

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: January 9, 2023

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Larry Ostrander, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, and OIC Vernon Doyle

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order: 7:00 pm

Meeting Rules of Procedure are read aloud.

Motion: to approve the minutes from the December 12 Board Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the December Budget to Actual Reports; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the December 28th and January 9th Abstracts; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests-

G. Lagonia-He is there to make sure things are staying on track to turn around the problems in the village and that they are continually being worked on. A discussion follows.

A. Mraz- Is there to speak about a resolution that he would like the board to pass. The resolution would require an operational permit to operate in a public right of way for wireless transmission facilities. A discussion continues.

T. Gurbo- She supports Aleister's proposal. A discussion continues about the tower located by Forest Lake in the Town of Claverack.

K. Reese-Hurd-Supports Aleister's proposal. She talks about the impacts of radiation on human biology.

J. Hilton-He talks about having issues with his neighbors. He is looking for information about what to do. A discussion continues.

M. Jennings-Talks about the American Legion post being on the second-year process of the veterans' banner program. It was the original plan to terminate the program on the second year. Old banners would still go up, but new banners would not be added. He will bring it to the attention at the upcoming meeting that the Board would like to continue the program.

Attorney Fitzsimmons- He reports nothing new, just on-going projects.

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Water/Sewer bills were mailed out on December 30th and are due by January 31st without penalty. Worked on water/sewer billing estimate process. Due to the bills being estimates and not actual usage the water/sewer funds will be down by about \$30,000. We ask that caution is used when making purchases from these funds. Worked closely with Cliff and DPW on weather and water break. Worked with Cliff to repair the Summit Street Water Tower Emergency Dialer Repair per the DEC. Had multiple calls with the Union Attorney in regards to multiple employee and contract situations. We have noticed an increase in requests for certified death certificates and notaries. Record retention project has continued to be worked on. Researched Library archives for David Bolevice for library grant. Village elections will be held on March 21st. Nomination Petitions are available in the office for pick up. The Office will be closed on Monday, January 16th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Building Inspector Report- not given to this office

Library Report: Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by Director Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Services** January programs: Poet's Opera continuing program – Wednesdays, January 11, 18, and 25. We will be holding programs with Michael Richardson of Rivers & Mountains Green Faith Circle. He will lead interactive conversations on how to move your personal finances away from funding fossil fuel extraction, production and distribution... and instead see your deposits, premiums and investments used to fund local businesses and farms, affordable housing, and

development of renewable clean energy. Programs are scheduled for Wednesday January 15th at 2pm at the Claverack Library, Wednesday, January 31st at 6pm at the Philmont Library and Wednesday February 8th at 6pm on Zoom. Soup sales are coming. The sales will be on Tuesdays from January 10th through February 14th. We are still in need of volunteers to make soup or desserts. CCLA webinar/ virtual programs: email columbiacountylibraries.org to register for events. Ice skating in the Gilded Age – Tuesday, January 24 at 7pm Tech Labs – Photo Sharing and Archive Management January 30, 6:15 PM Genealogy Basics: How to Start, What to Look For, Where to Search - Wednesday, January 18 @ 6 – 7:30 pm via Zoom. We have been approved for the Humanities NY grant of \$1,000. This is to pay Karen Schoemer as the facilitator of 5 book discussion groups around the writings of James Baldwin. Dates are set for the second Wednesday of each month beginning February 8th and concluding June 14th. Books will be supplied through the grant. **Stats** December in-person and virtual program attendance 65 December people in the library 565 December digital services hoopla 111, Kanopy 9 and OverDrive 140 Philmont, 417 Claverack 2022 physical circulation 31,487.

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. Thanks to Doug Cropper for his frequent stops. Groups using the center this month were the Scouts and Santa Claus Club. The Philmont Community Day Committee has scheduled the center for use on January 10th. The tree went up and was decorated. **Programs:** A meeting was scheduled on December 6th to meet with a Philmont agency to discuss possible use of the center. They were a no show. Note: I feel great sadness that George Brehm passed away in December. He was a true community member always doing for everyone and expecting nothing in return. He spent countless hours working on the community center gardens and structure. This month he bought a beautiful wreath and placed it on the door. I as well as many others in the Village of Philmont will miss him greatly.

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 December, we had 10 calls for service, 63 property checks, 2 UTT's issued, and 16 V&T warnings. They participated in the Santa Claus parade. The collaboration with the Sheriffs and State Troopers continues.

Summit Lake & Its Watercourse (BOA) Report: The BOA Grant Committee did not meet in December. **LWRP grant Watershed Management Plan updates:** The Watershed Advisory Committee, (WAC) consisting of the municipal participating towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz submitted the recommendation to the Mayor and Trustee Ostrander, Co-chairs of the BOA Grant Committee, for the selection of LaBella Associates as the consultant planning firm to be hired for the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management planning project under the DOS Local Waterfront Revitalization Program grant. The contract amount for the scope of work is \$129,380.00 for 2023-2024. The DOS have approved the selection of La Bella and the WAC recommendation. PBI is requesting the Village BOT's approve a motion to award the contract to LaBella for services to commence in January 2023. **BOA grant updates:** PBI is working on the Draft of the RFP for the BOA Work Plan is in motion – updated ETA 1/15/2023. **The Village of Philmont Historic District – updates:** The Heritage Working Group (via PBI / BOA Project Management) have re-scheduled the Village Hall presentation by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to Wednesday March 15th at 6:pm and are requesting use of the Village Hall.

