

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Monday August 12, 2019**

**PRESENT:** Mayor, Clarence Speed; Trustees; Douglas Cropper, Barbara Sagal, Brian Johnson, Laurence Ostrander; Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons; Clerk/Treasurer Kimberly Simmons.

**MEETING RULES OF PROCEDURE WERE READ ALOUD**

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of the previous meeting with the following correction with Trustee Sagal's report; she also reported attending the Columbia Opportunities meeting where they worked on the Bi-Laws; was 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, Water, Sewer, Library, Trust & Agency, Summit Lake, and Health Care Deductible Abstract #3, BOA Grant Abstract #16, and Building Maintenance Reserve Abstract #1) made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

**PUBLIC REQUESTS:**

Resident Christopher Reed read aloud a letter he provided to the board earlier in the day concerning the proposed lease of the warehouse on 10 Canal Street. (See correspondence #21) Attorney Fitzsimmons responded that the proposed lease would be subject to planning and zoning compliance. He also noted that there needs to be better correspondence between Free Columbia, the Village board and the building inspector.

Resident Jean Giblette inquired as to how someone might apply for a position on the board that will be set up to update our current zoning. Attorney Fitzsimmons gave an overview of what work will be done and noted it is in the board's discretion to appoint members for this upcoming endeavor.

Resident Jerry Howett provided the board with a hand-out on projected rental income the village will receive from Free Columbia if the board agrees to the proposed lease. According to his calculations the average monthly rental income will amount to \$166.69 a month over the next twenty-one years.

Resident Patrick Doyle totes his experience working on projects such as the warehouse. He noted that a few mistakes have been made regarding notice to the village and apologized for the oversight. He then thanked the trustees and spoke about his extensive meetings with the building inspector on this project. He is confident that the H-I district allows a Special Permit for Public Assembly and is aware that Free Columbia needs to go before the Planning and Zoning Boards.

DPW Working Forman Dave Siter has proposed the use of garbage bags instead of using stickers for our garbage pick-up. He feels it would lead to a cost saving for the village. He also needs to speak with the board about his employment contract. He noted the increase of work request forms being used.

Resident Peter Johnson asked about the use of water without paying, insurance coverage in effect for 10 Canal Street and the garbage law. Trustee Johnson spoke about the unmetered water sale, noting they actually pay more for the water than our users do, and about the fire company filling a swimming pool. Although the fire company does not pay the village for the water, they usually do in turn get a donation for this service. If residents fill their pools with a hose, the village does give them a sewer credit. Attorney Fitzsimmons read the section of the lease for Free Columbia which applies to insurance coverage adding the village, and also providing the village with a copy of insurance. He noted they will not be able to change coverage without notice and he believes the insurance is sufficient.

Resident Thomas Paino spoke in opposition to the lease of the warehouse building, citing his areas of concern and perceived errors on the part of the board making this decision.

Nathaniel Williams from Free Columbia spoke about their intentions for the site and activities planned for later this week. He also noted that with all the renovations taken into account their average rent will be closer to \$2,000.00/month, instead of the amount noted by Mr. Howett.

**ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS:** He reported drafting a new parking law, working on a Cold War Veterans Exemption the Village can adopt, (more details on this will be available at a later date), working on employment and retirement agreements (executive session will be needed), as well as ongoing projects. He has also been busy looking into the process of putting a possible new firetruck out for a Public Referendum Vote.

**CLERK/TREASURER REPORT:** All normal office tasks have been completed. (Bank statements, accounts receivable, accounts payable, garbage sticker sales, billing, payroll, monthly reports, etc.) Summer hours will continue through the end of this month. The office will be closed on Monday September 2<sup>nd</sup> for Labor Day. Water turn off letters went out today for those still owing their April bills. Turn off has been scheduled for September 11<sup>th</sup> at noon. Our Annual Audit for fiscal year ending May 31, 2019 has been completed and submitted to the Department of Audit and Control; notice has been published in the Register Star.

**POLICE REPORT:** Given by Sgt. Thomas, the complete report is available in the office for review. He also responded to the earlier garbage inquiry and informed everyone that the police will usually issue a ticket for such a violation.

**LIBRARY REPORT:** Given by Trustee Sagal, a copy of the full report is available in the office for review. There has been a lot of activity on library grounds that has resulted with the Village Police and the Sheriff's office responding. Their camera system will be looked at and updated as needed. The Summer Reading program has been successful so far and will continue into September. The lunch program, with the Hudson City School District, has provided over 125 lunches to children. Other programs such as the Mud Creek, Columbia Land Conservancy, CMOST, Abby Lappen, Kathy Ceceri (robots), and REPCO (Animals in Space) have been well attended. The Repair Café was a huge success. They had 4 experts who helped about 20 people repair such things as a lamp, moccasins, a weed eater, juicer, bracelet and had knives sharpened. Another event like this will be held some time in November. John Brown will be performing Photosongs September 21<sup>st</sup> at 4 pm. This program will involve song, stories and photograph of NYS History.

