

VILLAGE OF PHILMONT
COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: Monday, May 9, 2022

Present: Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Larry Ostrander, and Debra Gitterman, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Village Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, Library Director Tobi Farley, OIC Vern Doyle and Multiple members of the Public.

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Motion: to approve the minutes from the 4-11-22 Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the Budget to Actual Reports for the month of April; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the April 27th and May 9th Abstracts; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

P. Johnson discusses rentals and rental inspections. He is asking to consider a state SWAT team of licensed building inspectors to help with inspections. Tax payer dollars are going to certain landlords owning multiple properties. Lack of implementing and enforcing Philmont ordinance only enriches these owners. Inaction is not a solution and needing to see action.

J. French talks about the Memorial Day banners being put up and thanks the Town of Claverack and Philmont DPW for putting up the banners. He has contacted local news stations in regards to coming to Memorial Day. Second, he asks about Airbnb's and how they would affect the village and taxing of them. He then questions whether the cameras on Main Street are up and running. Next, he questions a grant for painting buildings.

S. Baker replies and explains grant for PB Inc.

J. French and the board discuss previous grants.

M. Koch starts by thanking everyone on the board and the Mayor for everything they do for the village. She then speaks about short term rentals and asks the board to refrain from passing regulations until a comprehensive plan is put together. She explains how her Airbnb allows her to have subsidized apartments and how she has had guest buy in the village after staying here.

Mayor Johnson and Michelle Koch discuss short term rentals and comprehensive plan.

Attorney Fitzsimmons: He reports he has been working on ongoing projects with Short Term Rentals. The Village does not have the ability to tax Short Term Rentals, only the State can give authority. The Woods public hearing is scheduled for May 17th at 7pm.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Given by Jessica Thomas. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. All documentation was submitted to the County for changes to the tax roll including certification, the tax warrant, property transfers, and address changes. Any property transfers and address changes were also updated in the water/sewer program. All office staff took mandatory sexual harassment and work place violence training. Met with Rich Nesbitt to review annual village insurance policy. There has been a noticeable increase in property transfers and we have been speaking with multiple attorney offices to supply them information for closings and coordinated with the DPW to obtain final meter readings. There has been a definite increase in residents who come in to the office for

information or to pay bills including an increase in garbage sticker sales. Updates were made to the master payroll sheet with any changes for the fiscal year 2022-2023 for payroll and village use. Tax bills will be mailed out by the close of the day May 31st. They are due by July 1st without penalty. The office will be closed on Monday May 30th in observance of Memorial Day.

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 6, Tenancy Inspections 6, Rental Registration Issued 4, Building permits 6, Construction inspections 2, CO/CC issued 5, CO Searches 17, Complaints received/investigated Monte Jennings handles these.

Library Report: Given by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Waiting on insurance company for bid approval on work to the damage to the teen room areas. Approximately \$3,000 has been received at the village office for the replacement of items that were stolen as a result of the break-in in the Fall. The see library and collection of books about gardening, sustainability and climate change are now available as the library thanks to the Library of Local. We had about 10-12 patrons check out seeds so far. The potato bucket garden program had 15 attendees and 9 bucket gardens created. This month was the one-year anniversary of our tool shed library. Eleven items were borrowed a total of over 50 times! Upcoming programs in May include: a Moon walk with the Columbia Land Conservancy on May 16th at 7:30pm meeting outside the community center at Summit Lake. \$15,000 has been received from the Town of Claverack, \$1,500 has been approved from Greene County Council on the Arts, but not received yet. It is half of what we applied for. It will cover the June concert series. March in-person and virtual program attendance 129, March people in the library 537, March digital services (hoopla and OverDrive) 669

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. Greener Pathways, Cub Scouts and Scout leaders used the center for meetings. Private parties were held on April 10 and 24. Bird house building on April 9th was great. Everyone had fun and left with a bird house. Thanks to Doug Cropper, lead instructor and Monte Jennings for assisting. An additional bird house class will be provided for the Girl Scouts in May with Doug once again teaching. Jess Cropper Alt had a full class for pinch pot ceramics on April 18th. All participants completed an original ceramic pot. Jess taught the class, glazed and fired the ceramic pieces. Thanks to Jess for her expertise. We hope to have more ceramic classes soon. On April 23rd the NY Safe Boating Course was taught by Julie Veronezi and Doug Cropper. Participants came from Columbia, Dutchess, Greene and Ulster Counties. A special thank you to the Philmont Rod and Gun Club for providing refreshments and a new inflatable life jacket for demonstration purposes. New program presenters are always welcome. Share your knowledge and skills. Contact Julie Veronezi.

Police Report: Given by OIC Vern Doyle. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of April, we had 17 calls for service, 2 arrests, 79 property checks, 17 UTTs issued, 29 V&T Warnings and 0 parking tickets. Attended work place violence and sexual harassment training. There will be a workplace violence and sexual harassment training Monday June 1st at 7:00pm.

