

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Tuesday January 11, 2021

PRESENT: Mayor, Clarence Speed; Trustees; Douglas Cropper, Debra Gitterman, Larry Ostrander, Brian Johnson; Clerk/Treasurer Patricia DeLong, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Christine Speed, 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: 7:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 12-14-20 Board Meeting made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to approve the minutes from the 12-21-20 Special Meeting made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

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

Motion to approve the payment of bills (General, Water, Sewer, Library, T&A, & Health Care Deductible) from the January 11th Abstract made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to identify the Village Meeting Hall, located at the rear of 124 Main Street, Philmont, NY as the polling place for the Village Elections to be held on Tuesday March 16, 2021 with polls being open from 12:00 noon until 9:00 PM was made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

Motion to appoint Kurt Basl, Marty Miller, and Monte Jennings as election inspectors for the March 16, 2021 Village Elections to be held in the Village Meeting Hall from 12:00 noon to 9:00 p.m. at the daily rate of \$150.00 each made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to make a budget line transfer in the amount of \$1,100.00 from H15 230.8 to A1620.4 to cover the invoice from Alpine Environmental Services for New York State DOL Variance on property located 29 Prospect Street made by Trustee Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to reopen the BOA grant account with The Bank of Greene County, which was closed in error in the amount of \$181.77 and transfer from savings account 201.1 to reopen the account made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Johnson. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to reimburse customer number 1040, Davala, property located 3 Block Street in the amount of \$303.92 billed in error for an inactive account made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to accept the bid from O'Connell Electric & Blue Heron Construction for the Waste Water Treatment Plant tabled from last meeting on December 14, 2020 Denied.

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

D. Siter states that Community Day meeting has been postponed to the 19th and there will be a meeting at the Philmont Rod and Gun Club at 7:00 pm.

S. Baker gives her report summary. a full copy of the report is available in the office for review. ~~December was spent focusing on launching Philmont Rising in February now that the two BOA and LWRP grant contracts are finalized, and while the Village is waiting on receiving the counter signed contracts back from the state. The monthly meeting was held with the BOA project Co-Chairs Trustee Ostrander and Trustee Johnson. I attended the Special Meeting held by the Village to discuss the new procedure for future grant opportunities to be reviewed by the BOA Co-Chairs to assist with streamlining potential proposals. In reference to the Local Champions grant, I ran two lengthy certification assessments on the Climate Smart Communities web site and provided the assessments to the Village. In both scenarios, the assessments illustrate how the state funded BOA and LWRP scope of work include various land use and environmental items that meet the requirements of Climate Smart Actions and will substantially contribute towards the Village reaching a Bronze level for Climate Smart Certification. Based on the assessments, they show the Village is well on its way to reaching Bronze. Certification and would not be eligible to apply for the Local Champions grant aimed at communities who are just starting to engage with Climate Smart Certification requirements.~~

D. Gitterman asks if all documents for grants can be sent in 30 days in advance so all the Board members can review them. D. Gitterman clarifies for PBI that all grant-related documents must be shared with all board members at least 30 days in advance. S. Baker asks for clarification. B. Johnson confirms that all documents should be sent in as soon as possible and the Clerk will contact the Board for review. Motion made at 12/21/20 special meeting re: 30 day minimum.

P. Johnson asks about the residential rental registration requirements and absentee landlords, the NY State police reform panel requirements and status of this plan, and if any members participated in the US Capitol on January 6th. V. Doyle confirms they have been working with Columbia County, other part time agencies, and sitting on panels to develop a solid plan to meet or exceed other active plans as well as working with advisors to create solutions for concerns the public brings as well as taking it one step further, once the plan is set in place at the County level, they will continue to move forward at the Village level with ongoing community policing, engagement with Village residents. As the culture is always changing in the community, they want to do what they can here at the local level. V. Doyle also confirms there were no officers from Philmont in D.C.

L. Schneider talks about the Philmont Free store explaining how the box is offered to anyone who needs and looks to the community for support.

