

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Monday, June 14, 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, BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, Library Director Tobi Farley Multiple members of the community.

Call to Order: 7:02 p.m.

PUBLIC REQUESTS: Public in attendance with social distancing observed.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 5-10-21 Board Meeting made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to approve the payment of bills (General, Water, Sewer, Library, T&A, & Health Care Deductible) from the June 14th Abstract, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

PUBLIC REQUESTS:

D. Bolevice talks about chickens in the Village. He states he had animals before and asks to look in the historical record of the Village minutes to know why some animals including honey bees are not allowed. He adds that his daughter in Brooklyn was allowed to have chickens but, not here. He continues his that she did have one concern about a year and a half she did notice rats, the coup was off the ground and chickens were fed in the coup with grain. He adds there should be a regulation about not feeding on the ground because it may draw rats. He adds he is all for sustainability and growing your own but, asks there be no roosters and a limit of 12 or less. Trustee Detzel replies it is 6 or less. Trustee Cropper observes the need to go back and look at the public comments, that there were many reasons didn't want chickens, right about rats and notes a fox on Maple Ave now. Trustee Detzel adds a lot of things are in place for management and no roosters. Trustee Cropper, Trustee Detzel, and Attorney Fitzsimmons discuss Public Hearing, Local Law, and Regulations at length.

P. Johnson talks about the rental registration, inspection and list of items. He makes an observation that three significant items are not on the list. He requests that they be considered for addition to the checklist, chimneys, kitchen fire extinguishers, stoves and other appliances. He continues that every chimney must be inspected to ensure adequate draft, structural integrity, and freedom from combustible deposits and obstructions. Property owners must submit proof that said inspection was by a qualified technician. Every dwelling unit must be provided with a portable fire extinguisher which listed, labeled, charged and operable, the extinguisher must be mounted within 10 feet of the kitchen, be visible, and readily accessible. All appliances supplied by the owner must be kept in proper operating condition at all times. He speaks about a conversation in Family Dollar with another resident, how they did not have properly working appliances in their apartment, and how it puts tenants in a situation. He adds volunteer fire personnel deserve to have such safety measures in place, multiple fires in Philmont residences point to fire as a significant danger to all residents. He also asks about property checks by the Police Department. He adds that the last report online, year to date 2020, shows 2400 property checks, which is 300 a month, there are 423 buildings in the Village of Philmont. He asks for clarification on property checks. OIC Doyle explains the Police Department is there to protect and serve the residents of Philmont. They do not do personal home checks unless it is requested by the home owner. The property checks can sometimes be 3 in one shift and include Forest Lake, local businesses, the bus garage, the park, dugouts, and monuments. The weather can dictate the numbers too and it changes all the time. He reiterates that they do not go on anyone's porch or back yard unless asked to do so. They are there to do the right thing for the Village residents.

M. Jennings voices his concern about the Board members. He states how he is taken back by some of the conduct of the elected officials and adds that professionalism is second to none. He adds that the workshop is the place to hash it out so it does not come out in the Board meeting. He asks that the Board be more across the table and on the same level.

J. French presents two purple heart awards and a flag which flew over the Capitol the week before Memorial Day to the Mayor and Board on behalf of The American Legion Post 252. He thanks the Police Department, the DPW, the Village Board, and the Mayor for a great 74th annual Memorial Day celebration. Their goal was to honor the two veterans from WWI with the Purple Heart Ceremony and also speaks on the remains of a ship from the Revolutionary War. He reads his proclamation. Mayor Johnson adds that the Post did a nice job and he really appreciated being a part of it.

ATTORNEY FITZSIMMONS: He reports he has nothing new and 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. Tax bills were mailed out on May 28th and are due by July 1st without penalty. We have been extra busy with walk-ins, recording, and depositing in relation to the taxes. Just a reminder the summer hours for the Clerk's office started on Monday, June 1st and go to Labor Day. These hours are 8-2:30 Monday through Thursday and 8-noon on Friday. The office will be closed on Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day. Meter cards are currently being recorded for Water / Sewer billing. Water/Sewer bills will be mailed out by the close of day on June 30th and are due by July 31st without penalty. We have been receiving multiple questions for the rental registry applications and have provided applications to landlords at the desk. Robert Patterson will be preparing work on the AUD (Annual Update Document) at the end of this month. Benefit deductions and accruals have been updated with payroll. Many hours spent this month with Grants Gateway training and speaking with DEC to help out with Grants Gateway training. Assisted CPL with bids for the WWTP.

