

VILLAGE OF PHILMONT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Regular Board Meeting

Date: Monday, March 14, 2022

Present: Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Larry Ostrander, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Patricia DeLong, Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons and Multiple Members of the Public.

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 6:59 p.m.

Motion: to approve the minutes from the 2-14-22 Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the minutes from the 2-23-22 Special Board Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the February Budget to Actual Reports; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the February 23rd and March 14th Abstracts; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

Vince Randazzo, engineer from Mid-Hudson Cable, gives his presentation on broadband cable versus co-ax cable. He explains that the Village now uses the co-ax system, which is a good medium for delivering, but as time has evolved and demand for more bandwidth has increased. He adds the Village has the infrastructure in place to upgrade to a broadband system. The Board and V. Randazzo discuss ways to and the cost of delivering broadband to the Village

P. Johnson asks about the Town of Claverack and what benefits Philmont gets from paying taxes to them. He speaks about the building owned by the Town of Claverack that is being taken down and asks if there are committees that are going to investigate the nature of that building and its relationship with the High Falls area. He appeals to the Board to make sure that we have a voice at that table consistently, not after something is already totally developed because our tax money is going into it. He also asks how the rental registration and inspections are progressing. He asks if the software is being used to create reports, if departments are notified if inspections fail, and if it is known which property owners ignored the registration. Mayor Johnson explains it is being worked on and to please give the Village some time.

J. French starts by stating he would like to publicly thank people who are doing an outstanding job and Deborah thank you for putting that up on the village website about the American Legion and our hometown banners. He thanks the Police for being up on Summit Street where he states he has witnessed speeding. He expresses about the participants and the speakers for the Memorial Day Parade. Second, he speaks about the hometown banners, the number of banners sold so far is 36, all veterans who will live here in Philmont. Third, he discusses a mutual aid call in the Village for a cardiac arrest and explains why they could not find the apartment.

D. Siter speaks about Community Day and hopefully go ahead with the fireworks and the parade again, he is asking for it to be in next year's budget

Attorney Fitzsimmons: He reports he has been working on ongoing projects with Short Term Rentals, Labor Council and The Woods.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Given by Patricia DeLong. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Village Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 15th from Noon – 9 pm in the Village Hall to elect two Trustees and one Justice. Budget Estimates were sent out via email to all department heads on February 3rd. Budget Proposals were due back by the end of February. Bob Patterson and I are now working on putting the numbers together so a draft can be sent to the Board by the 20th deadline. I did take the training for the electric car charging station on February 9th. Since that time it has generated \$2.16. We still notice an increase in requests for death certificates and need for notary services.

Building Inspector Report: Given by Trustee Ostrander. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Tenancy CO issued 4, Tenancy Inspections 4, Rental Registration Issued 3, Building permits 3, Construction inspections 2, CO/CC issued 1, CO Searches 2, Complaints received/investigated Monte Jennings handles these. He does not report to me. Zoning review/referral of new projects – 1 Philmont Holdings lot line adjustment.

Library Report: Given by Trustee Detzel. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Grants/ Town, State County Funding. We will not receive the ASRL grant for \$2,500. They were overwhelmed with applications. I approached the Town of Claverack to work with us on the field trip program this summer. They already provide buses for their camp programs and would pay for the buses. We are seeking a grant through Berkshire Taconic Foundation that would pay for admission tickets and lunch for all participants. Field trips may include Zoom Flume, USS Slater, Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk, CT, Hudson Athens Lighthouse, and one more undecided. Trips will be open to campers and members of the community. February in-person and virtual program attendance 100. February people in the library 350. February digital services (includes Claverack and Philmont's shared hoopla and OverDrive accounts) 562

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 during the month by Doug Cropper and Julia Veronezi. Cub Scouts and Scout leaders used the center for meetings. Additional programming will resume in the spring. I participated in a meeting with representatives of the Dept. of Mental Health and Greener Pathways. Both have used the center recently. Mental Health suggested that the proximity of the community center is too far removed to be accessed by many residents.

Police Report: Given by Officer Pat Thomas. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of February, we had 12 calls for service, 1 arrest, 97 property checks, 1 MV 104, 8 UTT, 6 V&T warnings, and 0 parking tickets. The Board and Officer Thomas discuss speeding on Summit Street.