M. Sesserman voices his concern that Philmont has a problem that will get bigger if the Board does not address it soon because of all the grants that we expect to get in future years. The problem is PBI as it relates to Philmont grant management, conflicts with PBI and the Board. He recommends: Require PBI to hire someone with the proper skill set, a monthly summary and project progress reports, direct more funds to the Village to help support community development, and The Village should ensure the diversification of funding sources and recipient organizations within Philmont.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS: He reported Habitat closing reviewed and approved for Mayor to sign. Proceeds to the Village at closing.

CLERK/TREASURER REPORT: Given by Christine Speed. All normal office tasks as well as all monthly and quarterly reports have been completed. (Bank statements, accounts receivable, accounts payable, garbage sticker sales, payroll, etc.) Water bills went out on December 31st and are due without penalty through the end of January. Village elections will be held on Tuesday March 16th. Petitions must be turned in between February 2nd and the 9th. The office will be closed on Monday January 18th for the Martin Luther King holiday. We will begin work on our 2021-2022 budget soon. Bob Patterson will be sending out information requesting proposed budgets from all department heads.

POLICE REPORT: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. The Police received 12 calls for service. Will enforce ticketing for cars parked on streets against Village Law. Trustee Cropper asks about security cameras. V. Doyle is obtaining a quote and complete proposal for new cameras.

LIBRARY REPORT: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley.

Building

Thanks to Mindy for setting up the Go Fund Me page for the library structural project.

Services

1. At Home Learning Kits – We are still processing and cataloging new kits and working on a display and check-out process. FDR museum and Locust Grove (home of Samuel Morse) and the Van Buren house are discussing kits they can help us with.
2. The Christmas Ornament Workshop had 70 registrations with about 2/3 of them being picked up.
3. Job skill workshops with Columbia-Greene Community College have been set for Thursday January 14th and 21st at 5pm. These workshops will be repeated.
4. We are working on several shared programs with Hudson, Claverack and Roe-Jan libraries.
5. The first is a program on bats with Robyn Niver on Thursday January 14th. <http://philmontlibrary.com/> Others will include a series with the FDR Museum and Library, technology workshops, and photography workshops for teens.
6. CCLA (Columbia County Library Association) is continuing to produce monthly Reader's Theater programs. It would be great to have one with readers from our library! Please let me know if you are interested in participating in a future reading.
7. Hoopla has been a success in the first month with thirty-two patrons signing up and borrowing 56 items at a cost of \$95 (between both libraries).
8. We have had two staff members who have needed to quarantine due to contact with persons who have tested positive. So far we have not needed to go to curbside or close. Both staff members had not been in the building for the prior week to quarantining due to the holidays and taking personal time. This may become an issue if more than one staff member is quarantined at the same time causing not enough coverage. Claverack staff have agreed to sub if needed and half of our staff have agreed to do the same for them.
9. The Victory Garden Project with PBInc. was submitted for grant review. We hope to hear back in mid-February.

Grants and Donations

\$1,500 Town of Ghent

Stats

December 2020 total circ 2728

December 2019 total circ 3440

Meetings/ trainings/ projects

1. The Columbia County Library Association (CCLA) – I am now vice-chair of the CCLA and on the museum pass committee along with four other library directors. We are investigating the best way to use the grant money to benefit all residents of Columbia County. This includes evaluating past usage of each pass, checking in on all site's lending rules and pricing, looking for new sites to add to the collection and working with an online reservation management system. If you have any suggestions on sites to look in to please let me know.
2. We will be updating our website. I am working on this with MHLS. It will cost \$100 extra over the usual yearly fee. It will allow our website to be unique from other library websites in the system, more attractive and user friendly. Any library board members who would like input on the development of the new format please let me know so that we can meet with Laurie or Jerry at MHLS together.
3. Soup sales begin January 13th. The plan is to change the soup sales to every other week through January, February and March. Patti is working on announcements and looking for soup makers.

COMMUNITY CENTER REPORT: Given by Trustee Cropper, as submitted by Director Veronezi.

Facility:

The center has been checked regularly. DPW has cleared sidewalks. The center has been rented for a small family gathering in January.

Programs:

All public programs have been temporarily suspended due to the increase in Covid numbers in Columbia County. I hope everyone is off to a good New Year 2021. Be safe. Julie Veronezi. They look to open in March per Trustee Cropper.

