

Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Monday, April 12, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Larry Ostrander, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Patricia DeLong, DPW Superintendent Dave Siter, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons present remotely via Zoom: BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, Library Director Tobi Farley
Members of the community: via zoom

Call to Order: 7:01 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 3-8-21 Board Meeting made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to approve the minutes from the 3-24-21 Special Board Meeting made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel
All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to approve the minutes from the 4-5-21 Organizational Meeting with changes made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to approve the minutes from the 4-5-21 Budget Hearing with changes made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

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

Motion to approve the payment of bills (General, Water, Sewer, Library, T&A, & Health Care Deductible) from the April 12th Abstract. made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

Mayor Johnson starts by giving a compliment on how the Village pulled together, how the firemen from 12 companies all worked together, and for such a horrible situation everyone worked together and the fire victims all had a bed to go to that night.

W. Gurbo speaks about his disappointment with the snow removal bill which was reduced to \$408 as he paid \$30 for the same job. He voices how he feels it is inaccurate, and a rule made by a previous board in 2017 says that everyone was notified and that the charge be based on the proven cost. He asks that it be treated as a mistake, start a clean slate and turned into a warning. Mayor Johnson explains it was in the paper, the storm was noticed on the computer and the Village did what it had to do properly. He adds Mayor Speed cut the fee in half before he left, it was a service we had to provide because there were 33 people who did not shovel their sidewalks. He recommends that they stick with what Mayor Speed set. Trustee Gitterman asks if the Village is required to notice changes in the paper. Attorney Fitzsimmons once again clarifies that what the Village did was legally sufficient. D. Gitterman asks if there could be a payment plan. D. Siter confirms that the office has allowed people to make payments over time if they contacted the office. W. Gurbo reiterates that he paid \$40 for the same thing he was charged \$400 for.

P. Johnson states he is only there if there are questions about the Economic Development Group. Mayor Johnson asks when the first meeting was. P. Johnson answers it was in February. Mayor Johnson asks how he can attend a meeting. P. Johnson states that the Mayor can arrange it with his colleagues in the office, they meet via Zoom the 1st Thursday of each month from 3:30 to 4:30, they have Google documents and maintain a record of communications via email. Mayor Johnson asks if P. Johnson is the Chairman, as he would like to arrange a meeting. Mayor Johnson and P. Johnson discuss. Trustee Cropper confirms that the citizens Economic Development Group has not been recognized yet by the Village. Trustee Gitterman asks if the resolution she submitted Monday morning was in the Board's documents. Clerk

affirms it was printed. Trustee Gitterman continues with the new incarnation of the group and passing the resolution. Trustee Gitterman and Trustee Ostrander discuss at length. Trustee Gitterman shares with the public Mayor Johnson's decision that public comment will be at these meetings and not necessarily at the workshops." T. Paino adds that the Town has people with qualifications, they make an effort to include those with specific skills to improve the local economy and call for people who are interested in participating in pursuit of their mission. Trustee Gitterman states that the tasks of updating the list of business and the volume of work for the Village. Trustee Cropper notes that Trustee Ostrander is the EDC liaison. Mayor Johnson observes that it is new, might be tweaked to make it fit, and will get through it.

M. Glemann voices about the snow removal being unfair as he can not see the sidewalk on the back side of his house as it is at a different level, has a stone embankment, with no access to Eagle Street. Attorney Fitzsimmons explains regardless, the property needs to be shoveled by the property owner. M. Glemann voices that it is totally unfair and can not be justified. Mayor Johnson observes that the owner of the property is responsible. M. Glemann adds that he did not put in the guardrail or the sidewalk, it is not at street level, and references a letter he sent. Mayor Johnson observes that the tax book shows the owner of the property, if the sidewalk goes with the property, the law is to remove the snow.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS: He reports he has been working on ongoing projects.

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 and sending mailchimp emails have been completed. Record retention and file purging has continued. Village elections were held on March 16th. Congratulations to Mayor Johnson and Trustee's Ostrander, Cropper and Detzel. Water bills went out on March 31st and are due through April without penalty. For those property owners who paid the snow shoveling fine, their portion of their refund will be mailed to them this week. The Organizational Meeting and Annual Budget Hearing was held on April 5th. The new budget was approved for fiscal year ending May 2022 and remained flat.