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. Mayor Johnson, and Barbara Sagal, Chair of the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management Plan attended. Trustee Ostrander was out of town. Reviewed letters of interest received from Robert Holt to join the Heritage Working Group, and David Bolevice to join the Subarea 1 Working Group. Reported the Heritage presentation by Matt Kierstead has been moved to July. Reviewed the Summary Notes of the 1/31/22 watershed advisory committee (WAC) meeting. Reported the Town of Ghent Supervisor, Craig Simmons, is now participating on the watershed advisory committee. Reviewed an estimate of cost received from Jessie Ravage, preservation specialist, for her fees to draft the National Registry nomination for the Village of Philmont Historic District. Cost is \$23,245. PBI to submit a request to the Village Board for a letter of support to accompany a PBI grant application to Preserve New York to assist with the Ravage fees. Grant maximum is \$14,000. There are no grant admin fees included in the grant. Additional grants will be needed to meet the total cost. Reminder to BOA Committee that the Heritage Working Group proposal submitted to the Village Board in December requested an amount of \$5,000 be budgeted by the Village to assist with the Village of Philmont Historic District nomination consultant fees. **BOA grant updates:** Presentation of Community Center project was conducted by PBI & Mark Rowntree for the Library Board. Objective is for the Library to become involved in the project for continuing discussions. Set up a date for the BOA Project Initiation Meeting to take place with the DOS. PBI is assisting the new owners of 56 Main St to apply for the use of preservation tax credits for planned renovations. 56 Main is a BOA selected site. PBI, and Mark Rowntree (lead of Subarea 1 Working Group) met with Trustee Cropper and Julie Veronezi, Director of the Community Center, who presented an exciting vision for the future usage of the community center based on her experience as Director for over 10 years, including potential future programming, space usage, expanded use of the lake

as a natural resource and asset, and an overview of facility needs including, lighting, site safety issues, ADA accessibility, and parking. It was an extremely congenial and productive meeting. BOA project page is now up on PBI's website where updates will be posted. **LWRP grant Watershed Management Plan updates:** Supervisor Kippy Weigelt has joined the watershed advisory committee. Next watershed advisory committee meeting is scheduled for March 19th. The DOS will be hosting the meeting with a presentation on watershed planning. All four towns are now represented, including the towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz. Philmont is the lead agency. LWRP- watershed project page is now up on PBI's website where updates will be posted

DPW Report: Given by Dave Siter. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Took building down at ballfield, took down backstop, New employee took CDL road test and passed, getting vehicles inspected, repaired truck 22, plowed and sanded multiple times, took samples for DEC and Health Dept, all passed, reading water meters, repaired multiple small leaks, repaired meters, assisted workers at plant with upgrade project, repairs to ventrac, working SPEDES permit, vacuum test done. Met with Bob MacFarlane regarding The Woods, met with George from CPL and repairs to the hydrant on Summit Street.

Mayor Johnson: He reports he and Doug met with our attorney, the engineer, and the developers for the Woods project. Went over the fees and schedules. It was productive and they seem to be still willing to work with the Village. He has been working with David down on the sewer plant. Working with Trish and Chrissy. It's been a busy month.

Trustee Cropper: He reports he walked the woods with the developers, concerned about the trail and its routing. Attended meeting with Brian and the developers. He responded to a police issue that happened on Maple Ave. He had some correspondence regarding the Village physician with Rob. Also worked with Rob regarding some abandoned property that we were finally able to get rid of. He had to work a bit as a human resources officer from time to time. He also had a meeting with Sally, Julie and Mark Rowntree as Sally mentioned before, that was a good meeting.

Trustee Detzel: He reports after six months, he is pleased to announce the air pack money is finally coming to Philmont, and will finally purchase the air packs. He is working on a library grant and mentioned that this summer for the kids in Philmont. Dealt with some personal property issues related to someone dumping garbage. He went to a 5G Citizens meeting about the topic. He attended Sally and Mark's presentation and got some resources from Deborah about help with paying for water bills.

