

**Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday February 8, 2021**

PRESENT: Mayor, Clarence Speed; Trustees; Douglas Cropper, Debra Gitterman, Larry Ostrander, Brian Johnson; Clerk/Treasurer Patricia DeLong, DPW Superintendent Dave Siter, present remotely via Zoom: Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, BOA Grant Administrator Sally Baker, Library Director Tobi Farley.
Members of the community: via zoom

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: No public was in attendance due to the Covid-19 Pandemic and social distancing restrictions placed on open meetings. Attendance via Zoom.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 1-11-21 Board Meeting with changes made by Trustee Gitterman made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays
Trustee Gitterman, Trustee Cropper and Trustee Ostrander discuss changes to the meeting minutes. Trustee Gitterman urges that the residents need to know the minutes are not just a rubber stamp and puts forth her rationalism for the changes.

Motion to approve the Budget to Actual Reports made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper ALL AYES, NO NAYS

Motion to approve the payment of bills (General, Water, Sewer, Library, T&A, & Health Care Deductible) from the February 8th Abstract made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

P. Johnson refers to his email and voices concern about the Village suffering from the number of low-quality units and suggests a different strategy working with the private sector to accelerate the process with an obligation to inform land owners what is looked at for an inspection, thus helping move forward with the revitalization of Philmont. Mayor Speed observes that the list submitted has nothing about interior walls. Trustee Johnson notes there are codes in place for this, adding the theory is great putting an onus on the property owners, and asks that Lee look it over. Trustee Johnson inquires if Home Inspectors are qualified. Attorney Fitzsimmons clarifies that Home Inspectors are not certified Building Inspectors and suggests to check with Lee. Trustee Johnson inquires if the agency would be held liable. Attorney Fitzsimmons explains that there is none against the agency creating some risk. Trustee Cropper and Trustee Johnson discuss the costs. Trustee Cropper points out a requirement to provide the names and fees of Home Inspectors. Trustee Gitterman suggests it would be much less rigorous. Trustee Johnson suggests to continue this conversation at the upcoming workshop.

H. Iverson voices concern of a pattern of vandalism on Main Street with placement of propaganda from white supremacist group. He asks 1) how to report this to the Village, 2) that the Board to consider this as a potential for hate crimes, and 3) that the Board consider an anti-hate resolution. Trustee Cropper suggests pulling the stickers off. H. Iverson asks what to do beyond removing them. Trustee Ostrander also suggests if residents see them, just to take them off and remove them.

R. McKay expresses his concern over the sidewalk clearing and refers to his letter where it affects his residence. He continues that he agrees whole-heartedly but also that he snow-blown twice and feels the bill is unfounded. Mayor Speed thanks him for his comment and notes the Board will discuss it. Trustee Johnson observes that the residents were given over 24 hours and the DPW did not clear the sidewalks until Monday morning. Superintendent Siter clarifies that it was not done the name was on the list.

M. Rountree introduces two teens who have worked on various projects in the Village of Philmont. He shows his presentation from Columbia Greene Workforce Development and P.L.O.T. (Philmont Land and Opportunity Trust). J. Dooling displays his pictures and articulates about his work on plans, measurements, classes, 3D Face shields for CMH, surveying and topography. F. Boswell displays his pictures and speaks about his learning workshops, sketches, 3D models, 3D maps, building designs and street plans. M. Rountree adds that the models built could be a possible future community center as well as these learning skills making them more employable and community projects that could help the Village.

E. Czyzewski voices concern about getting the cameras working again. He mentions the camera near the senior center as an aide to the agencies involved as a way to curb drug issues as he states he sees a lot of activity. He also states how he is happy about the measures being taken for the absentee landlords, inspections, and agrees a 2nd person would help speed up the process. Trustee Cropper asks if he is concerned about the building in front of the doctor's office. E. Czyzewski echoes that it is an eye sore with open windows and need asbestos abatement. Trustee Cropper reassures him that it will not sit there, the new doctor said he will be taking the building down.

M. Sesserman announces he would like to speak. He inquires a couple weeks ago Vern mentioned the Philmont Reform panel representative, enjoining the criteria and the time frame. OIC Doyle explains that it will be close to the plan the County is using and are close to finalizing the plan. Once this is in play, in March they will put up the developed plan to say this is what they will do. Would like to get a good variety of people, ideally a younger individual who grow up in the Village, a young adult, someone from Richardson Hall, someone who is older, someone from Philmont Terrace, as they want to hear from everyone and make it as transparent as possible. He adds that going through the County is the best for the Village and will discuss with the Village Board.

S. Baker conveys that she is on the call if anyone has any questions.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS: He reports there is nothing new. The Habitat closing documents are being circulated. He continues that it will no longer be a surplus property, rather a tax generating property. He addresses the misconception of the zoning change to residential, that the EAF/SEQR had all the blanks filled and issues were vetted as an engineering firm was hired to research the minor spills as well as DEC monitored. He adds that the Planning and Zoning Boards worked very hard to make sure the project fit the zoning. He reiterates that all forms were filled out truthfully regarding any minor spills. He mentions the PB Inc. Agreement. No conclusion is made.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Given by Patricia DeLong. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. All normal office tasks including payroll, abstracts, phone calls, emails, garbage sticker sales, posting to social media, sidewalk violation letters as well as all monthly and quarterly reports have been completed. We have had a higher-than-normal volume of walk-ins, phone calls and notary services this past month. All invoices were sent for those who were not in compliance with the Village sidewalk clearing law. This office worked at length with Superintendent Siter on verifying addresses and road frontage as well as the many hours spent on creating and mailing the letter. Additional time was spent answering the questions multiple residents had regarding the invoices. Village elections will be held on Tuesday March 16th. Petitions must be turned in by February 9th. The office will be closed on Monday February 15th for President's Day. On the 26th of January Bob Patterson sent out information requesting proposed budgets from all department heads. These are due to the budget officer by the end of the month. W-2's were received from the payroll company and sent out to the employees by this office. Bob Patterson is processing the quarterly and end of year financial reports.