LIBRARY REPORT: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. AA will resume in-person meetings beginning June 5th. The village has given permission to use chalk on the sidewalks for interactive sidewalks with a protective spray on coating. StoryWalk will be conducted in the village windows during the month of August. Nat Drake's cello group has been meeting weekly to practice and would like to put on a concert in the pavilion. The library website is hosting the cultural resource survey conducted by PBInc. and the Village in investigating the feasibility of a historic district in the village with discussion on June 24th. I was asked to present the ways we collaborate at the library at a webinar given by the Mid-Hudson Library System for member library directors. Budget was finally approved for the current year. The team says thank you to the library trustees for the input on the reservation system. Due to the concerns about the Clark pass the rules for borrowing from only one's home library have been changed. The info also gave us sufficient reason to convince the Clark to allow print on demand passes when the passes are renewed, which will be later this month. She talks about working with other Libraries in the County. Patti West, has resigned. I have asked Chloe Whittaker, Rain's daughter, to join the team on Saturdays. She recently graduated with her Bachelor's in Library Science and will be returning to complete her Master's Degree in the Fall. This gives us time to find someone more permanent and will give her practical experience in the library. She is starting May 29th.

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. A report was phoned in to Doug Cropper that there were individuals on the roof of the community center. The Philmont Police Department was notified. The After School Program has been meeting regularly. The after-school program will conclude for this year on June 16. Plans are being made for a special closing event. Bird House building took place on May 5. The children and parents had a great time. Thanks to Doug Cropper for planning and instructing, Monte Jennings and Deb Grau for assisting and the parents who helped lend a hand. Girl Scouts are continuing to meet on a regular basis. Hudson River Historic Boat Restoration and Sailing Society used the center for a meeting this month. The meetings are open to the public. New members are welcome. Deb Grau is planning for the Philmont Fire Department to come to the afterschool program with a fire truck and members of the department to explain fire safety and show various parts of the truck and equipment. I met with Anna Siobhan Harrod-McGrew from Columbia-Greene Cooperative Extension. We will host the Summit Lake Explorers camp this summer August 16 – 20. It will follow the same format as last year. Monte Jennings will be assisting as program leader. Publicity will begin next month. Free to village children 8 to 12 years of age. Monte Jennings and Julie Veronezi attended the Workplace Violence and Sexual Harassment training. Thanks to Debra Gitterman for providing training to me on how to add content to the new village website.

POLICE REPORT: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. He states, there were 14 calls for service, 0 arrest, 224 property checks, 0 accidents, 0 UTT's, 9 V&T warnings, and 0 parking tickets. OIC Doyle extends thanks the use of the Rod and Gun Club for their annual required Inservice training. He adds it is a local range and it is kept in great shape. J. French voices concern about cars speeding on Summit Street when traffic is very heavy, they come up over the hill quite fast. OIC Doyle states there will be presence on Summit Street. Trustee Ostrander mentions someone riding a four-wheeler around the Village. Trustee Gitterman voices concern over the speed on Maple Ave and cars not stopping for the stop sign. OIC Doyle states that residents were vocal and they have been sitting there.

