

Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, May 9, 2016

PRESENT: Mayor Clarence Speed; Trustees Brian Johnson, Eilene Morris, Douglas Cropper, and Laurence Ostrander; Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly J. Simmons.

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

MOTION: to approve the treasurer's report made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Morris. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

MOTION: to approve payment of bills (General, Water, Sewer, Library, Trust & Agency, Summit Lake and Health Care Deductible Abstract's #12) made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

PUBLIC REQUESTS: John Smith asked the board about an old paper road that runs through his property. As this road has never been developed by the village he would like to purchase the property, as other homeowners in the area have done. After some discussion, the village attorney will notice a public hearing next month for the village to abandon both "Hudson Avenue and Franklin Street." The interested surrounding property owners will need to survey the portion of these paper roads they are interested in obtaining.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS: He reported work on Hudson Avenue and Franklin Street. The contract to sell the 8 Ellsworth Street property has been given to the buyer's attorney for his review.

CLERK/TREASURER SIMMONS: Water termination letters were mailed out today for those still owing their January 2016 water/sewer bills. Turn off has been scheduled for June 15th at noon. The office will be closed on Monday May 30, 2016 for the Memorial Day Holiday. The tentative tax roll has been returned to Columbia County Real Property for processing. Due to some last minute assessment changes our new tax rate will be \$7.529754/1000, down from \$7.615/1000. Dan Davis picked up the tax bills today, they will be processed and mailed out on May 31st and will be due without penalty through July 1st. Work has begun preparing to close the books for the fiscal year end. I will also start on the Annual Report for the NYS Department of Audit and Control. All the usual office tasks have been completed. Letters and surveys have been mailed out to area business' concerning banking issues. I have also narrowed down the proposals for the new water/sewer billing program to two choices.

POLICE REPORT: Given by Sergeant Patrick Thomas. Overall they have had a quiet month. They will be putting on an extra patrol on Monday May 30th for the parade.

LIBRARY REPORT: Given by Director Karen Garafalo. She introduced the new library director Tobi Farley. The DPW has assigned a different man for their lawn work and he is doing a great job. They will be getting a workforce worker again this year. Columbia County Photo Club has had photographs on display for almost a month and they have sold about eleven photos, raising about two hundred dollars for the Friends of the Library. They have applied for a grant from the Columbia Children's Foundation, they will use the money to purchase museum passes. They also have requested \$11,000 in bullet aid from Senator Marchione for outdoor concrete game tables. The Mid-Hudson Library System has notified them that they will be receiving \$526 on a grant application for a project called "Join the Parade." A copy of the full report is available in the office for review.

COMMUNITY DAY: Report was given by Monte Jennings. He reported everything is on track and the softball game is a go! They are already looking forward to next year.

COMMUNITY CENTER: Report was read by Trustee Cropper. A copy of the full report is available in the office for review. The center continues to be used by community members. A refresher CPR course was held on May 7th. The Community Center and Free Columbia sponsored a spring camp that was held April 25th- the 29th. They had nine children attend. Upcoming events will include a "River of Life Parade of Animals" and the Wooden Canoe Heritage Association will be holding their first meeting of the Taconic Region at the center.

MAYOR SPEED: He reported attending a luncheon with representatives from The Bank of Greene County. Letters and surveys have been mailed out to area businesses inquiring about their interest in a new bank in Philmont. The bank representatives seem to be interested in the old insurance building on Main Street. The mayor has also handled questions and complaints, and he also attended a community day meeting. He helped Mike Scheller with paper work that was needed for a recent economic development meeting.

TRUSTEE JOHNSON: He first gave the DPW/WA/SW reports, a copy of which are available in the office for review. Trustee Johnson then reported a new overhead door was installed by Madsen Overhead Doors at the warehouse building on Canal Street. Work continues at the tower with the village engineer working on things. They should have work completed by the end of the month. He also noted that our street sweeper is in trouble and they will not be putting any more money into it.

TRUSTEE MORRIS: She also attended the lunch with The Bank of Greene County representatives. She dropped off the letters and surveys for circulation at the village library and Family Dollar. It was suggested that more surveys should be distributed to the Tripp Center. She also consulted with office staff on the new water/sewer program and has gracefully volunteered to help fold the banking surveys for inclusion with the annual tax billing.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: He reported attending the community day meeting, helping the community center and checking village properties. He wants to remind everyone that the Forest Lake Property is for the use of Village residents and employees only. He also had a very informative telephone conversation with the city of Schenectady about derelict buildings and how they are able to clean things up so fast. He was able to come away with some ideas we may be able to implement.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER: Trustee Ostrander reported he has set up a meeting with Penflex representative Dave Rogers for Thursday night at 7 pm in the village hall to discuss the LOSAP investment and to see how things are going. He has been working with Monolith getting the solar power moving and has also received a complaint about the drains backing up in the firehouse again. Bathroom work will take place next month and should alleviate this problem.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

MOTION to move funds within accounts as needed was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to hire Tobi Farley as the new library director, at the rate of \$16.50/hour, effective May 16, 2016; was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Morris. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to approve Stephen Shook and Maria Ostrander as members of the Philmont Volunteer Fire Company as submitted, with each applicant passing physicals and arson awareness background checks; was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Cropper, TRUSTEES JOHNSON, CROPPER AND MORRIS AYES, TRUSTEE OSTRANDER ABSTAINING, NO NAYS.

MOTION to take action against delinquent water/sewer users; was made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to hold the end of the year meeting on Thursday May 26, 2016 at 12:00 NOON in the village office for the sole purpose of paying the end of the year bills; was made by Trustee Morris, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to accept, with regret, the resignation of part-time police officer David Stevens effective immediately was made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to hire Scot Straight as a part-time police officer effective immediately at the rate of \$15.50/hour was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Morris. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to hold a Public Hearing for the abandonment of paper roads Hudson Avenue and Franklin Street for Monday June 13, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the village hall was made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

MOTION to set up a special "Property Maintenance and Clean Up" account, with initial funding coming from the sale of the 8 Ellsworth Street property; was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: NONE

NEW BUSINESS: The board discussed the request from Phil Gellert for some relief from a high water bill. After looking at the account history and reviewing the leak, the board determined not to grant this request.

With no further business before them the mayor asked for a moment of silence in memory of our long time resident Tony Torchia.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly J. Simmons
Clerk/Treasurer