

Regular Monthly Board Meeting

Date: April 10, 2023

Present Mayor Brian Johnson, Trustees Doug Cropper, Clarence Speed, Debra Gitterman, and Jason Detzel, Clerk/Treasurer Jessica Thomas, Attorney Robert Fitzsimmons, BOA Grant administrator Sally Baker, OIC Vernon Doyle

Call to Order: 6:59 pm

Motion: to approve the minutes from the March 13th Board Meeting; made by Trustee Cropper and 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the minutes from the March 30th Special Meeting; made by Trustee Detzel and 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the Budget to Actual Reports for the month of March; made by Trustee Detzel and 2nd by Trustee Speed. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to approve the payment of bills from the April 10th Abstracts; made by Trustee Cropper and 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Public Requests

M. Crane: Presents papers to the board. Vegetation and greenery are much better ways to spend grant money. Photosynthesis cycle takes carbon out of the air; CO2 is plant food. Nature provides a carbon cycle that works very well.

A discussion continues about Philmont's Climate Smart Community Task Force.

P. Doyle: The climate act of 2019 does not mention wood burning. The grid as it exists now cannot possibly deal with the renewables in the timeline the act has set; it is impossible. He makes the suggestion that the village pass a resolution protecting the rights of people to burn wood to stay warm forever. Wood is renewable and clean.

P. Johnson: He has three points. 1. Last year, the county received money for opioid litigation. He is asking what the village has done in order to secure some of the funds. 2. Building inspector income or fees need to cover the costs. 3. There will be significant state money dealing with housing. What board member will be a liaison so that Philmont is not left outside of the distribution?

K. Reese-Hurd: Discusses electromagnetic fields and their effects on health. Trying to solve problems by installing more electrically driven devices is not the route to go. If we care about our health, it would be a good idea to not expose ourselves.

H. Bail: Discusses the article that was in the Register Star. It puts Philmont in a bad light. A discussion continues in regards to the article.

T. Mayer: Was concerned about the article in the Register Star; it was very upsetting.

D. Haynes: Speaks about the resolution that he presented to the board at March's meeting. He is requesting an open meeting to discuss it. He asks when the board plans to schedule an initial public discussion. A discussion continues.

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

Clerk/Treasurer Report: Water bills were mailed out on March 30st and are due through the end of April with no penalty. Delinquent tax notices for current and prior years were mailed on April 6th. The total amount due is \$66,994.34 with \$11,748.93 being owed for current year and \$55,245.41 owed for prior years. The office is currently working on the tax rolls to submit to the County which are due to them by May 1st. Village taxes will go out at the end of May. Met with Rich Nesbitt regarding insurance for the Village in the upcoming year. Participated in a webinar in regards to updates on ARPA reporting requirements. We have had a high volume oof requests for death certificates and the need for notary services. Worked closely with DPW to coordinate upcoming projects. Worked closely with Daniel Valentine from Tighe & Bond in regards to RFP for the water tank rehabilitation project.

Building Inspector Report: Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by CEO Lee Heim. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. For the month of March: Tenancy CO issued 11, Tenancy Inspections 11, Rental

Registration Issued 6, Building permits 4, Construction inspections 3, CO/CC issued 1, Co Searches 6, Complaints received/investigated 1.

Library Report: Given by Trustee Detzel, as submitted by Library Director Tobi Farley. A full copy of the report is available in the office for review or upon request. **Building and Grounds** Thanks to Dave Bolevice and Patrick Farley for installing new light switch and light at the back emergency exit in the parking lot. Thanks to Doug Cropper for replacing the outdoor cover for the outlet at the back corner of the Cultural Center. Thanks to the DPW for swiftly removing the half of the tree in the front that broke off in the storm a few weeks ago. **Services** April programs: James Baldwin Program – Wednesday, April 12th, 7pm. Art lecture – Saturday, April 8th 2-4pm. Victory Gardens - Monday April 10th 6pm, Zoom webinar. Volunteer Prep/Planting Days end of April and early May. We have been asked to participate in Community Day, July 1st. I suggested having a Story Walk in the Village Windows and/or an interactive sidewalk. They would like to also use the library to house a human library project or chess tournament. **Grants** \$3,000 from Berkshire Taconic for programs for seniors. \$500 from Stewarts for children's programs. \$11,781 arrived from Climate Partners for Climate Action Hudson Valley for the Pollinator Pathway. **Stats** February in-person and virtual program attendance 90 plus visited over 250 kids at Taconic Hills School to promote Battle of the Books. February people in the library 812. February digital services hoopla 143, Kanopy 28 and OverDrive Philmont 118, Claverack 477. Hoopla usage is increasing from an average of \$200 per month to over \$300 per month. **CCLA** The County Library Association did not receive the Berkshire Taconic Grant for the Community Read project. We did receive \$1,500 from Humanities NY and are waiting to hear from Bank of Greene County. This means the scope of the project will be smaller than we anticipated. Our next meeting is April 14th where we will discuss the future of the project. **MHLS** The three MHLS trustee from Columbia County have been invited to one of our board meetings and they would like to attend our May 3rd meeting. **Meetings/Projects/Trainings** Thea, Claverack Library Director, and I visited Taconic Hills 5th-8th grade students to promote Battle of the Books Program. I will be attending Taconic Hills Spring Fest on Saturday, April 22nd to promote library programs.