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 with Mayor Johnson and Trustee Ostrander. Barbara Sagal, Chair of the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management Plan did not attend. Reported PBI has started to draft the Request for Proposals for the scope of work identified in the Work Plan for the BOA grant funding. Reported on a good turnout for the dot survey event held by the Heritage Working Group outside the Post Office on April 2nd relating to the proposed Village of Philmont Historic District. Continued dot surveys will be held as it appears this is a good outreach method to gather community consensus. Reported the PBI grant proposal to Preserve New York was submitted on time to support consultant fees to write the nomination for the proposed Village of Philmont Historic District. Reported on a good team assembled to assist the property owner of 56 Main Street (aka Hopkins House) to advise on the use of historic preservation tax-credits to assist with rehabilitation of the property. Reported PBI has started to draft the Request for Proposals for the scope of work identified in the Work Plan for the LWRP (Local Waterfront Revitalization Program – Agawamuck Creek Watershed management Plan grant funding. Reported the next Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) meeting is scheduled for May 4th with the Towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz.

DPW and Water Report: Given Mayor Brian Johnson. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. Garbage and Recycling, dump day May 7th, cleaned yard at the garage, received pipe for lower Ark Street project. Flower pots are out, Dan and Nabal did an excellent job. Training at the Village office, assisted the water department with a water leak. Picking up trash on Mondays in May. Mowed and trimmed and removed sanders for the summer. Had DEC inspection that Doug Cropper attended. Monthly samples for DEC and Health Dept, all passed. Repairing meters. Had a water leak on 217, DPW and State DOT assisted. Helped at MCJ pant, prepping for startup of new disinfection upgrade. Baldwin hauled 60000 gallons of sludge to Albany. SPEDES permit has been filed for W/W plant. Started repairing broken hydrant on Summit St. Brush pickup Mondays in May.

Mayor Johnson: Thanks, McNans for taking care of the elderly lady on the hill during the fire. He and Doug waited for her to be picked up by an ambulance so that she could be attended to. They then opened up the community center and couple of people stopped for advice. Everyone had a place to go that night. He attended a lot of meetings concerning insurance, short term rentals and workshops. He again welcomes Jessica to the Village.

Trustee Cropper: He reports that he worked with Mayor Johnson and made sure that everyone had a place to go during the fire. He completed evaluations for his department. He attended the CEDC meeting and heard about advancements that are planned for Columbia County. He took required trainings and was at the sewer plant for DEC inspection.

Trustee Detzel: Absent

Trustee Ostrander: He reports he reached out to Claverack Supervisor Weigelt about the sidewalk program. It has been approved but the funding is not available yet. He attended all meetings and spoke to residents about the public hearing for Short Term Rentals.

Fire Chiefs Report submitted by Chief Mark Beaumont

22 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 38. Total EMS calls for the year 39. Drills for the month 3, truck inspections 1, and work details 1. Asked about sidewalk program, funding is not available yet. Attended all meetings and spoke to residents about public hearing for Short Term Rentals.

Trustee Gitterman: She reports attended trainings and short-term rental meetings. She had communications about comprehensive plan committee with appointed chair. She has been in communication with the Claverack climate smart committee. She has posted on the website the Solarized Claverack program which is available to all Philmont residence who would like to opt into renewable energy for electric. Completed regular updates to the website.

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

- 1) Email from Ed Fertik dated 4/13 regarding Memorial Field
- 2) Email from Peter Johnson dated 4/19 regarding Village Justice .
- 3) Email from Peter Johnson dated 4/25 regarding Rental Registration Data Base
- 4) Letter from Philmont Holdings LLC dated May 4th regarding ZBA meeting
- 5) Email from Dawn Beers dated May 6th regarding community center
- 6) Email from Michelle Koch Botta dated May 6th regarding short term rentals

Motions and Resolutions

Motion: to enforce the water turn off law and take action against delinquent water users, made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to allow the Mayor to sign the Contractor's Application for Payment number 3 payable to MCJ Construction, LLC in the amount of \$56,050.00 for work on the Village of Philmont Waste Water Treatment Plant; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to credit account 2500, Darnel Harris the amount of \$107.10 due to a meter reading error, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to deem the transmission repair to the street sweeper an emergency repair and pay JR Transmission the amount of \$7,010.00 for the work associated with the repair; made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$23,000 from the sewer fund checking to the general fund savings to replace the amount originally transferred on 8/6/2021 to pay the Leggett Invoice for the grant made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to move funds between budget lines as per the recommendation of the village accountant, made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Robin Andrews as the Chairperson of the Comprehensive plan committee, made by Mayor Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer funds out of building reserve account to pay \$9000(+/-) for asbestos abatement and \$2500(+/-) for air quality monitoring for the Library made by Trustee Cropper, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Unfinished Business and New Business

Trustee Gitterman asks about brush pickup.

Trustee Gitterman asks about report from Monte for complaints received/investigated.

Trustee Gitterman asks if plywood over window is up to code.

Board discusses surplus fire truck.

Trustee Ostrander discusses fire convention. Secretary did not include Thursday night when scheduling. Would like to put a tent on Village Green for Thursday night appreciation for auxiliary and fire fighters. Discuss overflow parking for apparatus and using PA system for day of the Convention.

Trustee Cropper, Trustee Gitterman and Board discuss Community Day.

Trustee Gitterman discuss representative from Philmont to be at the meetings about Town Hall.

Trustee Cropper and Trustee Ostrander discuss sidewalk project.

Board and DPW worker Nabal Camacho discuss garbage and recycling fees.

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

Adjournment 8:20

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas
Clerk/Treasurer