LIBRARY REPORT: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. A request has been submitted to the DPW to move the shed back to a spot that will be visible from the main library building since we would like it to house our "tool shed library" and there have been complaints of people meeting and hiding in the spot since it is tucked away in an area that is not visible. We have had to clean out beer bottles several times. We have also requested help with banners and fixing the fence. We were recognized by the Columbia Paper and Hudson Valley 360 for our At Home Learning Kits. Thanks to Mindy for submitting information to the paper. Thanks to Nat Drake for coordinating the Columbia County Photo Clubs Exhibit in the Cultural Center. Cooking Classes will begin April 15th for families with children under 18 yrs. old as a collaborative project with the Sylvia Center, The Philmont Cooperative, the Victory Garden, PBI and the library. Information can be found on the library website to register. Those who need to borrow a laptop and hotspot in order to participate in the workshops may borrow them from the library. We are working on plans for our summer reading program. We are collaborating with Hudson, Claverack and Roe-Jan libraries for virtual programs for adults and children. We have also partnered with the same libraries to create teen and middle school Battle of the Books teams. We will meet both in person and online. We are also looking into having a few in person programs at the town park with the Claverack Library. The Town has said that the park will be available. We will be working with the Land Conservancy on StoryWalks again and would like to do one in the village windows again and a sidewalk obstacle course. We are finalizing policies and borrowing rules for the tool library. I was asked to be a panelist on a webinar for MHLS directors and staff on community outreach. I was asked to highlight our Coalition of Community Partners, Community Story Hours and At Home Learning Kits as examples of excellent ways to reach out and create community partnerships and show other libraries what they can do in their communities. The county libraries will be launching our museum pass program at the end of the month. We will have passes to nearly 30 locations available for Columbia County library card holders to borrow. We are also planning a county wide program on composting with the Columbia County Zero Waste Group. We will also be discussing other Summer collaborations at our meeting next week. We had a successful meeting and discovered what great projects our community groups are working on. We will have a page on our new website to highlight these groups and their programs. Groups are working with each other on projects and sharing flyers and information on programs and workshops that would help others in the group and the whole community. I have talked with Laura at Free Columbia

bout creating a Little Art Gallery on the front lawn. We are in need of someone to build it. Mayor Johnson confirms that the DPW can help out the Library once they have completed work on sidewalks, roads, and lawns.

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. The center has been checked regularly. Is it possible to put a drop slot or drop box at the village office? Employees are having a difficult time returning time sheets and documents due to office hours conflicting with their additional work schedules. The Youth Activities Program reopened on March 15 following all health guidelines. Attending the reopening to welcome participants were Trustee Doug Cropper, Director Julie Veronezi, Program Leaders Sarah Jampol Auerbach, Kaschia Lainez and Monte Jennings. The hours are 3:30 to 5:30. Attendance this month has reached the maximum number. Two Girl Scout groups under the leadership of Caroline O'Neil are now using the center. I met with Caroline at the center to review all the health guidelines. CPR for community center employees and leaders of programs will take place on April 17th. Julie and I will be looking into a return of Cooperative Extension leading a program again this summer. Last year Julie and I were able to set up a great program with Linda Tripp's help. Deb Grau was interviewed by myself and Director Veronezi for a position at the community center to assist as a substitute. At the interview I suggested a program that Deb could lead about volunteer firefighters and bringing a truck to the center for the children to see. A recommendation to hire Deb was made following a background check which is standard procedure for anyone working with the children. Thank YOU! Sending a special thank you to Mayor Skip Speed for his support of the community center and serving as an advocate for the youth in our community. We will miss your leadership.

POLICE REPORT: Given by Clerk Patricia DeLong. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. She reads, there were 7 calls for service, 202 property checks, 3 UTT's, and 18 V&T warnings. Attorney Fitzsimmons also mentions the Town of Claverack may look to an intermunicipal agreement to have their park patrolled.