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 May with Mayor Johnson and Trustee Ostrander. A review of the BOA and the LWRP Work Plans with corresponding budget line-items was conducted in the meeting, followed by a discussion for the public roll out of the Cultural Resources Survey to engage in the community conversation regarding the potential of creating a Village of Philmont Historic District. Copies of the Survey and 2 volume Appendices are available for public viewing at the Village Office and the Philmont Library, and links to the electronic versions are available on the Village, Library, and PBI's web sites. The Survey can be purchased at the Village Office and the Library for \$20. Updated the Co-Chairs the registration link for the free informational webinar scheduled for June 24th at 7pm is on the Village web site under Events. People can register to attend the webinar where guest speakers, Jessie Ravage, who conducted the Survey, and Jennifer Betsworth from NYS Parks, Recreation, & Historic Preservation will discuss the Survey and a Q&A. All are welcome! Reported to the Co-Chairs that PBI assisted Trustee Gitterman over a five-day period with specifically written copy & materials for the re-design of the Village web site to be populated with the maps, several reports on the conditions of Summit Lake as key documents of the Summit Lake and Its Watercourse BOA plan, and the materials for the Cultural Resources Survey. These planning documents are now up on the web site under the tab Boards / Committees and can be accessed under the dropdown menu for Community Development. We are currently on track with both the BOA and the LWRP grant timelines and are in compliance with all grant administration requirements. 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 comments on how the Village prepared and was ready for Memorial Day. He discusses Stretch Code and has met with Tom Paino numerous times about the energy code, worked with David to get the Village looking good for Memorial Day and the DPW did a great job. He intends to start working on the softball field so by the end of summer it is a lot with green grass.

TRUSTEE OSTRANDER: He reports he attended the BOA meeting, spoke with Attorney Fitzsimmons about Monolith, and responded to hundreds of emails.

TRUSTEE DETZEL: He reports he met with Tobi, worked on related events, sold hot dogs with the Fire Department, and is working with the Police Department on the Fireworks.

TRUSTEE CROPPER: He starts by saying how happy he was to read good reviews in the Rural Intelligence paper for Sally Baker's CRS report, adding it was nice to see something positive. He attended the workshop meeting on Stretch Code, met with the Insurance carrier and reviewed the Village properties, took the mandatory workplace violence and sexual harassment training, and worked on the Summit Lake descriptions.

TRUSTEE GITTERMAN: Reports she launched the website and worked on posting events on the website for the Community Center and Library, With Trustee Cropper for the parks page, and Karen Davala for the update to the business directory. She is pleased with the process. She worked with Sarah on the Community Day page, attended the Community Day meeting, and spoke about businesses in the parade and donations for Community Day. Superintendent Siter adds that the parade is about family, it's the community, everything is motorized this year with the Color Guard being the only walkers. Trustee Gitterman adds there is more detail on the website under committees.

DPW REPORT: Given by Superintendent Siter. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. DPE cleaned the Forest Lake Dam on 5/13/21. Mowing and weed trimming. Hung flags and banners with help from Claverack. Installed Purple Heart Signs. Painted Flag pole and railings at office. Curbs have been painted. Replaced

stop sign on Summit and Lake Shore. Put new flag on Library. Installed speed bumps on Lakeshore. Flower plants have been planted. Removed trees from front of office. Repaired portable water tank. All sidewalks have been swept. Garbage and recyclables. Back down to one man crew.

Water and Wastewater Report. Water leak on 26 Summit Street repaired. Painted fire hydrants. Assisted Hillsdale with Sewer problem. Baldwin hauled 25,000 gallons of sludge. Mowing and weeding done at the sewer plant. Took samples to DEC and Health Department, all passed. Rebuilt couple meters. Dave attended 2 classes online for contact hours. Dave and Cliff have school on 6/1 at Rural Water for contact hours. Repaired water leak on Eagle Street and Ark Street. Read water meters. Cleaned up trees and brush at the sewer plant. Installed a new control panel at the plant. Water tank inspections being initiated for painting. Would like to look to replace the backhoe. Parts ordered for the sander and the clutch on the leafer.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST PROVIDED

- 1) **Email from Michael Seserman dated 5/14 regarding Zoning Board vacancy.**
- 2) **Email from Tom Paino dated 5/18 regarding Zoning Board vacancy.**
- 3) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 5/20 regarding grass at 4 Main Street.**
- 4) **Email from Walter and Tomoko Gurbo dated 5/21 regarding snow removal**
- 5) **Email from Paul Wolf dated 5/24 regarding open meetings**
- 6) **Email from Chris Hoppe dated 5/26 regarding DPW mowing grass**
- 7) **Email from Ray Rigoglioso dated 5/27 regarding open meetings**
- 8) **Letter from Town of Claverack dated 5/24 regarding police patrols at Town Park**
- 9) **Email from Krystle Call dated 5/27 regarding summer program**
- 10) **Letter from Lee Heim dated 6/3 regarding Stretch Code**
- 11) **Email from Peter Johnson dated 6/6 regarding rental registration**
- 12) **Email from Walter and Tomoko Gurbo dated 6/4 regarding snow removal**
- 13) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 6/1 regarding grass at 2 Main Street**
- 14) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 6/9 regarding noise at Pub on Main Street.**
- 15) **Email from Robert Macfarlane dated 6/14 regarding noise at Pub on Main Street.**
- 16) **Email from Lisa Damien dated 6/14 regarding the Village.**