Trustee Ostrander: He reports he went to a meeting last Tuesday with Trish and Chief Beaumont, we had Johnnie Walker insurance to discuss insurance for the parade and the Convention, also a Hold Harmless agreement for participants and vendors. Email chain with Sally and the other Board members. Investigated some light bulb procurement for Tom for the Climate Smart community. Working on parking for the day of the Convention. He spoke in extent about how to become an EMT.

Fire Chiefs Report submitted by Chief Mark Beaumont

March 9th calls for the month for 16. Total calls 41, EMS Calls 25, drills 3, truck inspections 1, hosted sub night on the 4th of March and sold 142 Corned beef dinners.

Trustee Gitterman: She reports she sent a draft short term rental regulation to Rob. Worked with Peter Johnson assembled a form that we can use for RFQ for a grant writer. Attended the Planning board meeting February 15th. Attended the February 17th and March 10th Climate Smart Task force meetings. She spoke about an event to have an exchange of incandescent bulbs for residents. She posted Memorial Day parade info on the website. She spoke with Fishkill and Woodstock mayors about regulation and the placement of a cell tower antenna. Spoke with Verizon, Mid-Hudson and Consolidated about fiber optics and requested Vince Randazzo speak tonight. She also really enjoyed her corned beef dinner.

CORRESPONDENCE LIST provided to the members of the Board and the public

- 1) Letter from Kate Reese Hurd dated 2/15 regarding The Woods.**
- 2) Letter from Philmont Fire Company dated 2/16 regarding The Woods.**

- 3) **Email from David D dated 2/17 regarding items on ice at the lake.**
- 4) **Email from John Riscavage dated 2/17 regarding road damage.**
- 5) **Email from Luann Merante dated 2/22 regarding appreciation of Village Employee.**
- 6) **Email from Matt Spiegler dated 2/23 regarding nuisance report.**
- 7) **Email from Jean Giblette dated 2/23 regarding The Woods.**
- 8) **Email from Lindsey VanDeusen dated 3/7 regarding stone wall.**

Motions and Resolutions -

Motion: to identify the Village Meeting Hall, located at the rear of 124 Main Street, Philmont, NY as the polling place for the Columbia County Primary Elections to be held on June 28, 2022, and the General Elections to be held on November 8, 2022 made by Trustee Detzel, seconded by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to hold the Annual Organization Meeting on Friday, April 1st at 6:30 PM in the Village Hall, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to hire Anya Bonanno as a part time Library Clerk for the Village of Philmont Library at the rate of \$ 15.00 per hour effective March 14th, as submitted by the Library Board and Director Farley, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to authorize the Mayor to sign the letter in support of the Preserve New York grant application as drafted by Sally Baker, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper . All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$7,378.19 from the Water Fund Checking and \$13,280.74 from the Sewer Fund Checking to the General Account Savings to repay the loan made on 7/7/21 to pay the Monolith Settlement, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$26,439.64 from the General Fund Savings to the Water Fund Checking to pay the annual EFC loan payment for the Wells, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to pay Byron Parker the amount of \$677.88 for work done at 818 Route 217 associated to the water break, made by Trustee Detzel , 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: for the Village of Philmont Board to allocate the money received by the \$5,000 Climate Smart Grant to be used for energy efficient light bulbs, made by Trustee Cropper , 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: for the Village of Philmont Board to spend \$2,500.00 from the Celebrations Account from the 2022 – 2023 Budget for Community Day fireworks made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business and New Business

Mayor Johnson observes he is a little disappointed with the participation tonight. Now that everybody said their piece about our zoning rules and regulations, there's nobody here to say it tonight. This is why things got forgotten.

Mayor Johnson asks Debra to put something on the website for the open seats for Zoning Board and Alternates.

Mayor Johnson also voices thoughts on doing a comprehensive plan review.

Mayor Johnson speaks about signs at the ball field to notice dog owners to clean up after their dogs. The Board discusses the comp plan being in the budget.

Trustee Ostrander and D. Siter discuss the grease trap and the drain for the Fire Department. They talk about how to fix it.

The Board discusses a new camera system and will need to follow up with OIC Doyle.

Items for Discussion:

The Board and D. Siter discuss raising the cost of the Police Car storage to \$200.00 a month.

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

Adjournment 8:38 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia DeLong
Clerk/Treasurer