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. **Facility:** The center has been checked regularly during the month. DPW will address some issues with the door entries. 2 rentals for family parties. Programs: Cub Scouts are using the center and Webelos will also be using the center now. March 4 the CPR course was held and 6 attended. Crocheting under the guidance of Kim Simmons is taking place on Thursdays at 3:30. Everyone is welcome and supplies are available for beginners. March 18 and 19 the NY State Safe Boating Class was taught by Doug Cropper and Julie Veronezi. 9 participants will be receiving certificates from NY State. It was an enthusiastic group. Programs and presenters are always welcome.

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 March, we had 12 calls for service, 0 arrests, 70 property checks, 6 UUTs Issued, and 34 V&T warnings. Met with Tobi at the Library for the beginning stages of setting up an emergency evacuation plan.

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. **BOA grant updates:** The BOA Grant Committee meeting was not held for March. A welcome package was prepared for Bob McFarlane who was appointed by Mayor Johnson to Co-Chair the BOA Grant Committee. The package contained detailed outline of both the BOA and the LWRP funded grant activities and the relevant Work Plans for both grants. The April BOA meeting scheduled for April 25th will be held as an orientation meeting to bring McFarlane up to speed on all activities, the Budgets, Timelines, Subarea Working Groups, and the Local Match requirements. PBI is working on the Draft of the RFP for the BOA grant Work Plan. **LWRP grant Watershed Management Plan updates:** The consultant kick-off meeting was held on 3/8 by [LaBella Associates](#) hired for the Agawamuck Creek Watershed Management Plan. Attendees included DOS, Barbara Sagal Chair of the Watershed Advisory Committee (WAC) with members & participating towns of Claverack, Ghent, Hillsdale, and Austerlitz. **The Village of Philmont Historic District – updates:** A successful & informative presentation was held in the Village Hall on 3/15. The presentation was delivered by three staff members of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) who additionally addressed questions from over 40 attendees regarding the nomination process of the **Village of Philmont Historic District** to the State and National registries of Historic Places and how property owners can access preservation tax credits to assist with repairs and renovations of eligible properties in the historic district.

Climate Smart Task Force: Given by Thomas Paino. The final draft of the video will be presented at their meeting on Wednesday. On March 22nd there was a meeting to approve the audits of the community center and village hall. There will be another meeting to discuss implementing one of the measures at the village hall. This will be done with the remaining money that wasn't used for the audit. He has spoken with four consultants to do the study on the sewage

treatment plant and get estimates of the cost. Jess is putting together data on energy use to be used for the audit and greenhouse gas inventory. There were two meetings with consultants through the local champions. We get 3 hours of advice from them. The first meeting was in regards to micro hydro. There was a meeting in regards to projects that would like to be done and grants that may be available to help.

Mayor Johnson/DPW Report: The sweeper engine was sent out to be fixed and then installed. It had to be removed and sent out for repair again. The cleaning up of the brush from the storm has occurred. The stone for George Brehm will be installed. He attended a meeting in regards to healthy housing. The meeting was very productive and gave everyone a lot of insight. He thanks Doug and the girls in the office for handling things while he was gone.

Trustee Cropper: It was a busy month. He filled in for Brian while he was on vacation. He attended the SHPO presentation on the historical district, the budget meeting, the pre-bid meeting for the water tower, and the planning board meeting. He also attended an event with Skip and Julie, where they met Marc Molinaro and a lot of other people from the county. He fixed a couple of outlets at the library and spoke with Leggett Electric in regards to disabling the wire between the memorial field and the village hall. He taught the NYS safe boating class with Julie. There was a little event to send Larry off. He went to the climate action town hall with Skip. He also had a conversation with Dave and the gentleman from rural water. There was an interview for someone to assist with the building department.

Trustee Detzel: He worked on the elections and grants. The Berkshire Taconic grant to offset the cost of the Laberge Group, the program for summer school kids, and the check for the air packs will be coming in.