**COMMUNITY CENTER:** Given by Trustee Cropper, a copy of the full report is available in the office for review. The center continues to be used by area residents and groups. The after-school program will resume in September. Director Veronezi enjoyed sharing information about the community center at our Community Day event. Many people stopped to look at the display and photo boards. She has received many compliments about the improved appearance of the center.

**SUMMIT LAKE AND its WATERCOURSE (BOA) REPORT:** Given by Sally Baker, a full copy of the report is available in the office for review. The Village's grant proposal has been named "Philmont Rising" and has been prepared for the NYS 2019 Consolidated Funding Application that was completed and submitted by PBI ahead of the July 26<sup>th</sup> deadline. The proposal received 27 letters of support from community members including residents and business owners participating in the BOA Working Groups. Letters were received from the Town's of Claverack, Ghent, and Hillsdale to participate in the Watershed Management Plan for the Agawamuck Creek if the CFA grant is awarded to cover costs. All working groups held meetings in July for the Subareas in the BOA plan. Subarea 1 Working Group continues creative discussions for several concepts for redesigns of the waterfront park. Subarea 2 Heritage Working Group are displaying history of Philmont photos and information in storefront windows on Main Street. Subarea 4 Working Group was assisted by Mark Rowntree and Julia Sedlock of Cosmo Design who produced a CFA grant map illustrating the BOA Subareas. The logo for Philmont Rising was designed by Arthur King of Arthur King Consulting and Sarah-Barton King. Working Group meetings are open for anyone to join and participate.

**MAYOR SPEED:** He reported returning from vacation and signed necessary papers, and answered a few complaints. He attended the Community Day meeting, and has spoken with a resident concerning the Cold War Veterans Exemption.

**TRUSTEE JOHNSON:** He first gave the DPW/WA/SW reports, copies of which are available in the office for review. The men have been busy and the water department has completed a sewer hookup on West Street, and repaired a few leaks. A new lawn mower has been purchased for the sewer plant. He thanked resident Peter Johnson for spending so much time working on a rental registry. All of the paperwork is complete and he asked where we go from here. Attorney Fitzsimmons explained that he will now work with the building inspector and compare our current laws with this to come up with a draft.

**TRUSTEE OSTRANDER:** He has been busy attending the workshop meeting, keeping up with emails for the BOA, and working with attorney Fitzsimmons on a new firetruck proposal. The Fire Company would like to purchase a new fire truck to replace two older ones; because of the cost of a new truck a public referendum will be needed and they are working on this process. The company would like this to happen before the end of the year to avoid an increase in pricing. He also gave the fire company report, a copy of which is in the office for review. He noted that the restrooms are complete and that the fire company will be hosting the volunteer fire fighter association in 2022.

**TRUSTEE SAGAL:** She reported a quiet month. She did attend the Town of Claverack's Workshop meeting and she worked on getting a letter of support from them. She found their meeting interesting and she was glad she attended. She encourages others to do the same.

**TRUSTEE CROPPER:** He reported attending the Community Day meeting as well as keeping busy on Community Day. He thanked Dave Siter and Sissy Baker for a job well done. He dealt with resident concerns during the Mayor's absence and helped Trustee Sagal with the letter of support. He also spoke with a representative from Assembly member Didi Barret's office who told him her office was not involved with a grant for a new sidewalk project on Church Street. There was some discussion on this topic and it was decided that the board would look into it further. Trustee Cropper also attended the Repair Café at the library and got his moccasins repaired. He also attended the fire fighter convention and thought the Philmont Fire Department looked great!

#### **CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED TO THE PUBLIC**

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

**MOTION** to deem the 1994 Simplicity Lawn Tractor (48" cut) as surplus and no longer needed for Village business; was made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

**MOTION** to enforce the Water Turn – Off Law, with turn – off scheduled for September 11, 2019; made by Trustee Ostrander, seconded by Trustee Cropper. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

**MOTION** to allow the Mayor to sign the NYSERDA agreement to proceed with LED lighting at the sewer plan, village hall and firehouse, and also to proceed with the electric car charging station located at the library; made by Trustee Johnson, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

**MOTION** to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters was made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

At this time the board convened to the village office to discuss this matter.

**MOTION** to come out of executive session was made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Sagal. ALL AYES, NO NAYS.

**MOTION** to authorize the mayor to sign a lease with Free Columbia for the Canal Street Warehouse subject to all Planning/Zoning Regulations was made by Trustee Cropper, seconded by Trustee Johnson. Trustee Sagal asked a question about what they will be able to do and attorney Fitzsimmons explained that the building inspector will be the "gatekeeper". ALL AYES, NO NAYS

#### **UNFINISHED/NEW BUSINESS:**

Trustee Cropper asked Officer Zobel if the department would look into a boat that has been sitting in the parking lot on Ellsworth Street by the gazebo. It has been there for some time now and it needs to be removed. After some discussion they believe the owner of the boat has been identified and he will be asked to remove it. Mark Rowntree will update the clerk with any new information. Trustee Cropper thanked Mr. Rowntree for his effort.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly J. Simmons  
Clerk/Treasurer