MAYOR SPEED: Reported that the Santa Claus Club was able to deliver presents, oranges, candy canes, and even bicycles to a family of 6 with the minimum amount being \$50. He also attended the parade and read the proclamation for Dr. Baillargeon.

TRUSTEE JOHNSON: He first gave the DPW/WA/SW reports; full copies of these reports are available in the office for review. He states the snow storm was handled well and states the fire truck would have been able to get out of the fire house at any time.

TRUSTEE GITTERMAN: Reported attending the Library Board meeting, working on the LED street light project, and participating in Holiday lights.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: Reported participating in Holiday lights, helping with Rural Water, meeting with L. Heim on some issues, meeting with residents in regard to recycling, discussed a possible ZEO position and assisted Julie with tables at the Community Center.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER: No Fire Company report was available as they have not been able to have a meeting. He reported attending the BOA meeting, Driving the blue fire truck for the Dr. Baillargeon celebration, and working on other various issues in the Village.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED**MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

S. Baker and Trustee Gitterman discuss the 56 Main Street Stabilization grant and addressing the environmental issues.

MOTION to approve the BOA Grant Resolution made by Trustee Gitterman, seconded by Trustee Johnson. ALL AYES, NO NAYS

Motion By: Debra Gitterman

Seconded By: Brian Johnson

Resolution by the Village of Philmont approving and endorsing Philmont Beautification, Inc in its application to NYS Homes and Community Renewal for funding under the New York Main Street Program (NYMS.)

WHEREAS, the Philmont Beautification, Inc desires to apply for up to \$500,000.00 in financial assistance through the 2020 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street Program (NYMS); and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist property owners to complete building renovations to downtown "main street" buildings on Main Street between Prospect Street and Church Street; and

WHEREAS, the proposed funding will contribute to ongoing community revitalization efforts; and

WHEREAS, the grant application requires that the applicant obtain the approval and endorsement of the governing body of the municipality in which the project will be located.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Trustees of the Village of Philmont approves and endorses the 2020 New York Main Street Program for assistance prepared and to be submitted by Philmont Beautification, Inc.

Passed by the following vote of all Village Trustee Members voting in favor thereof:

Affirmative Board of Trustee Members:

Affirmative: 4

Negative: 0

Abstain: 0

I, Patricia DeLong, do hereby certify that resolution #12 was passed at a meeting of the Village of Philmont held on January 11, 2021, and is incorporated in the original minutes of said meeting, and that said resolution has not been altered, amended or revoked and is in full force and effect.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Trustee Johnson discusses a renewed interest in the CEO position; this person would check cars, trash, and is on the streets. Would that person have to have the same qualifications as L. Heim. R. Fitzsimmons clarifies requirements for ZEO and CEO. Trustee Johnson and D. Siter discuss the clearing of sidewalks after the storm. Residents were given the weekend to clear them before being charged \$4.00 per lineal foot. A question is asked about relevy and it is decided that the language to relevy onto taxes is in a previous motion made by the Board regarding clearing sidewalks after a storm.

Trustee Gitterman voices concerns regarding residential rental registration, asking about the original intention of the program and the fee of \$50. The Board discusses the fee per property and the fee for rental unit. Trustee Cropper confirms the \$50 is per property and \$20 per unit if the tenant moves. D. Gitterman asks for a monthly report from Lee.

Trustee Gitterman discusses the Champions Grant.

NEW BUSINESS: Trustee Gitterman and Trustee Ostrander discuss a pilot program for affordable green home ownership for new housing. Trustee Ostrander confirms the owners get incentives to build this type of house. S. Baker adds that BIEN LLC Assoc has a ruling that a 2-family house cannot be built and asks about Village of Philmont zoning.

The Board discusses a complaint by the Police Department of rodents in the building.

Motion made by Trustee Ostrander to approve the use of Orkin for the building, 2nd by Trustee Johnson.

D. Siter discusses FEMA reimbursement for the storm, getting his license, and fee scheduled for shut offs.

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

Adjournment: 8:54

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia DeLong
Clerk/Treasurer