Beaumont to give the Fire Company report. A copy is available in the Village Office for review. It was noted that there are still problems with the drainage in the Fire House (Clerk will call the Engineer and have him contact the Mayor about the issue). Chief Beaumont asked about activity at the Mill on Summit Street. The Mayor noted that people were in the mill cleaning up from vandalism. There is also a photo shoot being done outside on the grounds. Chief Beaumont also asked if fire company phone calls could be re-routed to the village office if no one is in the firehouse. It was also noted that the Fire Company inspection went well but they will need a newer water distribution map. It was also noted that the fire company "saved" our custodian (Pat) after she dropped her keys in a hole in podium at the village hall. Trustee Ostrander reported that the Community Day Fishing Derby and Hog Dog Eating Contest (winner ate 15 hot dogs) went very well! He also reported attending the Union negotiation meeting and the workshop meeting. He contacted S&F Communications regarding the portable camera that the board discussed. He noted that City Glass will be at the meeting hall on Thursday to install the new doors (Clerk to remind City Glass to look at front windows at Community Center for repair). He also reported that the sink trap in the fire house needs to be fixed (the Mayor will handle it). He also attended the Fire Company meeting. The membership will be forming a "Truck Committee" to investigate the replacement of a truck.

**CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED TO THE AUDIENCE****MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

1. **MOTION** to appoint Kimberly Simmons as Clerk/Treasurer/Registrar at a rate of \$23.00/hour (7 hours a day/5 days a week) effective July 27, 2013 upon the retirement of present Clerk/Treasurer/Registrar Eilene Morris made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
2. **MOTION** to appoint Barbara Fischer as Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Registrar at a rate of \$14.00/hour (6 hours a day/5 days a week) effective July 27, 2013 made by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
3. **MOTION** to hire David Lyons as a Philmont Police Officer to fill the position left vacant by the resignation of Harry McMann effective immediately made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
4. **MOTION** to approve the appointment of Nicholas Decker and Christina Brusakos as members of the Philmont Fire Company made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS. (all necessary tests have been passed)
5. **MOTION** to approve PB Inc. and the Walking the Dog Theater to submit intended proposals for funding to the FY2013 NYS consolidated Funding Application inclusive of participating funding agencies such as NYS Council on the Arts, NYS Office of Community Renewal and the NYS Division of Housing and Community Renewal to assist the Canal Street Warehouse to be developed as a performing arts center and that all public meetings and guest lecturers aimed at community participation be approved to be held in the Village Hall (NOTE: approval contingent upon reaching an agreement with the Philmont Village Board) made by Trustee Perry, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
6. **MOTION** to provide one banner for the Claverack 225<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at an amount of \$125.00 made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.
7. **MOTION** to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

The Village Board convened to the office to discuss a personnel matter. After discussion a **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal to close the executive session. ALL AYES, NO NAYS. (**NO OFFICIAL ACTION ON THE MATTER WAS TAKEN AT THIS TIME**).

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Trustee Cropper asked about putting the garbage regulations on the web site. They were to go in the July Water/Sewer billing, however were not ready. Trustee Perry will put it on the WEB site.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Cropper noted that more than \$172,000 in outstanding prior year's taxes remain outstanding. Lists have been made up in the past, however there has been no serious effort to foreclose on any of these properties or collect any of these outstanding taxes. The figures are now considerable. The Attorney will draw up a letter of intent to collect back taxes and look into foreclosure procedures for those properties that are not already on the Columbia County foreclosure list. (Clerk will get an updated list to Attorney Fitzsimmons).

Mr. Osborn noted that the "Columbia Cruisers" car club was enjoyed by all on Community Day.

Chief Beaumont reminded all that there will be a Madi Gras Parade on Friday evening (7/12/13) starting on upper Main Street at 6:00 PM.

**MOTION** to adjourn was made by Trustee Sagal, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

Respectfully submitted,

Eilene Morris  
Clerk/Treasurer  
VILLAGE OF PHILMONT