Motions and Resolutions-

MOTION to authorize the mayor to sign the annual renewal of CDPHP PPO Traditional Option dental insurance for the Village of Philmont, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to authorize the mayor to sign the annual renewal of MVP HDEPO 3900/7800 Silver Plan 8 health insurance plan for the Village of Philmont, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept Monte Jennings' resignation from the Village of Philmont Zoning Board effective May 31, 2021, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to hire Monte Jennings as the assistant Zoning Enforcement Officer assisting the Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Philmont at the starting rate of \$16.00 per hour, part time, non-benefited effective June 1, 2021, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to hire Sarah Siter as a part time, non-benefited employee of Village of Philmont on an as needed basis at the rate of \$15.00 per hour effective May 16, 2021, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept Patti West's resignation from the Village of Philmont Library effective May 25, 2021, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to hire Chole Whittaker as part time Library Clerk for The Philmont Library at the rate of \$13.00 per hour, as submitted by Director Farley, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to hire a temporary part-time, DPW Worker for the Village of Philmont with the starting hourly rate to be determined, without benefits, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to authorize the Clerk to sign the application to become a Broadcast partner with WGXC to allow for live streaming of the Village of Philmont Board of Trustee meetings, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to encumber funds in the amount of \$8,671 to complete the purchase and installation of an air conditioning unit for Village Hall and Police Department. The funds are in the 31202 Police Capital Equipment and Outlay budget line for 2020-2021 and will be encumbered to budget line 16202 Buildings Capital Equipment and Outlay for 2021-2022 budget, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

MOTION to accept Kim Czyzewski's resignation from the Village of Philmont Zoning Board effective July 1, 2021, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business-

OIC Doyle speaks about the upgraded camera system. He explains the quotes from S&F and the second option which is a completely new system. He adds S&F were outfitting the system due to it being outdated. They are making a decision on where to go with that, taking into consideration the upgrades in technology. Mayor Johnson comments about license plate readers. OIC Doyle explains that is the most current system on the market.

New Business-

Superintendent Siter states the bid for the Waste Water Treatment Plant is July 1st. He adds the backhoe is down and will cost \$12 to 15 thousand to fix it, \$2,000 to replace the tires in May, new backhoe is \$104,000 and we were offered \$15,000. The new backhoe is the same size, state contract, 5-year financing plan available through John Deere, he just needs a letter of intent. Attorney Fitsimmons also recommends The Bank of Greene County.

Trustee Gitterman speaks about the survey for PEDG is in McNan's, here in the office and on the website. Most will be done electronically; they can mail it or drop it off at the Village Office.

The Board discusses the June workshop with Mike Tucker on Economic Development and Jeff Domanski from Community Choice Aggregation

Mayor Johnson voices concern over several vacant buildings and asks if there is a way to charge fees for having them there. Attorney Fitsimmons advises that the City of Hudson does have options and can look into what options we have. Mayor Johnson adds that he gets the same story every month. S. Baker asks about 11 Elm. Mayor Johnson observes it has asbestos to be removed and then should come down. S. Baker asks who is in contact with 11 Elm. Mayor Johnson confirms Lee the Building Inspector is.

MOTION to go to Executive Session to discuss Monolith, DPW employee, and PBI Alliance, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

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

MOTION to authorize the settlement payment for receivership in the amount of \$29,512.76 and the Mayor to sign the Estoppel Agreement made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to adjourn – in memory of John Hartley, Malcom Hood and Richie Ostrander made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment 9:08

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia DeLong
Clerk/Treasurer