SUMMIT LAKE & ITS WATERCOURSE (BOA) REPORT: Given by Grant Administrator S. Baker. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Attended the BOA Co-Chair standing meeting held in March with Mayor-elect Johnson and Trustee-elect Ostrander. We reviewed draft copies of the printed Cultural Resources Survey (CRS) and sample pages of the two volume Appendices (to be printed) that consist of over 800 pages documenting the 423 inventories of properties included in the Survey. We discussed an expected publication date of the three volume Survey for April or early May following approval to release the Survey to be received from the DOS. On completion of the Appendices printing, both the Survey with Appendices will be made available in the Village Office for viewing and for check out at the Philmont Library. Electronic versions will be available. The Co-Chair meeting included discussion on the procedure to get links up on Village web site to access the full Survey. I was pleased to report to the BOA Co-Chairs that the Survey has received an evaluation by NYS Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (PARKS) who have issued a Statement of Significance with a determination the Village of Philmont is eligible to apply for a Historic District Nomination based on an initial review of the Cultural Resources Survey (CRS). We discussed the procedure for a community comment period and the consensus needed to be reached to advance the Survey for Nomination. If granted, property owners with eligible properties in the Philmont Village Historic District would be eligible to receive a 5 % preservation income tax-credit of the total cost of eligible rehabilitation expenses of their property – both interior and exterior. In conjunction with the release of the Survey, online presentation webinars from PARKS specialists and the CRS preservation consultant, Jessie Ravage, will be announced at that time. The CRS was partially funded by BOA grant funds awarded to the Village in project partnership with PBI, and funds from the Preserve New York* program awarded directly to PBI in 2019. The total cost of the Survey was \$19,500. With the publication of the Survey, we will have completed the BOA grant task on the Work Plan ahead of schedule. PBI would like to take this opportunity to thank the Village BOA Co-Chairs for their interest and support of the Survey, and a robust thank you to the community volunteers of the Subarea 2 /Heritage Working Group for their input in the start-up stages of the Survey and the Working Group volunteers who provided the preservation consultant Jessie Ravage and her assistant an initial tour of the Village back in the fall of 2019 for this project. It will be exciting to see how the community receives the effort by all that helped to produce this outstanding Survey of the village by Jessie Ravage, and the two volume Appendices assembled by PBI for print form publication. Informed the BOA Co-Chairs that the Village/PBI Alliance Agreement is still in process of communications between the Village attorney and PBI's attorney.

MAYOR JOHNSON: He also reports he had a terrible first day as Mayor! He continues 15 people were displaced in that fire, the Village pulled together, and everyone had a bed to go to that night. He notes that the Davalas' will take down

the structure, plan to put up a new one and have been very cooperative. He adds his Thank you. Trustee Cropper adds to thank Sarah Siter, Trish the Rod & Gun Club, and the Red Cross. Trustee Gitterman suggests a letter to the editor. He gives the DPW/WA/SW reports; full copies of these reports are available in the office for review. He reports they raked and cleaned up the lawn on Canal and Elm Street cold patched potholes, are staffing so residents can drop off brush on Friday afternoon, assisted with the fire on block street. The DPW was a huge help. The DPW also cleaned up the monument and the fence at the ballfield and the damn has been cleaned off. The water and waste water departments have taken samples to DEC and Health Department, tested for PFOA's, replaced the fuel pump on the plant generator, had the old light fixtures removed, and had trees taken down hanging over the garage. The Village water averaged 165,000 gallons a day for the month of March. The fire used 66,000 gallons.

DPW **Superintendent Siter** asks that residents stay away from the rocks at the Community Center as he is having an exterminator come to look at bee activity. He adds that they sweep early because there are no cars making it safer for the guy in the truck as well as being able to get everything done. He explains how the machine also adds moisture to keep dust down, if they go out in direct sunlight the dirt will dry out quicker.

Mayor Johnson adds a new sweeper was just purchased to get all the sidewalks done also.

DPW **Superintendent Siter** adds that he is getting radios for the red truck that will allow the DPW to communicate with the Sherriff and the County. He is also trying to get a grant for new meters that will allow sooner recognition of leaks and tampering.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER: He states how he attended the meeting regarding the solar, a meeting for High Falls and the BOA for 2022. He gives the Fire Department report who has had 97 calls this year with 8 calls for the month of March. They will be hosting the Columbia County Fire Convention the last week in July. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. He also adds that brush fires spread quickly in the Village.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: Starts by thanking all the voters for coming to vote and election inspectors for their hard work. He attended the Community Center meeting. He adds that the kids were happy to be back. He also attended Budget meetings and the Organizational meeting. He has met with the Police, the Building Inspector, and the Judge. He has also met with Jeff Waterhouse regarding the shed in the park, attended the meeting for Pine Haven and their water, and coordinated Daphne Jordan's meeting with Mayor Skip Speed. He adds that he reached out to Kachia to come to the Community Center the day of the fire, and she came right over to open it. He also reached out to the Red Cross the day of the fire.

TRUSTEE GITTERMAN: Reports she attended a Community Day meeting, she is working on building the new Village website, Climate Smart with Tom Paino and asks that Tom present about the Community Choice Agreement. She also asks if copies of the minutes can be printed and put in the Post Office. It is determined that the office is near the Post Office and the minutes can be posted to the board.

TRUSTEE DETZEL: Reports he attended the Library meeting; he is working on a grant from Delgado for air packs for the Fire Company explaining that out of \$91,000 the Village would be responsible for \$22,000. He adds he would like to setup hours in the office and work on the Chicken Laws. .

CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED

- 1) **Email from Margaret Hallisey regarding truck sign.**
- 2) **Email from Sophia Taylor regarding truck sign.**
- 3) **Email from Lee Heim regarding truck sign.**
- 4) **Email from Raymond Rigoglioso regarding street sweeping.**
- 5) **Letter from Michael Seserman regarding street sweeping.**
- 6) **Letter from Barbara Sagal regarding LED Street light.**

Trustee Gitterman refers to the correspondence regarding the street lights. The Board discusses lumens at length. It is determined that they will discuss it again at another date.

Mayor Johnson notes that the workshop will pertain to the softball field and the building that is in disrepair and has become a drug haven.

Motions and Resolutions-

MOTION to appoint Keith Zobel as Village of Philmont Deputy Officer in Charge effective April 12, 2021, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept with regret, Matthew Perry's resignation as Village of Philmont Website Services Technician effective May 4, 2021, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to hire Deb Grau as part time Substitute Assistant for the Activity Program at the Philmont Community Center at the rate of \$15.00 per hour, as submitted by Director Veronezi, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to appoint Jess Cropper-Alt as an alternate to the Village of Philmont Planning Board effective April 12, 2021, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays, Trustee Cropper abstains

MOTION to appoint Monte Jennings as a member of the Village of Philmont Zoning Board of Appeals for a five (5) year term, to expire March 1, 2026 effective April 12, 2021, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to allow the Mayor to sign the Shared Services Agreement from Columbia County MIS Department, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to make a budget line transfer in the amount of \$2,542.91 from the Sewer Maintenance Reserve to Sewer Authority Checking to cover the invoice from Lowe's Home Centers for new LED lighting for the Village of Philmont sewer plant, to be reinstated upon receipt of Climate Smart Grant money made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to make a budget line transfer in the amount of \$1,000 from the Sewer Maintenance Reserve to Sewer Authority Checking to cover the invoice from Leggett Electric for new LED lighting installation for the Village of Philmont sewer plant, to be reinstated upon receipt of Climate Smart Grant money made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to approve the proposal made by Herrington's in the amount \$682.26 for service valve replacement on tank located 124 Main Street with the condition that the Village DPW dig around the tank, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to bring the sewer portion of the recent water bill number 9137 for residence of Richard and Eileen Morris located at 30 Eagle Street down to a minimum due to a leak in their crawl space under the house, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept the slate of Fire Company Officers as submitted:

Chief: Mark Beaumont

1st Assistant Chief: Brian Ostrander

2nd Assistant Chief: Kevin C. Grau

Captain: Chris Morehouse

1st Lieutenant: Chris Carlson

2nd Lieutenant: Christina Brusakos

made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to approve the resolution with changes adopting a revised schedule of water department fees, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

VILLAGE OF PHILMONT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK
RESOLUTION NO. 3

Adopting a Revised Schedule of Water Department Fees

At a regular meeting of the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Philmont, Columbia County, New York, duly held on the 12th day of April 2021 at the Village Hall, 124 Main Street, Philmont, New York, and virtually via Zoom the following Resolution was proposed and seconded:

Resolution by: Trustee Cropper;

Seconded by: Trustee Detzel.

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code of the Village of Philmont §152-14, entitled "Water Rates" the water rates for users shall be set forth in a fee schedule established and amended as necessary by resolution of the Village Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Code of the Village of Philmont §152-11, entitled "Power to act by resolution" the Village Board may, by resolution, establish and/or amend water rents and/or charges related to meters, and shall establish procedures for reading meters and billing and collecting water rents; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, in consultation with the Department of Public Works, the Water and Sewer operators has determined it is necessary and appropriate to make revisions to the fee schedule to charge revised fees appropriate and relative to the costs incurred by the Village to administer and review the water services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village of Philmont Board of Trustees does hereby adopt the following as and for the Schedule of Water Department Fees.

Village of Philmont

Schedule of Water Department Fees - 2021

Last Reading (old owner):	\$50.00 per reading
Change of Service (new owner):	\$25.00
Turn off fee (lack of payment):	\$75.00
Turn on fee (return of service):	\$75.00
Turn off / on (repair fee):	\$25.00 each
New Service turn on:	Cost of Meter & \$50.00
Rebuild Meter (no more than 75% of new meter cost)	Cost of Parts & \$50.00
New Meter	Cost of Meter
New Horn	Cost of Horn

Upon question of the foregoing Resolution, the following Philmont Village Board members voted "Aye" in favor of the Resolution:

The Resolution having been approved by a majority of the Village Board the same was declared duly adopted by the Mayor of the Village of Philmont.

MOTION to go into Executive Session to discuss proposed, pending or current litigation with the Village's solar provider made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to come out of Executive Session made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to adjourn made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment: 9:17

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia DeLong
Clerk/Treasurer