Climate Smart Taskforce: given by Thomas Paino. The village now meets the criteria for the bronze certification. The Climate Smart community assessment and assessment summary report is now on the website under Climate Smart Community. All of the measures that have been taken and that are in progress are on the website. For the lightbulb exchange, they are trying to engage story crafters to create a video explaining why it is so important to switch out bulbs. The municipal building energy audit took place. We are still on board for the climate vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation planning. This will be done with a group from Cornell Extension and should begin within the next few weeks. With all of the work involved, there will be a new recruitment flier coming out for the committee.

Mayor Johnson/DPW Report: He reports that he spent most of his time with the DPW and sewer plant this month. For the snow storm we were down to two employees. We are down employees due to injuries and sickness. He attended a couple meetings with Debra and had a meeting with the union. We are working on keeping the village running. He thanks Doug and the office staff for helping and working as a team. Thanks also to Nabal and Cliff for working so hard through everything.

Trustee Cropper: He reports that he met with a resident regarding a DPW concern. He then spoke with the DPW the issue was easily resolved. The Christmas lights were judged and he checked properties. A resident called him in regards to some water leaks. There were minor problems at the community center with ice at the front door and a fire alarm, he took care of both. He also met with Legget Electric and called Capitol Digitronics in regards to getting the fire siren

working again. We are waiting on an estimate from Capital Digitronics. They are considering taking down the siren at Memorial Field and just having one siren. He also wrote the Senator Hinchey our new senator. He got a response from one of her helpers and she would like to know if we have any times, we need help or any events she could come to so we can meet her. He also wrote to Didi Barrett but did not get a response. He will be having a meeting with Dan Grandinetti, Julie and Jess Cropper- Alt. They will be seeing if they can get money from the county for programs.

Trustee Detzel: He reports he is working to complete the air packs grant application. There was a verbal agreement with Delgado to get a new siren or to fix the current one. He will be trying to find out for sure to get the siren replaced asap. He will be working on a report for the police department. He met with the library several times they are working through the LaBerge agreement. He was working on a picnic table and repairing the gazebo with George Brehm. Doug will be helping to get the work completed.

Trustee Ostrander: He reports he attended all meeting and corresponded with PBI. He contacted Cantele's to get an estimate for the memorial stone for George. It has been ordered. He spoke with Vern about some police issues.

Fire Department Report

16 Calls for the month. Total fire calls for the year 105. Total EMS calls for the year 92. Drills for the month 3, truck inspections 1, and 1 work detail. Sub night has been happening and it raises money for a scholarship.

Trustee Gitterman: She makes an announcement about grants awards. Robin Andrews with assistance from Jason applied for a Greenway Grant and we were awarded \$10,000. She also applied for a smart growth community planning and zoning grant that was awarded \$43,490. We are covered for the upcoming comprehensive plan update. The village also was awarded the Restore NY grant for the Hopkins house in the amount of \$800,000. We had been awarded a mini grant to complete the dock on Summit Lake, that was completed. She thanks the volunteers that helped complete the work. She wrote a press release about all of the grants and the volunteerism. She also attended a meeting with Brian and Habitat for Humanity to discuss the build on Eagle Street and about possible future collaborations.

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

- 1) Letter from Tomoko Gurbo dated 12/16/22 in regards to free wifi plan.**
- 2) Letter from New York State Department of Taxation and Finance dated 12/15/22 in regards to property tax exemptions to volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers.**

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 Village Elections to be held on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 with polls being open from 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to appoint Kurt Basl, Marty Miller, and Monte Jennings as election inspectors for the March 21, 2023 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 Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to declare that Mayor Johnson has conducted the required examination of the Village of Philmont Justice Court Records for FY 2021-2022; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to authorize the Mayor and Board of Trustees to sign the annual LOSAP agreement with Penflex; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to authorize the mayor to sign the County MIS Shared Services Agreement for 2023; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to approve the full \$5.00 an hour out of title pay rate for Clifford Albright while acting in the superintendent's capacity, retroactive to 10/31/22, pursuant to Article 7 Section C Number 5 of the collective bargaining agreement; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Ostrander. All Ayes, No Nay

Motion: to enter into a professional services agreement with LaBella Associates D.P.C. for the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Plan Project; made by Trustee Ostrander, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nay

Unfinished Business and New Business:

Mayor Johnson announces there will be a memorial dedication ceremony at the Community Center on January 28th for George Brehm. It will start at 1pm, and there will be light refreshments provided.

Motion: to go to Executive Session to discuss employment history of a particular person, made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to come out of Executive Session, made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion to adjourn –in memory of George Brehm made by Mayor Johnson, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays.

Adjournment: 8:42

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas

Clerk/Treasurer