Fire Department Report

Between April 4, 2022-April 2, 2023 There were: 3 structure fires, 3 mutual aid structure fires, 5 bush fires, 1 electrical fire, 1 chimney fire, 2 trash fires, 6 burnt food, 3 furnace malfunctions, 6 gas emergencies, 4 carbon monoxide alarms, 8 trees and wires, 1 hazardous condition, 1 pump out, 1 property damage auto accident, 5 person injury auto accidents, 96 EMS calls, 9 ECHO level EMS calls, 3 EMS lift assists, 6 good intent, and 24 false alarms for a total of 188 calls.

Trustee Gitterman: She attended a lot of meetings: the planning board, budget, special meeting, healthy housing meeting, Climate Smart meeting, and the meeting to review the energy audits. She also met with the second technical expert through the local champions program. A navigating grant funding webinar was watched. She also attended the comprehensive plan update committee meeting.

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

- 1) Email from Thomas Paino dates March 19, 2023 in regards to the fire code
- 2) Letter from Natasha Wedd dated March 19, 2023 in regards to The Woods
- 3) Letter from Sophie Wedd dated March 19, 2023 in regards to The Woods
- 4) Letter from Eileen Ordu dated March 20, 2023 in regards to The Woods
- 5) Letter from Eileen Ordu dated March 20, 2023 in regards to The Woods
- 6) Letter from Carolyn Stern dated March 20, 2023 in regards to The Woods.
- 7) Letter from Mindy Gardner dated March 20, 2023 in regards to new Library Board of Trustees member
- 8) Letter from Karen Schoemer dated March 20, 2023 in regards to The Woods.
- 9) Letter from Habitat for Humanity dated March 16, 2023 thanking the Village for support and encouragement
- 10) Letter from Jean Giblette dated 4/6/23 in regards to Climate Smart Communities Issue

Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation Bid Opening:

Bids were received as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| Amstar of Western Ny Inc. | \$515,000 |
| Utility Service Co., Inc | \$495,200 |
| Atlas Painting and Sheeting Co. | \$573,000 |

Motions and Resolutions

Motion: to hold over awarding the bid for the water storage tank rehabilitation, pending review by Tighe & Bond; made by Trustee Speed, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to accept as warrant the tax levy in the amount of \$556,205.00 and a tax rate of \$6.615697/1000 of assessed value amounting to an overall \$.225114/1000 increase as passed at the Annual Budget Hearing; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to hire David Pelis as a full-time, benefited, DPW Laborer for the Village of Philmont at the hourly rate of \$20.05 per hour, effective April 4, 2023. When Mr. Pelis has obtained his CDL, pay per union contract will go to \$20.80 as a Machine Equipment Operator; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to appoint Michael Wedd as a member of the Village of Philmont Library Board of Trustees for a five (5) year term, to expire September 30, 2028; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Gitterman. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$16,320.00 from Water Maintenance Reserve to Water Fund Checking to pay Tighe & Bond for engineering of the Water Storage Tank Rehabilitation; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to transfer the amount of \$2309.13 from Library Building Reserve account to Library Checking to pay Laberge for the feasibility study; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to hire Elizabeth Angello, effective immediately, as a salaried non benefited Court Clerk at the pay rate of \$1000 a month; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to credit account 900, Vikramasila Foundation in the amount of \$737.00 for the sewer portion only of the April invoice due to a water leak; made by Trustee Gitterman, 2nd by Trustee Detzel. All Ayes, No Nays

Motion: to accept the slate of Fire Company Officers as submitted:

Chief: Mark Beaumont

1st Assistant Chief: Brian Ostrander

2nd Assistant Chief: Kevin C. Grau

Captain: Chris Morehouse

1st Lieutenant: Chris Carlsen

2nd Lieutenant: Mark Rowntree; made by Trustee Detzel, 2nd by Trustee Cropper. All Ayes, No Nays

Resolution No. 1 2023

Motion By: Trustee Cropper

Seconded By: Trustee Speed

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.

WHEREAS, Philmont Beautification, Inc desires to apply for up to \$350,000 in financial assistance through the 2023 Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) under the New York Main Street Program, and

WHEREAS, the application proposes funding to assist property owners to complete building renovations to downtown "main street" buildings on Main Street between Martindale Road and West 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 Board of Trustees of the Village of Philmont approves and endorses the 2023 New York Main Street Program for assistance prepared and to be submitted by Philmont Beautification, Inc.

Passed by the following vote of all Board of Trustees voting in favor thereof:

Affirmative Board of Trustees of the Village of Philmont

Affirmative: # Trustees Cropper, Detzel, Gitterman and Speed

Negative: # None

Abstain: # None

I, Jessica Thomas, do hereby certify that resolution # 1 was passed at a meeting of the Village of Philmont held on April 10, 2023 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.

Jessica Thomas, Village Clerk
Village of Philmont

Unfinished Business and New Business: None

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

Adjournment 8:21 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Thomas
Clerk/Treasurer