LIBRARY REPORT: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. She reports on a leak found by a staff member on February 4th coming from the flat roof. She continues they will try to go from curbside pickup and look to open on Friday. She talks about the At Home Learning Kits and books with activity sheets. They had to reschedule their job skills workshop. She is currently in the process of an ALA grant due March 4th. She reports that soup sales are going on and having them packaged for pick-up is working very well. She shares some stats and adds that they will be looking for funding because of state cuts.

COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT: Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Veronezi. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. He reports on the facility, programs and estimates for exterior repairs on the building being obtained from contractors for the roof, windows and siding.

POLICE REPORT: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. He reports the weekly meetings for Police Reform are going well. He states there is one more public review and asks the Board to adopt the part of the County Reform. He responds to a previous question on a local meeting, which he confirms are set as required. He notes the County IT department will help upload the servers. He reports on parking patrols and addressing storm related issues. He also asks the Board replace Ryan Maisenbacher with Stephanie Van Alstyne. He also reports he is waiting for technology and quotes for the cameras. Superintendent Siter and OIC Doyle discuss Forrest Lake keys and gate.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report – given by Grant Administrator S. Baker. She reads her report summary. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request.

MAYOR SPEED: Reports he has responded to many phone calls and complaints. He feels good making a difference.

TRUSTEE JOHNSON: He first gave the DPW/WA/SW reports; full copies of these reports are available in the office for review. He reports on the snow, taking the house down, the ice damn on the library roof, the sludge samples passing and the water break at the Hearth.

TRUSTEE GITTERMAN: Reported working on the NYSERDA Grant and confirms we need to submit proof of installation before reimbursement by the grant. She presents 2 quotes for the car charging station. She also asks S. Baker about the posted positions for PBI are for the grant work. S. Baker confirms all 4 are for PBI, Inc. and not grant.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: Reported he spent time at the demolition of th Prospect Street house, attended the Community Day meeting, and is responding to a concern about Forest Lake.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER: Starts by giving the Fire Department report. He reported attending the BOA meeting, attending the police reform phone call and work on the fire police vehicle.

Superintendent Siter discusses Community Day and \$2,500 for fireworks.

MOTION to give to community day made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED

- 1) Email from Ed Czyzewski regarding abandoned roadside furniture.
Board discussed that they can not just remove them with out approval
- 2) Email from Nancy Layton regarding garbage.
- 3) Letter from Gary Crosby regarding snow removal invoice.
- 4) Letter from John Patrick Doyle regarding snow removal invoice.
- 5) Letter from Abigail Laufer regarding snow removal invoice.
- 6) Letter from Walter Gurbo regarding snow removal invoice.
- 7) Letter from Mindy Gardner regarding snow removal invoice.
- 8) Email from Eric Schnackenberg regarding snow removal invoice.
- 9) Email from Robert McKay regarding snow removal invoice.
Board discusses. A motion is put forth by the Village Attorney

MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

MOTION to uphold and affirm snow removal in accordance with Village Law in accordance with the report of the DPW department made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept with regret, Ryan A. Maisenbacher’s resignation as Village of Philmont Police Officer effective January 1, 2021 made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to reappoint Richard Osborn as a member of the Village of Philmont Planning Board for a five (5) year term, to expire March 1, 2026, made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to reappoint Robert MacFarlane as Chairman of the Village of Philmont Planning Board for a one (1) year term, with the term to expire March 1, 2022, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to reappoint Kurt Basl as a member of the Village of Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals for a five (5) year term, with the term to expire March 1, 2026 made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to reappoint Kurt Basl as the Chairman of the Village of Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals for a one (1) year term, with the term to expire March 1, 2022 made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to make a budget line transfer in the amount of \$ 1,616.00 from H15 230.8 to A1620.4 to cover the invoice from Alpine Environmental Services for New York State DOL Variance and Asbestos on property located 29 Prospect Street, Village of Philmont, tax map id 113.9-1-63 made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to make a budget line transfer in the amount of \$31,450.00 from H15 230.8 to A1620.4 to cover the invoice from M. Cristo Inc. for demolition, removal and legal disposal of the fire damaged structure located 29 Prospect Street, Village of Philmont, tax map id 113.9-1-63 made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to approve the hiring of Officer Stephanie VanAlstyne to the Village of Philmont Police Department made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to approve the installation of a car charger by Juice Bar made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business: proof of payment for the demolition of 29 Prospect needs to be sent to Attorney Fitzsimmons.

MOTION TO ADJOURN made by Trustee Johnson, second by Trustee Gitterman.

Adjournment: 9:10

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia DeLong
Clerk/Treasurer